

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Veronica

Veronica is also known as Speedwell. It is a perennial that is very easy to grow. It blooms in long spikes with small petals. The blooms come in a variety of different colors, such as purple, pink, blue or white. This plant grows in clusters, and it can range in height from 1 to 3 feet tall. This plant is known for its English cottage garden qualities. Companion plants include salvia, coreopsis and sedum, all of which also are known as cottage flowers. Certain creeping varieties of the plant can be utilized in rock gardens.

To plant:

Veronica seeds can be planted in the fall in a cold frame, but most times, gardeners will grow this flower as a transplant from a nursery. When planting as a transplant, dig a hole twice the size of the diameter of the plant's container. Loosen the soil, amend it with compost, and make sure the top of the root ball is even with the soil's surface. Water thoroughly after planting.

To grow:

Veronica plants require full sun and do best in moderately fertile, well-drained soil. Make sure this plant receives at least 1 inch of rainfall or water each week, and if the variety is especially tall, you may need to add a stake for support. Keep the base of the plant covered with a thin layer of compost and then add a layer of mulch on top. Gardeners should deadhead the spent blooms to prolong the plant's blooming period, and be sure to cut the stems back to only an inch or two above the ground after the first killing frost. Perennials will need to be divided every two or three years. These plants can be susceptible to pest like scale



[Veronica seed available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

insects and diseases like downy mildew, powdery mildew, rust, lead smut and root rot. Make sure there's plenty of breathable room in between the plants to help prevent certain diseases. However, despite these downfalls, Veronica also attracts beneficial insects to the garden, such as butterflies and hummingbirds.

To harvest:

Veronica is a great cut flower to display in bouquets because it is long-lasting and it has height, which makes it easy to cut. Blooms last from spring to fall, so it has a long blooming period in the garden, as well.

What Veronica craves:

Other than adding a light layer of compost each spring to add nutrients to the soil, Veronica doesn't require any more fertilizer.

Where to buy Veronica seeds:

You can find Veronica seed on our website at ufseeds.com



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