## URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

# From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Epilobium

The Epilobium is a very large genus of plants, meaning they vary in size, from 4 inches tall to 96 inches tall. The Epilobium is a hardy perennial that typically bloom in the middle of the summer. They grow in clumps with funnel-shaped flowers. Typically, the blooms are red, but some of the larger varieties bloom with small flowers in pink or white. Epilobium is also known as French Willow, Rosebay, Firewood or Willow herb.

With its funnel-shaped flowers, Epilobium is great for attracting hummingbirds to the garden. It also attracts bees and butterflies. Epilobium can bloom in white, red, pink, purple, orange and other colors. It has a grayish-green foliage. It is also known as California Fushia.

### To plant:

Sow Epilobium outside in the fall, and plant the seeds 1/8 inch deep. Germination will take two to four weeks. Sometimes, it's best to plant the seeds in a flat first and then plant the flat in the ground. Transplant Epilobium in the spring and space them 12 to 24 inches apart. If sowing indoors first, you must stratify the seeds.

#### To grow:

Epilobium does best in full sun or partial shade. It requires good drainage. It prefers stony soil or dry soil, as this will yield the best results. Epilobium will spread rapidly, so gardeners should deadhead the spent flowers before they go to seed if they don't want the plant to spread throughout their garden. Plant Epilobium in soil with a pH between 6.0 to 7.0.



Epilobium seed available at ufseeds.com

Once it is established, Epilobium doesn't require a lot of care. Epilobium does best when it is in soil that is consistently moist so try not to let these plants dry out between watering. These plants can go dormant in excessive heat or excessive cold, and gardeners should cut them back if they get rangy. Epilobium does well in containers also, and it is often used in mixed borders. Gardeners should keep in mind the plants are brittle and may break easily.

#### To harvest:

With its long stems and its height, Epilobium can be beautiful cut flowers. However, they attract the beneficial insects and birds so it may be best to let it grow in your garden without cutting it.

#### What Epilobium craves:

Epilobium spreads easily, so fertilizer is not necessary to encourage the growth of this plant.









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# Where to buy Epilobium seeds:

You can find the beautiful and brightly colored Epilobium seed on our website at ufseeds.com!



Epilobium seed available at ufseeds.com





