

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

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

Amaranthus is an annual plant that can reach 5 feet in height and has colorful flowers or leaves, depending on the variety. Amaranthus also attracts butterflies to the garden. The plants are often used similar to annual grasses, such as adding them as accents to other pots or garden beds.

To plant:

Amaranthus seeds can be sown directly into the garden or started indoors. Since Amaranthus is not frost tolerant, it is suggested to begin the seeds indoors eight weeks before the last frost. Plant seeds 1/2 inch deep and cover lightly with soil. If directly sowing into the garden, wait until the frost passes to plant. If planting seeds outdoors, seeds can be planted in groups of 10 near each other to grow in clumps. If you don't want clumps, space seeds 10 inches apart.

To grow:

One seedlings appear and the danger of frost has passed, transplant Amaranthus plants outdoors. Space them 10 inches apart, but they can be closer as Amaranthus tolerates crowding well and looks good when grown in clumps. Amaranthus plants do best in warm weather with full sun and well-drained soil with a pH of 6.5 to 7.5. Only water them once or twice a week during dry periods. Discourage the growth of weeds by applying mulch around the plant's base. Amaranthus responds very well to nitrogen and phosphorous in the soil. Plants grown in nutrient-rich soil can even reach 8 feet tall in some varieties.



[Perfecta Amaranthus seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

Once Amaranthus leaves become discolored, remove them from the plant. Sometimes, aphids can become a problem for Amaranthus plants. Deal with aphids by spraying them with water. Avoid pesticides with chemicals, as this can burn the plant's leaves. By handling an aphid problem, the risk of disease is reduced in the plant.

To harvest:

Amaranthus flowers are long lasting. They grow on long, straight stems and begin blooming around mid-summer. Blooms will last until frost begins in the fall. Trim the bloom stalks and hang them upside down in a well-ventilated area to dry. The flowers will hold their color even after drying.

What Amaranthus craves:

Amaranthus is very easy to grow. Prior to planting seeds into the garden or transplanting seedlings, work 1 inch of compost into the soil. Fertilize the



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Amaranthus plants immediately after planting and then every six weeks with a 10-10-10 granular fertilizer. Follow package instructions on the correct amount to use. To apply the fertilizer, spread it on top of the soil 6 inches from the Amaranthus plant and then till the fertilizer into the soil.

Where to buy Amaranthus seeds:

Urban Farmer offers high quality Amaranthus seeds on our website at ufseeds.com!



Autumns Touch Amaranthus seeds
available at ufseeds.com



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