



## Maltese Cross Planting Guide

### About Maltese Cross

A unique perennial wildflower, Maltese Cross (or Dusty Salmon, Nonesuch or Jerusalem Cross, depending on the part of the country you come from) blooms clusters of rose colored flowers atop tall stems. Preferring full sun, look for Maltese Cross to bloom summer into fall.

### When to Plant

Maltese Cross seeds can be sown directly in late fall, after the first killing frost. Maltese cross can also be started in the spring - outdoors for cooler climates, 6-8 weeks before the final frost date, as well as indoors after a cold stratification period.

### Where to Plant

Maltese Cross can reach its fullest potential when planted in bright, full sun conditions. Though it can tolerate partial shade, Maltese Cross will become spindly and leggy. Maltese Cross prefers loose, rich, well-draining soil that is somewhat dry. Wet soil is detrimental to maltese Cross, increasing the likelihood of failure.

### How to Plant

Direct sow seeds onto the surface of the soil, and compress firmly, but do not cover - Maltese Cross requires sunlight exposure in order to germinate. For areas with mild winters, cold stratify seeds for 2-3 weeks before sowing your seeds.

### Caring for Maltese Cross

Keep the area your Maltese Cross was planted well-weeded, and once established, this plant should require little by way of care. You can deadhead spent flowers to encourage continuous blooms, or you can leave the spent flower heads so that Maltese Cross can naturally reseed. Once foliage dies back in the fall, you can cut down all of the dead growth and remove the debris. The Maltese Cross will return the next season.