



Joe Pye Weed Planting Guide

When to Plant

Joe Pye weed seeds need a period of cold stratification prior to planting. You can either mimic nature by storing your seeds in the refrigerator for 30 to 60 days, or direct sow them outside in the fall or winter. If starting indoors, sow cold-stratified seeds into containers eight weeks prior to your last frost.

Where to Plant

Joe Pye weed can grow in a variety of environments but thrives in areas that receive full sun to partial shade with hummus-rich, moist soil. Once established, this plant can tolerate some dryness, but is not considered drought tolerant. We have seen Joe Pye weed live in open lit meadows, shaded forests, along wetlands, and even surviving through floods.

How to Plant

Whether you choose to start seeds indoors or direct sow in the fall, gently press the seeds into the soil but do not cover; like other wildflowers, these seeds need light to germinate. Keep in a full sun location that receives some shade in the afternoon so the soil does not overly dry out. Joe Pye weed seeds perform best in consistently moist, fertile soil.

Caring for

Joe Pye weed can be propagated by dividing mature plants in the fall. Final spacing should allow for two to four feet between plants.

Joe Pye weed thrives in moist conditions but can tolerate some dryness once established. If it has not rained within the week during a hot spell and you fear the soil is drying out, offer your plants about an inch of water.

To prevent aggressive spreading, deadhead blooms prior to reseeding. For cosmetic reasons, you can trim plants down to a foot tall in the late fall. Alternatively, leaving the dried stalks up throughout the winter gives beneficial insects a place to live and aids in the creation of a wildlife garden during the dormant months.