



Lisianthus Planting Guide

When to Plant

Lisianthus seeds can be started indoors in early spring, 8 to 10 weeks before the last frost date. Sow lisianthus seeds in seed trays, planting each seed at a depth of $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. Space the seeds two to three inches apart to allow room for growth. Cover the seed trays with plastic wrap or a clear lid to retain moisture and heat. Place the trays in a warm location, such as on top of a heat mat, with temperatures between 70-75°F to aid in germination. Keep the trays in a bright location and keep the soil moist but not wet. Germination typically occurs within two to three weeks. As the seedlings grow, ensure trays do not exceed temperatures over 75°F.

Where to Plant

Start by preparing your soil. Lisianthus plants prefer well-draining, fertile soil that is slightly acidic with a pH between 6.0 and 7.5. The soil should also be rich in organic matter, amending it with compost or well-rotted manure before planting is essential. The soil should be moist, but not waterlogged, as lisianthus plants do not tolerate wet feet.

Lisianthus plants prefer full sun but can tolerate some light shade in the hottest parts of the day.

How to Plant

Once the seedlings are about four inches tall and have two sets of true leaves, they can be hardened off with increasingly long visits outside. Once all danger of frost has passed, hardened off seedlings can be transplanted into larger pots or into the garden. When transplanting, be careful not to damage the delicate roots. Plant the seedlings at the same depth they were growing in the seedling pots. If planting in the garden, space the seedlings about 12 inches apart. Any closer than this may invite disease.

Caring for Lisianthus

Keep the soil evenly moist, but do not overwater. Water deeply from beneath the plant once a week, or more frequently during hot, dry weather. Fertilize with a balanced fertilizer every two to three weeks during the growing season.

Lisianthus plants are generally resistant to pests and diseases, but they can be susceptible to fungal diseases in humid conditions. To prevent fungal diseases and discoloration of petals and leaves, avoid overhead watering and provide good air circulation by eliminating weeds.

Lisianthus flowers can be harvested early in the day when the first buds are just opening. Cut the stems just above the basal foliage and remove all leaves that will fall below the vase's water line. Lisianthus flowers can last up to two weeks in a vase with proper care.

Growing lisianthus from seeds requires some patience and attention, but it can be a rewarding experience. By following the above steps, you can successfully grow lisianthus plants from seed and enjoy their beautiful blooms throughout the growing season.