



## Malop Planting Guide

### About Malop

Simple to cultivate, robust, and with an extended blooming period, malop is an essential component for any cutting garden. Each plant produces numerous long stems adorned with vibrant magenta-and-pink flowers, reminiscent of hibiscus. Perfect for creating expansive arrangements, these impressive, satiny blossoms are sure to capture your heart!

### When to Plant

The optimal time for planting malop seeds is after the last frost of the season, typically around mid-May for most regions. This helps to ensure that the delicate seedlings are not harmed by unexpected cold weather.

For an early start, you can sow the seeds indoors in early April. Plan to transplant these seedlings outdoors about six weeks later, once the risk of frost has passed.

### Where to Plant

Choose a sunny location in your garden that receives at least six hours of direct sunlight daily. Malop thrives in bright conditions.

The soil should be fertile and well-draining with a slightly acidic to neutral pH, ideally between 6.0 and 7.0. Proper soil conditions are crucial for the healthy growth of malop.

### How to Plant

For enhanced germination, consider soaking the seeds in warm water for 24 hours before planting. This softens the seed coat and can improve germination rates.

Sow the seeds lightly on the surface of the soil, as they require light to germinate and should not be buried deep. Gently press the seeds onto the soil surface. Consistent soil moisture is vital, particularly until the seedlings establish themselves. Avoid overwatering but ensure the soil remains moist. Once the plants reach three to four inches in height, thin them out to maintain a spacing of about 12 inches. This gives each plant sufficient space to grow.

If transplanting seedlings, space them about a foot apart to provide enough room for growth.

### How to Care for Soapwort

Apply a balanced fertilizer during the growing season to encourage healthy growth and abundant flowering. Keep an eye out for pests or diseases. Treat any infestations promptly to avoid damage to the plants. As malop begins to bloom, enjoy the vibrant display they offer then deadhead regularly to encourage more flowers. Malop flowers not only enhance the beauty of your garden but can also attract pollinators like bees and butterflies.