### URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

# From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Snapdragon

Snapdragons are a popular, old-fashioned and cool-seasoned annual that produces sweet-smelling and long-lasting blooms on spikes.

#### To plant:

Begin Snapdragon seeds indoors six to 10 weeks before the last frost in the spring. Snapdragons are a slow-starter if grown from seed, and they germinate better if planted in cool temperatures. If planting directly into the garden, plant Snapdragons seeds after the last hard frost, but they will tolerate a lighter frost. If growing indoors, sprinkle the seeds over the top of the soil and gently press them, but do not bury them with soil. Place the pots in an area that is 65 degrees. Do not plant Snapdragons in a windowsill because the filtered light isn't bright enough. Instead, place the plants 4 inches below fluorescent lights or growing lights.

Keep the soil evenly moist and be sure the seedlings have good air circulation. If sowing directly to the garden, sprinkle the seeds over the soil and press them lightly. Water to keep the soil evenly moist after planting. To increase germination rates, some gardeners believe in freezing seeds for a few days before planting.

#### To grow:

Once the last hard frost has passed, transplant the Snapdragons to an area in the garden that receives full sun.
Snapdragons bloom best in cool weather and will even stop blooming once the weather heats up. Plant the flowers in partial



Floral Showers Snapdragon seeds available at ufseeds.com

shade if you want to see them last through the summer and begin blooming again the fall. Keep the plants well-watered throughout their growing season. Deadheading will encourage more blooms and increase the blooming period. Snapdragons do best in soil with a pH of 6.2 to 7.0.

#### To harvest:

Flowers begin to bloom from the bottom up, which makes for a long-blooming period. This means Snapdragons are good cut flowers. Snapdragons have tall and dwarf varieties. For the best cut flowers, grow tall varieties, as dwarf plants are 6 to 15 inches in height whereas tall varieties can reach up to 48 inches.

#### What Snapdragons crave:

When Snapdragons are seedlings, fertilize them three to four weeks after planting with a water-soluble fertilizer mixed to half-strength. Once established,











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Snapdragons are not heavy feeders. However, adding organic matter such as manure or compost to the bed will promote plant health.

## Where to buy Snapdragon seeds:

Urban Farmer sells different varieties of Snapdragon seeds that bloom in an array of colors.

Check out our Snapdragon seed selection on our website at <u>ufseeds.com!</u>



Tall Mix Snapdragon seeds available at ufseeds.com





