

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Buddleja

Buddleja, also known as Butterfly Bush, is fast growing and it produces long, spiked trusses on a shrub plant that bloom throughout the summer and fall. It can bloom in white, dark purple or lavender and pink, and it seems if the goal is to attract butterflies, you should plant the lavender-pink blooming varieties because butterflies prefer that over other colors.

This is an excellent plant for beginning gardeners because not only does it attract beautiful butterflies to the garden, it is a low-maintenance plant. However, it is important to not that Buddleja has been classified as invasive in most United States regions, which means it will crowd out other native plants and can spread aggressively, so some maintenance is required to prevent that.

To plant:

It is best to plant Buddleja that have already started growing, but you can also start it by seed indoors. Before planting, seeds need to be kept chilled in the refrigerator up to four weeks before planting. When starting the seeds, be sure to lightly cover with soil and keep moist since Buddleja requires light to germinate. The seeds should germinate within a few months.

After the last frost or in the fall before frost dates occur, transfer the Buddleja outside. To plant, loosen soil and amend it with compost. Then, dig a hole twice its size and place the plant in the hole with the top of the root ball level with the ground. Space plants up to 10 feet apart and water them thoroughly after planting.



[Buddleja seed available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

To grow:

Buddleja grows best in full sun with fertile soil. Water the plant frequently during its growth period and only sparingly outside of its growth period. In the summer, make sure the plant gets 1 inch of water a week, whether that comes from rain or you. Deadhead the flowers just as they begin to wilt to prevent the invasive spreading.

To harvest:

It is uncommon to add these blooms to a bouquet, but Buddleja should be cut back completely to the ground after its growth season each fall. New blooms will appear even on new wood, so be sure to cut the plant back completely even if there is no die back. To encourage new blooms, remove the dead blooms and spikes on the plant.

What Buddleja craves:

Since Buddleja is so invasive, it doesn't need fertilizer to thrive since it thrives by itself quite easily. However, to amend your



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plant's growth, you can apply a thin layer of compost and mulch around the base of the plant to retain moisture and help cut down on weeds. Fertilizing also should be avoided because it'll produce more leaf growth than new blooms.

Where to buy Buddleja seeds:

Urban Farmer carries Buddleja that will bloom in white, lilac and pink as well as reach up to be 8 feet tall.

Check out Buddleja seed on our website at [ufseeds.com!](http://ufseeds.com)



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