# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

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

Astilbe is the perfect flower option for gardeners who need to fill in and add brightness to shaded areas in their yard or garden. Astilbe is a perennial flower, meaning it returns year after year, and it blooms in a variety of colors, ranging from white to red.

### To plant:

Astilbe can be planted in the spring or in the fall, but don't plant it in the summer because it will dry out too easily. If starting from seed, it will take several years before your plant becomes established.

### To grow:

Astilbe will grow best if planted in partial shade. It needs protection fromt the hottest parts of the day, but also, if planted in full shade, flowering will be reduced. It does best when placed in moist, well-drained soil that is slightly on the acidic side.

Astilbe spreads easily, and you should plan to divide your plants every three to four years. Although Astilbe do typically grow tall, they don't usually need staking because their stems are very sturdy. If plants do begin to lean or droop, plant them closer together so the stems can support each other instead of staking. During the late fall, cut the Astilbe plants back to the ground for the winter. Deadheading the spent blooms may be appealing aesthetically, but isn't required for the plant to thrive.

#### To harvest:

Since Astilbe have such strong stems, they make for great cut flowers. their elegant



Astilbe seeds available at ufseeds.com

blooms can be utilized indoors with home décor to add an extra taste to your home.

#### What Astilbe craves:

One tip when growing Astilbe is to add organic matter to the soil around the plant, because if there isn't enough organic matter in the soil, the Astilbe plant will dry out and the leaves will curl up and get scorched during the hot parts of the summer. You can also fertilize prior to planting. Before you plant, amend your soil with compost. Then, each spring, add 1 or 2 inches of compost around the plant as well as a 5-5-5 fertilizer to encourage new growth. Also, you can side dress with a balanced fertilizer in the early summer if you desire.

## Where to buy Astilbe seeds:

Check out Astilbe seeds on our website at ufseeds.com!







