

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

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

Iberis, also known as Candytuft, are wonderful plants to grow along a border or in a rock garden. There are many different species in this plant genus, including perennials, annuals and sub-shrubs. The flowers bloom in masses and they are white. The central petals will turn more of a lavender color when the blooming period nears its end. These flowers are showy because the bright white stands out brightly against the plant's dark green foliage. They are deer and rabbit resistant.

To plant:

Sow seeds directly into the garden in the spring once all danger of frost has passed. If you prefer, start the seeds indoors eight weeks before the last frost. If starting indoors, plant the seeds in individual pots and maintain a temperature between 65 and 70 degrees. Germination should occur within 20 days.

To grow:

Candytuft plants require full sun to encourage them to bloom, however, some species will tolerate a light shade. These flowers grow best in light, sandy and slightly alkaline soil. This type of soil is typically well-draining, which the iberis plant requires. To adjust the soil pH in order to support these kinds of plants, add lime or Dolomite.

While growing Candytuft plants, make sure you deadhead the spent blooms as soon as they fade to prolong the plant's blooming season. For the perennial species, shear them back by 1/3 after they bloom to encourage branching. For the annual



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

species, once the plant begins to die, remove it from the garden. You can propagate the perennial species with softwood cuttings in the summer.

These plants typically don't require dividing, but if they take up more space than allotted for, you can dig them up and divide them in the spring when blooming is done. In the spring, spread mulch around the base of the plants to keep the weeds back for the upcoming season.

To harvest:

Since these flowers are typically ground-hugging and used best as a border or groundcover, they don't make the greatest cut flowers. You can enjoy them in the spring when they bloom.

What Iberis craves:

Fertilize Candytuft once in the early spring by working some fertilizer in a ring around the plants. You can fertilize Candytuft twice more during its growing season, but make



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sure the feedings are spaced out six weeks apart. Use a low-nitrogen fertilizer, because too much nitrogen will cause lots of beautiful foliage but only few blooms.

Where to buy Iberis seeds:

You can find Iberis seed on our website at ufseeds.com!



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