

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Four O'clock

Four O'clock flowers get their name because they bloom in correlation with changes to light and temperature, usually in the evenings between 4 and 8 p.m. The bloom in a trumpet shape with many different color varieties. The flowers have a sweet, lemon-like scent and attract hummingbirds and moths to the garden. Four O'clock flowers bloom throughout the night and into the morning, and they are shorter flowers that work well when planted around a mailbox. They will bloom from summer to fall. Four O'clock flowers also are known as Marvel of Peru.



Tall Mix Four O'clock seeds available
at ufseeds.com

To plant:

Four O'clock seeds don't require pretreatment to germinate and sprout easily if planted in warm, moist soil. Begin the seeds indoors up to six weeks before the last frost. Water the sterile potting mix in starting pots and let it soak for up to 15 minutes before planting the seeds. Sow the seeds ¼ inch deep and make sure the potting mix completely covers the seed. Press down firmly. Allow the seeds to receive up six hours of sun a day. Seeds should sprout in 10 days. Seeds can be started outdoors, as well, if growing in a coastal climate. If beginning them outdoors, wait until soil temperatures reach 65 degrees Fahrenheit and plant them ¼ inch deep and 6 inches apart.

To grow:

Move the seedlings outdoors after the last spring frost, however use a hardening off process to slowly acclimate them to the outdoors. Transplant them outdoors permanently once soil temperatures reach

65 degrees Fahrenheit. Space them 3 feet apart and add a 2-inch layer of mulch around the plants. Four O'clock plants are self-seeders, and they can become invasive, especially in areas without a frost. To prevent this, be sure to deadhead dead blooms.

Keep in mind that Four O'clock blooms are toxic, so keep the flowers away from pets and children. The plant has toxic compounds that can cause digestive issues or skin irritation.

To harvest:

Because of their short blooming period, Four O'clock flowers typically aren't harvested as cut flowers, but their seeds can be harvested for future planting. Seeds are black pellets typically harvested from August to September. Since Four O'clock flowers don't have a seed pod, the seed nestles in the plant where a prior bloom was. Pluck the seeds from the plant for future planting.



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What Four O'clock craves:

Plant Four O'clock flowers in rich, composted soil because they are heavy feeders. Apply a general-purpose fertilizer twice a month to encourage more blooms.

Where to buy Four O'clock seeds:

Urban Farmer's Four O'clock seeds bloom into a variety of bright colors in different shades.

Check out our selection of Four O'clock seed selection on our website at ufseeds.com!



Formula Mix Four O'clock seeds available at ufseeds.com



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