

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

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

The Clarkia wildflowers actually get the name from William Clark, part of the Lewis and Clark expedition. When he was on the Pacific Coast of North America, Clark discovered the flower and brought specimens back. Clarkia makes a great addition to cutting gardens, as well as cottage gardens. They will grow between 1 and 3 feet tall, and they can spread up to 12 inches. They usually bloom in the summer and fall, and in milder climates, they can even bloom during the winter. They are an excellent choice for gardeners because they are low maintenance. Sometimes, Clarkia also are referred to as Euchardium or Godetia. The flowers can bloom in singles or doubles, and they have frilly edges.



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

To plant:

Clarkia don't transplant well, so it's best to direct sow these seeds right into the garden. For warmer climates, plant the seeds in the early fall but in colder climates, plant them in the early spring. Sow the seeds densely when planting, and thin them out to 4 to 6 inches between plants once they grow in. Two weeks after you plant the first batch of Clarkia, you can sow more seeds into the garden because this will ensure your Clarkia's bloom period is long.

To grow:

Clarkia plants do best in full sun or partial shade, and they do best when the soil they grow in is well-drained. Until the plants become established, water them regularly, but once they are established they are very drought tolerant. When growing Clarkia, it may grow with weak stems. If the plants are 4 to 6 inches apart, they can lean on

each other and not droop to the ground. Instead of staking, since Clarkia doesn't grow very high, place some straight sticks into the ground near the plants while they're young, and they will lean on the sticks later on when they grow taller. Although it is considered an annual, Clarkia might self sow and return the following year.

To harvest:

If your Clarkia stems are weak and they accidentally break, you can add the unique flower to your bouquets for display. They flowering for the Clarkia plant will be reduced in hot weather.

What Clarkia craves:

Clarkia doesn't require fertilizer to better its growth. Make sure the soil you plant the flower in isn't high in nitrogen, but you can plant it near nitrogen-heavy plants such as beans.



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Where to buy Clarkia seeds:

Urban Farmer offers an easy-to-grow mix of Clarkia flowers that blooms in shades of pink from the late spring into the summer.

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



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



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