### URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

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

Phlox adds an array of color to the garden and has fragrant blooms. It has two varieties — tall and creeping. The tall-growing variety is often used in the back of the garden so it doesn't shade other plants, whereas the creeping variety can be used as a groundcover. Phlox blooms in a star-shaped flower.

#### To plant:

Plant Phlox indoors up to eight weeks before the last spring frost. Plant Phlox seeds in a potting soil and space them 1 inch apart and 1/8 inch deep. Mist the top of the soil with a spray bottle. To help retain moisture, cover the container with a plastic bag and keep the seeds in a warm, dark area indoors. Phlox seeds should germinate in 10 days. Once the seedlings have sprouted, move the container to a bright area and remove the plastic.

#### To grow:

Seedlings are ready to transplant after the last frost date in the area. When transplanting, space the seedlings 10 inches apart. Although tall-growing Phlox should be grown in the back of a garden to not shade sun-loving plants, creeping Phlox does well in rocky soils or tough growing conditions. Phlox should still be watered regularly during its growing season. To encourage a second bloom in the same season, cut the plants back after the first flowering. Also, cut the plants back before winter so new growth returns in the spring.

Phlox returns year after year because it is a perennial, but division is necessary every few years to produce the healthiest plant. To divide Phlox, dig up the root ball and divide



Moody Blues Phlox seeds available at ufseeds.com

it in half. Replant half and plant the second half in a new location.

#### To harvest:

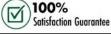
Even though the are small, Phlox make good cut flowers. Their seeds also can be harvested to be replanted in the future since they are annuals and will not return on their own. To save the seeds, allow a few blooms to remain on the plant until they have died. The seed pod will remain once the petals fall away. Cut the pods off the plant and place the pods in a paper sack to store indoors while the seed pods dry. Break open the pods and keep the seeds in a paper envelope until ready to plant the following year.

#### What Phlox craves:

Phlox does well in tough-growing conditions, but it can benefit from an early application of fertilizer in the spring. Applying the fertilizer in the spring will encourage new growth and flowers. Apply a water-soluble fertilizer to the plants once a month in the









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spring and summer months to encourage growth all season long. If you want to only feed Phlox once, opt out of the water-soluble fertilizer and only feed it once in the early spring with a granular, timed-release fertilizer.

## Where to buy Phlox seeds: Urban Farmer sells different kinds of

Urban Farmer sells different kinds of Phlox seeds that produce colorful and fragrant blooms.

Check out our Phlox seed selection on our website at ufseeds.com!



Divaricata Phlox seeds available at ufseeds.com





