

Seeds from Italy Flowers

Name	Type	Direct Seed/ Transplant	Spacing	Height	Comments
Achillea	P	T	12"	36-48"	Easy. A. filipendulina, fernleaf yarrow. Start seeds 12 weeks before frost-free date. Do not cover seeds, as they need light, but keep evenly moist. Germination takes 10-15 days. Plant in full sun. Blooms second year.
Ageratum	A	T	12"	18-30"	Easy. A tall variety, great for cut flowers. Blooms in summer with zinnias and sunflowers. Start seed indoors, 8 weeks before frost-free date. Seeds need light and heat (80-85°F) to germinate. Once up, reduce temp. to 65°. Don't plant until all danger of frost is past.
Alyssum, gold	P	T	8"	10-12"	Easy. Perennial alyssum is a good plant for rock gardens and walls. Seeds need light to germinate. Blooms the second year.
Alyssum, white	A	DS/T	8"	3-6"	Easy. Fragrant, spreading plant attracts beneficial insects. Seeds need light and 80° heat to germinate. Seed in clumps of 10-15 plants per pot and set out as clumps. May stall in summer heat but will bloom again when nights cool.
Aquilegia (Columbine)	P	T	12"	18-30"	Tricky. Chill seed for 2-3 weeks in the refrigerator before sowing. For better results, mix seed with moistened sand and store in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for several weeks. Even then, germination can take 3-4 weeks. Seed needs light to germinate. Blooms the second year.
Aster	A	T	12"	24-36"	Easy to start, tricky to grow. Asters are susceptible to Aster Yellows, a widespread disease carried by leaf hoppers. Start seed in March and plant in mid-May under insect netting if the disease is present in your area.
Bella di Notte (Four O'Clocks)	P	DS/T	9"	24"	Easy. Direct seed just before frost-free date. They will re-seed if you let them. Or you can dig up the tubers and store over the winter if you want to move them.
Calendula	A	DS/T	12"	16"	Easy. Prefer cool weather and can tolerate light frost, so grow spring and fall if summers are hot in your area.
Campanula	B	T	12"	30"	Easy. Won't bloom till the second year.
Celosia	A	T	12"	20-24"	Easy. Celosia require heat so wait until the soil has warmed and weather is settled.
Cobea	A	T	15"	20'	Tricky. Soak seeds overnight and start in individual pots because the vines get tangled. Can take 4 weeks to germinate.
Cosmos	A	DS/T	18"	3-4'	Easy. Blooms in fall if direct seeded. Starts blooming in summer if transplanted.
Edelweiss	P	DS/T	12"	4-12"	Tricky. A low-growing rock garden plant from the Alps. Edelweiss seeds need cold to germinate. If starting indoors, put seeds in moist paper towel in a zip-lock bag in the refrigerator for 3 weeks. Then sprinkle on soil surface (it needs light to germinate). Germination is slow, taking up to 6 weeks. Or sprinkle outside in a rock garden when frost is still likely.
Flax	A	DS	4"	3'	Easy. Plant around frost-free date as seed needs cool soil. Sprinkle on well-prepared ground and rake in then water.
Forget Me Not	P	T	8-10"	12"	Tricky. Seeds need light and take up to 3 weeks to germinate. Blooms the second year. A good rock garden plant.
Foxglove	B	T	18"	36-60"	Easy. Start seeds at 60°F and do not cover. Blooms the second year in late spring to early summer.
Gaillardia	P	T	12"	24"	Easy. Start in January for sporadic flowering the first year; blooms well year 2 and beyond. Seeds need light and 70-75°.
Geranium	A	T	12-15"	12-24"	Easy. Great for landscape beds or containers. Geraniums may stall in summer heat but will bloom well once nights turn cool. Cover seed and germinate at 70-75°F.

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Gerbera Hybrid Daisy	A	T	12"	20"	Difficult. Slow-growing (6 months to bloom). Cover seed and germinate at 70-75°
Godetia	A	T	12"	12"	Easy. Cover seed and germinate at 70°.
Gomphrena	A	T	10"	16"	Easy. Cover seed and germinate at 70°.
Gypsophila (Baby's Breath)	A	DS	10"	20"	Easy. Direct seed in mid spring and thin plants to 10". Succession plant for a longer season of blooms.
Hollyhock	P	DS	15-20"	4-8'	Tricky. Start seed early to get blooms the first year. Lightly cover seed and keep moist. Germination can take up to 3 weeks at 60-68°.
Larkspur	A	DS	4-6"	3-4'	Easy. Larkspur needs 6 weeks of temperatures below 55°F, so should be seeded as early as the ground can be worked in the North; in the southern half of the U.S., below the 38th parallel, it can be seeded in fall for bloom in spring.
Lobelia	A	T	12"	3-6"	Tricky. Do not cover seeds. 20 days to germinate at 75-80°F. Plant in clumps of 8-12 plants.
Lunaria	B	T	12"	2'	Easy. Seeds need light to germinate. Blooms with purple flowers the second year; papery discs are inside the seed pods.
Giant Daisy	P	T	12"	28"	Tricky. Easy to germinate, but it needs well-drained soil or it will be killed over the winter in most of the U.S. Blooms better the second year.
Lawn Daisy	P	DS/T	10-12"	4"	Easy. Seeds need light to germinate. Dies out in summer heat, so may not be perennial everywhere.
Malva	P	T	18-24"	2-3'	Easy. Hardy to zone 5, or biennial farther north.
Marigold	A	T	12"	12-24"	Easy. Start seed on a heat mat at 75-80°F.
Morning Glory	A	DS	12"	6' plus	Easy. Soak seeds in warm water 24 hours before sowing or file the hard seed coat with an emery board so it can take up moisture. Self-seeds readily.
Nasturtium, Bush	A	DS	8-10"	12"	Easy.
Nasturtium, Climbing	A	DS	10"	6'	Easy.
Nicotiana (Flowering Tobacco)	A	T	12"	28"	Easy. Seeds need light to germinate.
Nigella	A	DS	6"	20"	Easy. Grow the same as Larkspur.
Rudbeckia	P	T	12"	2-3'	Tricky. Moisten and chill seed for 2 weeks before planting.
Poppy	A	DS	6"	12-18"	Easy. Scatter seed in late winter on disturbed or gravelly soil.
Saponaria	P	DS	6"	8"	Easy. Direct seed in sunny location such as a rock garden. Cut back after flowering to keep plants in neat mounds.
Scabiosa	A	T	8"	20"	Easy. Wiry stems with pincushion flowers. In warm winter areas can be direct seeded in fall for spring bloom.
Snapdragon	A	T	9"	2'	Tricky. Chill seed for 3-4 days. Seeds need light to germinate. After germination, grow plants in cool place, 45-50°, to encourage branching for garden use.
Statice	A	T	12"	20"	Easy. After germination, grow plants at 50-60°F and they will bloom in six weeks. Cut when fully open and hang upside down for dried flowers.
Sunflower	A	DS	18"	3-5'	Easy. Our sunflowers are branching, open pollinated types. They get very tall and produce many side branches with flowers.
Verbena	A	T	12"	14"	Tricky. Verbenas are poor germinators in general. Chill seed for one week then plant into moist mix. Cover with vermiculite and plastic to keep humid.
Zinnia	A	DS	12"	28"	Easy. Does best in warm weather, so don't plant too early.