



Balloon Flower (*Platycodon grandiflorus*)

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Named for the unusual balloon-shaped buds which swell up before opening. The flowers can be purple-blue, white or pink with five star-shaped petals. Blooms are 2 - 3 inches wide. Foliage is dark green-gray with oval-shaped leaves. 'Platycodon' means 'flat bell'.

Type	Herbaceous perennial
Hardiness Zone	3 - 9
Sun	Full sun (6+ hours direct sun) to partial shade (2-6 hours direct sun)
Bloom Time	July - August
Height	1' - 3'
Spread	1' - 1.5'
Attracts	Birds, butterflies and other pollinators
Additional Features	Deer resistant

Soil and Site Recommendations

- Drainage: well drained
- Soil pH: slightly acidic <6.0
- Type: organic rich loam
- Placement considerations: flower beds, rock gardens, containers and borders

Planting Recommendations

- Type: easily grown from seeds; transplanting is difficult due to delicate roots
- When to plant: spring after danger of frost has passed
- Depth of planting: Sow seeds on the surface of moist soil
- Mulching: recommended for weed control
- Spacing: 12 inches or more
- Spread: stays in clumps but self-seeds
- Division/transplant tips: Division is difficult due to delicate root system.

Maintenance

- Watering: average water needs; do not overwater as it may cause root rot.
- Fertilization: as needed according to soil test



- Pinching/deadheading: carefully deadhead spent flowers to prolong blooming
- Annual maintenance: cut back to the base in the fall.

Common Problems

Disease: Minimal

Insects: Minimal

Resources

www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu>

<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu>

Questions or problems: “What’s wrong with my plant” for information on garden pests and diseases:

<http://apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/plant/>

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