



Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum*)

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Easy-to-grow, colorful annual (perennial in zones 9-11) that has distinctive circular leaves. There are up to 80 different varieties of nasturtiums that either grow in a low mound or trail on a vine. Fragrant, showy flowers ranging in colors of red, orange, white, pink and yellow. Both the flowers and leaves are edible and make a nice addition to salads or as a garnish.

Type	Annual
Hardiness Zone	3 - 11
Sun	Full sun
Bloom Time	June until frost
Height	6" - 12"; some varieties may grow as tall as 1' - 3'
Spread	1' - 3'
Tolerance	Easy to grow
Attracts	Birds and butterflies
Additional Features	Generally ignored by deer

Soil and Site Recommendations

- Drainage: well-drained soil
- Soil pH: grows in poor to average, slightly acidic, well-drained soil; flowers won't produce if the soil is too rich and organic.
- Placement considerations: borders or paths; trailing varieties are good for window-boxes or containers.

Planting Recommendations

- Type: seeds
- When to plant: Sow seeds in late spring once all frost danger has passed. May be started indoors 4 - 6 weeks before the last frost although they do not like to be transplanted. Peat pots work well to minimize transplant shock.
- Depth of planting: 1/2" deep as they need darkness to germinate. Soaking seeds for 24 hours prior to planting helps with germination.
- Spacing: 10" - 12" apart



Maintenance

- Watering: Average water needs, although they will tolerate drought. They will bloom more with adequate watering
- Fertilization: not necessary; too much fertilizer will promote leaf growth and decrease flowering.
- Pinching/deadheading: deadhead to promote blooming
- Annual maintenance: after frost, pull up plants and remove from garden

Common Problems

Disease: no serious problems

Insects: no serious problems, but watch for aphids, mealybugs and whiteflies

Resources

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=264612&isprofile=0&>

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/nasturtium-tropaeolum-majus/>

<https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-news/trailing-nasturtiums>

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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