



GARDEN MEDICINALS and CULINARIES™

GERMINATION CHART for HERBS, WILDFLOWERS, and TREES

For additional cultural information, or for unlisted herbs and trees, visit our website at www.gardenmedicinals.com. For vegetable and flower seeds see website or seed packet.

KEY: hseed=hard seed (germination erratic), Light=light required for germination – sow seed on surface, Sp=sow in spring, Su=sow in summer, Fa=sow in fall, tp=transplant, ds=direct sow, ALF=after last frost, Sun=full sun, LShade=light shade, MShade=medium shade, DShade=deep shade, A=annual, B=biennial, P=perennial, Stratify=cold-moist treatment needed for germination (or sow in very early spring), Scarify=scrape or sand seed coat to allow germination.

HERB or WILDFLOWER	GMED germ min or ave %	Light for germ	How or When to plant	Days to germinate @ degrees F	Comments or special needs for germination or growth	Sun or shade Needs	Annual, Perennial, or Annual and Zone	Height/ spacing
Agrimony			Sp, Fa, tp, ds	14-28 @ 60°	Stratify 6 weeks. Slow germ.	Sun, LShade	P Zone3-8	36-60"/24"
Amaranth			Sp ALF, Su	7-10 @ 70°	Self sows	Sun, LShade	Annual	60-70"/24"
Angelica	50	Light	Sp, Fa, tp, ds	30 @ 60°	Stratify seed 6 weeks.	Sun, LShade	B Zone 3-9	48"/24"
Anise	50		Sp, ds, ALF	14 @ 70°	Direct sowing is best.	Sun	Annual	24"/ 6-8"
Anise Hyssop	50		Sp, ds	7 @ 70°	Self sows	Sun, LShade	P Zones 6-9	24-30"/8"
Arnica, American		Light	Sp, tp	14-21 @ 70°	Stratify seed 6 weeks.	Sun	P Zones 3-6	12-24"/8"
Ashwaganda			Sp, tp, ALF	14-21 @ 70°	Likes warmth	Sun	P Zones 8-10	24-36"/12"
Astragalus	40		Sp, Fa, tp, ds	7-12 @ 70°	Scarify seed. Lighten soil.	Sun	P Zones 5-8	24"/ 8"
Balsam, Chinese			Sp, tp, ds ALF	7-14 @ 70°	Self sows readily	Sun, LShade	Annual	24-30"/12"
Basil (some vars. need light)	60	Light	Sp, tp, ds ALF	7-14 @ 70°	Nitrogen aids germination	Sun	Annual	18"/12-16"
Bergamot	40	Light	Sp, tp, ds	14-30 @ 70°	Likes dry soil. Cold hardy.	Sun	P Zones 4-9	36"/8-12"
Boneset	40	Light	Sp, Fa, tp, ds	7-21+ @ 70°	Stratify 6-8 weeks.	Sun, LShade	P Zones 3-9	36-48"/24"
Borage	70		Sp ds ALF	10 @ 70°	Seed after-ripens 6 months.	Sun	Annual	24-36"/12"
Burdock	50		Sp, ds	60-75°	Self-sows	Sun	P Zones 3-9	12-36"/12"
Burnet, Salad	50		Sp, tp ds	7-10 @ 70°		Sun	P Zones 3-8	18"/9"
Calendula	65		Sp, tp, ds ALF	14 @ 55°+	Seed after-ripens 6 months.	Sun, LShade	Annual	18"/6"
Caraway	55	Light	Sp, Fa, tp ds	14 @ 70°	Scarify seed to speed germ.	Sun	B Zones 3-9	24"/6"
Cardoon	50		Sp, Fa, tp, ds	7-14 @ 70°	Blanch stalks like celery.	Sun	B Zones 3-9	24-36"/30"
Catnip	40	Light	Sp, tp, ds	7-21 @ 70°	Soak seeds for faster germ.	Sun	P Zones 3-9	24"/12-16"
Chamomile	40	Light	Sp, tp, ds	10-14 @ 60°	Short-lived seed. Self sows.	Sun	Annual	24-30"/8"
Chervil	65		Sp, tp, ds	7-21 @ 55°		Sun, LShade	Annual	24"/9-12"
Chia			Sp, tp, ds	5-7 @ 70°	Spring sow or stratify 6 weeks.	Sun	Annual	36"/12"
Chives	50		Sp, tp, ds	7-14 @ 70°	Self sows	Sun, LShade	P Zones 3-9	12"/6-8"
Codonopsis		Light	Sp, tp	7-14 @ 70°	Stratify 6 weeks. Trellis.	Sun	P Zones 4-9	6-10"/8"
Cohosh, Black	40		Su, Fa, tp, ds	30 @ 70°	Stratify 3wks 70°+ 12wks 40°	MShade, Sun	P Zones 3-8	2-5"/24"
Cohosh, Blue			Su, Fa, tp, ds	Long germ.	Extra care. See grow guide.	DShade	P Zones 4-8	12-18"/16"
Columbine, wild	50	Light	Sp Fa, tp, ds	10-30 @ 60°	Stratify 6 weeks.	Sun, LShade	P Zones 4-8	24"/12"
Coreopsis	40		Sp, tp, ds ALF	10-14 @ 70°	Self sows	Sun	Annual	12-18"/4-8"
Coriander/Cilantro	70		Sp, ds	7-14 @ 60°	Self-sows	Sun	A Zones 6-10	18-24"/4"
Cotton, heirloom	50hseed		Sp, tp, ds	7-14 @ 70°	Start indoors early spring.	Sun	Annual	48"/36"
Cress, garden	75		Sp, ds	4-10 @ 60°		Sun	Annual	3-12"/4-6"
Cress, upland	60		Sp, ds	7 @ 70°		Sun	B Zones 2-9	6"/4-6"
Cress, watercress	40		Sp, tp	4-14 @ 60°	Grow in wet pots or stream.	Sun, LShade	B Zones 4-7	9-12"/4"
Cumin	50		Sp, tp, ds	7-14 @ 70°	Direct sowing advised.	Sun	A Zones 4-10	18-30"/6-9"
Cumin, Black	50		Sp, tp, ds	8-16 @ 70°		Sun	Annual	12"/4-6"
Dandelion	60		Sp, Su, tp, ds	7-21 @ 70°		Sun	P Zones 3-10	6-18"/6-12"
Dill	60		Sp, tp, ds	7-21 @ 70°	Direct sowing advised.	Sun	Annual	36-48"/4-6"
Dock, Yellow			Sp, Fa, ds	30+ longer	Extra care. See website.	Sun, LShade	P Zones 3-9	6-36"/12"
Echinacea purpurea	40		Sp, tp, ds	7-28 @ 70°	Stratify 1 week faster germ.	Sun, LShade	P Zones 3-9	24-36"/12"
Echinacea, other	40		Sp, Fa, tp, ds	7-28 @ 70°	Stratify at least 2 months.	Sun	P Zones 3-9	24-36"/12"
Elecampane	40	Light	Sp, tp, ds	10-14 @ 70°	Extra care. See website.	Sun, LShade	P Zones 3-9	36"/24"
Epazote	50	Light	Sp, tp, ds	7-21 @ 70°	Self sows readily	Sun	Annual	24-48"/4-6"
Evening Primrose	50	Light	Sp, Su, tp, ds	14-21 @ 70°	Self sows moderately	Sun	B Zones 5-8	36-48"/16"
False Unicorn	75		Fa, ds	Overwinter	Stratify 8 weeks	Dshade 75%	P Zones 5-8	rosette/12"
Fennel	50	Light	Sp, tp, ds	7-14 @ 70°	Direct sowing advised.	Sun	B Zones 2-5	36-60"/4-12"
Feverfew	50	Light	Sp, tp	10-14 @ 70°	Self sows	Sun	A, P Zones 4-10	24-30"/12"
Heal-All	40		Sp, tp, ds	7-21 @ 70°		Sun	P Zones 4-9	8-18"/8"
Goldenseal	50		Fa, ds	Overwinter	Extra care. See grow guide.	Dshade 75%	P Zone 5-8	6-12"/8-12"
Hemp Agrimony		Light	Sp, tp ALF	14-30 @ 65°	Sow in flats outside then tp.	Sun	P Zones 4-8	24-60"/16"
Hollyhock	65hseed		Sp, tp, ds	5-18 @ 65°	Germination long or erratic	Sun	B Zones 4-9	12-72"/24"
Hops			Sp, tp, ds	7-14 @ 70°	Stratify 3-6 weeks. Trellis.	Sun	P Zones 3-8	8-20"/12"
Horehound	40		Sp, tp, ds	7-21 @ 60°	Deep roots – tp early	Sun	P Zones 4-9	16-24"/12"
Hyssop	45		Sp, tp, ds	7-21 @ 65°	Divide large plants in Sp.	Sun	P Zones 4-9	8-24"/8-12"
Indigo			Sp, Fa, tp, ds	7-21 @ 70°	Scarify seed for best germ.	Sun	P Zones 3-8	24-36"/24"
Jing Jie			Sp, tp, ds	14-28 @ 70°	Long germ. Aromatic.	Sun	A Zones 4-9	18-36"/9"
Laserwort			Sp, tp, ds	14-30 @ 70°	Direct sowing advised.	Sun	P Zones 5-7	24"/18"
Lavender	50		Sp, tp ALF	14-21 @ 70°	Stratify 2 weeks. Slow.	Sun	P Zones 5-8	12-18"/16"
Lemon Balm	50	Light	Sp, tp ds	7-14 @ 70°	Moist, well-drained soil best	Sun	P Zones 4-9	18-24"/12"



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Licorice, Chinese	25		Sp, tp, ds	14+ @70°	Scarify seed. Prefers it dry.	Sun, LShade	P Zones 5-10	6-12"/9"
Lovage	40		Sp, tp, ds	14 @ 65°		Sun, LShade	P Zones 3-8	60"/18-24"
Marigold, Mexican	65	Light	Sp, tp ALF	5-15 @70°	Start early. Needs warmth.	Sun	A Zones 6-8	24-30"/12"
Marjoram, sweet	50		Sp, tp, ds	21 @ 60°	Seedlings are tender.	Sun	A, P Zones 5-9	12-20"/8"
Marshmallow		Light	Sp, Fa tp, ds	10-30 @70°	Stratify 2-4 weeks or scarify.	Sun, LShade	P Zones 4-9	48-72"/24"
Milk Thistle	40		Sp, Fa, ds	7-14 @70°		Sun	A or B	48"/24-30"
Mint	45	Light	Sp, tp	10-14 @70°	Produces mint varieties.	Sun, LShade	P Zones 5-9	18"/6"
Mole Plant			Sp, Fa, ds	14-30+ @70°	Variable germ. Toxic seed.	Sun	B Zones 3-9	48"/12-16"
Motherwort	55		Sp, tp or ds	7-21 @70°	Self sows	Sun	P Zones 3-8	12-72"/12"
Mugwort	50	Light	Sp, Fa tp, ds	14-21 @70°	Stratification helps germ.	Sun	P Zones 3-9	24-48"/16"
Mullein	50	Light	Sp, Fa, tp, ds	7-21 @70°	Stratification helps germ.	Sun	B Zones 4-9	48-96"/18"
Mustard, Black	50		Sp, ds	3-10 @70°	Sow in early spring.	Sun	Annual	36"/18"
Nettle, Stinging	40	Light	Sp, tp, ds	7-14 @ 65°	Stratify seed 4-6 weeks.	Sun, LShade	P Zones 3-10	36-48"/6-9"
Oregano	50	Light	Sp, tp	7-21 @ 60°		Sun	P Zones 5-9	12"/12-24"
Oregano, Mexican	40	Light	Sp, tp	7-14 @70°	Likes drained / sandy soil.	Sun	P Zones 7-10	24-72"/24"
Ox-Knee (Niu-Xi)			Sp, Fa, tp, ds	7-14 @70°	Self sows aggressively	Sun, LShade	P Zones 4-9	36"/36"
Parsley	60		Sp, Fa, ds	14-21 @70°	Direct sow. Keep moist.	Sun	B Zones 3-9	12"/9"
Passion Flower			Sp, Fa, tp, ds	30+ @70°	Soak seed 2 weeks.	Sun, LShade	P Zones 6-9	8-20"/12"
Pennyroyal, American	50	Light	Sp, tp	14-21 @70°	Stratify 6 to 8 weeks.	Sun, LShade	Annual	6-9"/6"
Pennyroyal, English		Light	Sp, tp	14-21 @70°		Sun, LShade	P Zones 6-9	9-15"/9"
Perilla (Shiso)			Sp, ds ALF	7-14 @70°	Self sows readily	Sun, LShade	Annual	18-30"/12"
Petunia, heirloom	45	Light	Sp, tp, ds	10 @70°	Stratify 2-4 weeks aids germ.	Sun, LShade	Annual	24-48"/6"
Plantain	40		Sp, tp, ds	7-14 @70°	Stratify seed 6 to 8 weeks.	Sun	P Zones 5-9	6-12"/12"
Poppy, bread seed	40		Sp, ds	6-10 @ 60°	Direct sow early spring.	Sun	Annual	36-48"/9"
Prince's Feather			Sp, Fa, tp, ds	7-14 @70°	Stratify seed 3-4 weeks.	Sun	Annual	60-72"/24"
Purslane	50		Sp Su, tp, ds	7-10 @70°	Self sows	Sun	Annual	12-18"/12"
Rosemary	20	Light	Sp, tp, ds	14-30 @ 60°	Erratic germ. Likes alkaline.	Sun	A, P Zones 6-10	36"/24-36"
Rue	50		Sp, tp, ds	10-14 @ 65°	Prefers well-drained soil	Sun	P Zones 4-9	24-36"/24"
Sage	60		Sp, tp, ds	7-21 @70°	Well-drained. Stratify helps.	Sun	P Zones 4-8	24"/12-24"
Saint Johnswort	40	Light	Sp, tp, ds	7-14 @70°	Stratify 2-4 weeks aids germ.	Sun	P Zones 3-8	12-24"/12"
Savory, Summer	55	Light	Sp, tp, ds	7-14 @70°		Sun	Annual	12-24"/9"
Savory, Winter	40	Light	Sp, tp, ds	7-14 @70°		Sun	P Zones 4-8	6-12"/9"
Soapwort	40		Sp, ds	21-30+ @70°	Best sown in early spring.	Sun, LShade	P Zones 3-9	12-24"/9"
Skullcap	40	Light	Sp, tp, ds	14-21 @70°	Stratify 2-4 weeks aids germ.	Sun, LShade	P Zones 3-8	12-24"/9"
Sorrel	50		Sp, tp, ds	3-14 @70°	Best sown in early spring..	Sun, LShade	A, P Zones 4-9	36"/9-12"
Spilanthes			Sp, tp, ds	7-14 @ 75°	Likes warm soil. Self sows.	Sun, LShade	Annual	8-12"/12"
Tansy	40	Light	Sp, tp, ds	14-21 @ 65°	Best sown in early spring.	Sun	P Zones 4-10	36"/12-16"
Thyme, German	50	Light	Sp, tp, ds	14-30 @ 60°	Best sown in early spring.	Sun, LShade	P Zones 4-8	4-8"/4-12"
Tobacco		Light	Sp, tp, ds	10-14 @70°		Sun	Annual	24-48"/24"
Valerian	40	Light	Sp, tp, ds	14-21 @ 65°	Self sows readily	Sun, LShade	P Zones 3-9	48-60"/18"
Vanilla Grass			Sp, tp, ds	7-14 @70°	Prefers moist soil	Sun	P Zones 5-9	12"/16"
Vervain	35	Light	Sp, tp	7-14 @70°	Stratify 4 - 8 weeks. Sow early.	Sun	P Zones 3-8	36-48"/12"
Woad	40		Sp, tp, ds	10 @ 60°	Direct sow early spring.	Sun	B Zones 5-9	36"/12"
Wormwood	25	Light	Sp, tp	7-10 @ 60°	Dry soil. Drought-tolerant	Sun, LShade	P4-9	24-72"/24"
Wormwood, Sweet	25	Light	Sp, tp	7-14 @70°	Dry soil. Drought-tolerant	Sun	Annual	72"/15-18"
Yam, Wild			Sp, Fa, ds	7-30+ @70°	Direct sow. Trellis.	Sun, LShade	P Zones 4-9	72"+/12"
Yarrow	50	Light	Sp, tp, ds	10-14 @70°		Sun	P Zones 3-9	24-36"/12"
Yucca	50		Sp, Fa, ds	14-28 @70°	Direct sow early spring.	Sun	P Zones 6-9	48-72"/36"

SHRUBS and TREES	GMED germ min or ave %	Light for germ	How or When to plant	Days to germinate @ degrees F	Comments or special needs for germination or growth	Sun or shade Needs	Annual, Perennial, or Annual and Zone	Height/ spacing
Chaste Tree (Vitex)	30		Sp, tp, ds	14-28 @70°	Stratify seed 6 weeks.	Sun	P Zones 5-10	10'/6-12'
Elm, Slippery	50		Sp, Fa, tp, ds	7-21 @70°	Stratify seed for 8 weeks.	Sun	P Zones 3-8	60-80'/12'
Mimosa	75		Sp, Fa, tp, ds	7-14 @70°	Scarify seed.	Sun	P Zones 6b-10	20-35'/20'
Pawpaw	50		Fa (ds) Sp (tp)	Overwinter	Stratify seed for 8-12 weeks	Sun, LShade	P Zones 4-5	10-30'/15'
Sweet Shrub	75		Sp, Fa, tp, ds	14-30 @70°	Scarify seed if spring sown.	Sun, MShade	P Zones 4-10	6-8'/4-6'