



Snapdragons

Growing snapdragons from seed requires an early start, as germination can take three weeks or more. For spring planting, seeds should be started indoors approximately 6 to 8 weeks before the last frost in your area. Seedlings can be transplanted 8 to 9 weeks after sprouting. If you use seedlings purchased from a garden centre, choose plants that are healthy looking, with vibrant green leaves and strong stems. If possible, avoid plants that have developed buds or blossoms, as transplanting is often more stressful on plants that have begun the blooming process.

Planting snapdragon seedlings should be done in soil that is rich in organic matter and light enough for good drainage. Snapdragons grow best in a soil with a negative pH and prefer full sunlight, although they will tolerate light shade. Place your seedlings six to eight inches apart for shorter snapdragon varieties, or twelve inches apart for the taller ones. Keep the soil moist around snapdragons, but not soggy, and fertilize every 4 to 6 weeks.

Blooming season for snapdragons begins in the late spring. As these plants prefer cool temperatures, flowers generally wilt away with the approach of the summer heat. However, don't be in a hurry to pull your snapdragon plants from the garden after those spring blooms have faded, as snapdragons often will bloom again in the early fall as the cooler temperatures return. Be sure to deadhead snapdragons during the blooming season to encourage maximum flower production.

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