

Hyssop

Common Names Hyssop

Plant Type Perennial

Height: 18"-24"

Spread: 12"-25"

USDA Zones: 4-9

Bloom Season: Summer

Light: Full Sun

Soil: Well-draining

Description

Hyssop (*Hysoppus officinalis*) is an attractive flowering herb commonly grown for its flavorful leaves. Growing a hyssop plant is easy and makes a lovely addition to the garden. The spikes of blue, pink, or red flowers are great for attracting important pollinators to the landscape as well.

Sowing Hyssop Seeds

The most common way to plant hyssop is by sowing seeds. Sow hyssop seeds indoors or directly in the garden about eight to 10 weeks before the last frost. Plant hyssop just beneath the soil's surface or about a quarter inch (0.6 cm.) deep. Hyssop seeds usually take between 14 and 21 days to germinate and can be transplanted (if sown indoors) in the garden after the threat of frost has ended in spring. Space hyssop plants about 6 to 12 inches (15-30 cm.) apart. Once blooming has ceased and seed capsules have completely dried, they can be collected and stored for growing hyssop the next season. In some areas, however, hyssop plants will self-seed readily. In addition, the plants can be divided in fall.

How to Grow Hyssop

- **Watering:** Let the top inch of the soil dry between waterings. Do not overwater hyssop. Hyssop can tolerate drought. It will thrive with light, even watering.
- **Feeding:** Feed hyssop compost tea or dilute fish emulsion a couple of times during the growing season.
- **Care:** Remove faded hyssop flowers to prolong bloom time and encourage bushy growth. Renew plants by cutting them back by half or more in early spring or late fall; this will encourage more flowering the second year. Hyssop should be divided every three or four years or plantings will become sparse. Plants lose vigor after 5 years and should be replaced with plants started from cuttings or division.

- **Container growing:** Hyssop can be grown in a container 14 inches or more deep and wide.

Winter growing: Small plants can be brought indoors for winter. Established outdoor plants do not need protection. Cut hyssop almost to the ground and put a few inches of mulch over the plant in cold winter regions