

Verbena

Sowing Indoors (to get a head start):

- For best results use sterile, disease free and weed free soil to start your seedlings.
- Verbena's can be sown in Spring, Summer and Autumn, as long as they are placed in an area receiving sun more the 10 hours of the day.
- Sow indoors 6 mm in trays of seed starter soil.
- Water well and place in a greenhouse or cold frame.
- Seedlings should emerge in 14 - 28 days.
- Gradually accustom young plants to outside conditions before planting out.

Sowing Outdoors:

- For best results use sterile, disease free and weed free soil to start your seedlings.
- Verbena seed can be sown directly where it is to flower in rows spaced 20cm apart and 6mm deep.
- Choose a desirable place in the morning sun.
- Prepare the soil with seedling starter soil that is slightly moist. Place the seed 6mm deep and lightly cover with soil. Water seed and maintain moisture.
- Seedlings should emerge in 14 - 28 days.
- Protect seedlings from pests and weather until well established.

Transplanting in the Garden:

- It is best to transplant in the early evening or cooler day – hot temperatures are likely to upset the seedling.
- Dig a hole that is the same depth as your seedling and approximately twice as wide.
- Space seedlings approximately 20cm apart.
- Place your seedling into the hole, bring the soil closer and be sure not to plant the seedlings deeper than the root ball – the top of the root ball should be at the same level as your hole.
- Always give your seedlings a slight water after transplanting to remove air bubbles and settle your seedlings into their forever home.

Growing Tips

- Keep weeds under control during the growing season.
- Pinch out the growing tips of Verbena when established to encourage denser growth and stronger stems.
- If well looked after, Verbena plants can flower for up to 70 days.
- Deadhead flowers for an extended flowering season and feed with a slow release fertiliser throughout the flowering season.
- Weeds compete with plants for water, space and nutrients, so control them by either cultivating often or use a mulch to prevent their seeds from germinating.
- Mulches also help retain soil moisture and maintain even soil temperatures.
- This is especially important for tomatoes as their roots may be easily damaged when weeding, and this can lead to blossom end rot.
- Keep plants well-watered during the growing season, especially during dry spells.
- Plants need about 2cm to 5cm of rain per week during the growing season.
- Use a rain gauge to check to see if you need to add water.

- It's best to water with a drip or trickle system that delivers water at low pressure at the soil level.
- If you water with overhead sprinklers, water early in the day so the foliage has time to dry off before evening, to minimise disease problems.
- Keep the soil moist but not saturated.
- Monitor for pests and diseases.
- Check with your local Garden Centre for pest controls recommended for your area.