

How to Grow Baby's Breath



☎ 888 246 5233
Todd's Seeds, 46495,
Humboldt Dr. Novi, MI 48377

About Baby's Breath

Almost everyone has given or received a bouquet of flowers from the florist that contained a few sprays of baby's breath. The genus is Latin for the phrase "friendship with gypsum," because one species, *Gypsophila repens*, has been found growing on gypsum rocks.

- Light: Full Sun
- Type: Perennial
- Height: 6 inches - 24 inches
- Width: 1-4 feet wide
- Flower Color: Pink, White
- Seasonal Features: Summer Bloom
- Problem Solvers: Deer Resistant, Drought Tolerant, Groundcover
- Special Features: Cut Flowers, Low Maintenance
- Zones: 4-9

Description of Baby's Breath

Small, blue-green leaves, almost fleshy, on stems with slightly swollen joints bear a profusion of manybranched panicles containing numerous 1/8-inch wide flowers. Plants bloom in June and July.



☎ 888 246 5233
Todd's Seeds, 46495,
Humboldt Dr. Novi, Mi 48377

Site Selection

Baby's breath is best grown in full sun, although it will get by with as little as 4 hours of direct sun. In full sun, baby's breath is easy to grow and is drought tolerant as well. It prefers rich, well drained or sandy soil conditions.



Planting Instructions

No plant is easier or quicker to grow for masses of delightful blooms than this annual Baby's Breath plant. In just 6 - 8 weeks from sowing Baby's Breath seeds, you'll begin enjoying the tiny, pure-white blooms, which are set at the tips of rather stiff, very well-branched stems. Invaluable for bouquets and arrangements both fresh and dried, they are also a fine source of airy, misty color in the garden--particularly effective with large, brightly-colored blooms or with vertical ornamental grasses. If you want a steady supply of Baby's Breath flowers from spring to fall, just sow the *Gypsophila* seeds directly in the garden every 2 - 3 weeks as soon as the soil can be worked in spring. *Gypsophila elegans* will grow in any region of the U.S.

Baby's Breath is one of the most popular wildflowers and it is easy to grow from flower seed. Baby's Breath has tiny, virtually insignificant flowers compared to other wildflowers, but without Baby's Breath other more showy flowers don't appear to their best advantage. Everything looks better with Baby's Breath around it! *Gypsophila* plants grow upright 12 - 24 inches tall and as wide. It is quite drought tolerant. The *Gypsophila* flowers are single form, one half inch across, abundant and typically white but there are cultivars available in pink and rose. Its leaves are 3 inches long, lance shaped and fleshy. Unfortunately, it is a very short-lived annual dying after only 5 - 6 weeks. Successively planting the flower seed every 2 - 3 weeks should insure never being without it during the growing season.



☎ 888 246 5233
Todd's Seeds, 46495,
Humboldt Dr. Novi, Mi 48377

Gypsophila seeds need to be planted in soil with near neutral pH levels. It prefers well-draining soil with ample organic matter. If water should pool around it for any given time it is apt to develop a black slime around the lower stems called stem rot. This makes the plant wilt. But stem rot is easily avoided by placing the Gypsophila plant in raised beds, in pots or simply plant Baby's Breath flower seeds on a small mound of soil if your soil tends to be wet. Baby's Breath prefers to grow in full sun although it does quite well in as little as 4 hours of full sun.

Care

Staking will help support the plant, but because the plant is so brittle, be sure to stake baby's breath plants well before the summer blooms appear to avoid damaging the plant. In cooler climates, mulch your perennial baby's breath in the fall to help protect the plant during the winter period.

