

# How to Grow Bishop's Flower



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Bishop's flower is part of the Ammi genus and its scientific name is *Ammi majus*. The *majus* part of this plant's botanical name means 'great'.

*Ammi majus* L. originates in the Nile River Valley and has white lace-like flowers.

Bishop's weed has tall feathery foliage and large white lace like clusters of flowers. Can be used as a cut flower and will last over a week.

This variety typically blooms White. The mature flowers are of a clustered form. Bishop's flower grows as an annual and is a semi-edible flower. Being an annual plant, it tends to grow best over the course of a single year. Normally reaches to a mature height of 2.93 feet (or 90.0 cm). This plant tends to bloom in mid summer, followed by first harvests in mid summer. Try planting Bishop's flower if you'd like to attract butterflies to your garden.

Bishop's flower is great for inexperienced gardeners and those that like low maintenance gardens.



## How to Grow Bishop's Flower

Bishop's Flower can be sown in the fall or in early to mid spring. Alternately the seeds can be started inside 6-8 weeks before last frost. Direct sowing in the fall is the preferred method for the best plants and the most blooms.

Surface sow in well cultivated fine soil.



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In spring thin seedlings to 20-30cm (8-12in) apart.

Plants may fall over if exposed to strong winds. Stake small plants if this is a concern.

Leave flowers to produce seed if you desire them to self sow. Plant in a location that enjoys full sun / dappled sun and remember to water moderately. Use Zone 3 - Zone 9 as your guideline for the appropriate climate for this plant. Bishop's flower requires a soil ph of 6.5 - 7.0 meaning it does best in weakly acidic soil - neutral soil. Keep in mind when planting that Bishop's flower is thought of as hardy, so this plant will survive close to or on freezing temperatures.

### Growing Bishop's Flower From Seed

Outside- Germination will normally occur within 7-21 days at temperatures around 68-72°F (20-22°C).

### Transplanting Bishop's Flower

Plants can be sown indoors, but direct sowing is preferable. As with most of the Umbelliferae/Apiaceae (Carrot) family, they have a long taproot which can be damaged when transplanting. Sow 6-8 weeks before planting out. When first true leaves appear, transplant into larger containers. Harden off and transplant out after last frost.

Ensure that temperatures are mild and all chance of frost has passed before planting out, as Bishop's flower is a hardy plant. By our calculations\*, you should look at planting out Bishop's flower about 0 days after your last frost date.





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## Harvesting Bishop's Flower

Go to the garden and collect flowers in the morning. Choose blooms that are around 80% open for longest lasting display. Be careful when cutting as the sap may cause a bad reaction when exposed to skin. To dry the flowers air dry them for 2-3 weeks in a dark dry place. If dried where they receive light they may turn brown.



## Bishop's Flower Folklore & Trivia

In ancient Egypt, this plant was used to treat skin diseases. Today it has been shown to have anti viral and anti inflammatory properties. Ammi majus is being studied for potential cancer and AIDS treatments. Bishops weed is sometimes used in the treatment of psoriasis and vitiligo. Originally the drug methoxsalen (Methoxypsoralen or Oxsoralen) was made from A. Maius, but now the psoriasis prescription is made in a lab. It has also been used to regulate menstruation, treat urinary tract infections, kidney stones and even leprosy.

Seed – used as a condiment.

## Other Names for Bishop's Flower

Large bullwort, Queen Anne's Lace, Bishopsweed, Bishop's weed, Bullwort, Greater ammi, Lady's lace, Laceflower