

# How to Grow Statice



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Statice (*Limonium sinuatum*) is a favorite annual for cutting gardens, since its small, colorful blooms dry well. These somewhat stiff plants are tolerant to salty and sandy soils, making them a great choice for gardens along the coast. Easy-care statice plants perform well in dry soils with low to average fertility -- and thrive in all climate zones as an annual.

## Step 1



Because Statice is easily wiped out by frost, start them indoors in biodegradable pots about eight weeks before the last frost of the season, or sow seeds directly in the garden once the soil reaches about 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Statice seeds require only a light dusting of soil and average moisture to germinate in 14 to 21 days. In frost-free areas, you can sow them in fall for riotous spring color.

## Step 2

Choose an area in your garden to plant the Statice seeds that receive full sunlight for most of the day. The plants will not do well or give you many blooms if planted in shady conditions where no sunlight is available.



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### Step 3

Plant your Statice seeds in soil that is average, sandy and most importantly, drains well. There is no need to amend the soil when planting your Statice seeds into it. Heavy soils such as clay will need to be amended with sand to allow for proper drainage, or the plants can develop root rot and will eventually die.

### Step 4

Water your Statice seeds in well once you have planted them. Water the plant every other day for the first 2 weeks after it has been planted. They are quite drought tolerant once they have established themselves and will only need water once or twice per week.

### Step 5

Apply a light application of fertilizer designed for blooming plants in the spring. Purchase a fertilizer that has a high number in the middle. This is the amount of phosphorus in it and this is what is needed for the plant to produce more blooms. You can also use water soluble fertilizer sprayed over the entire plant every couple of weeks, instead of the granular variety.



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## Cultural Requirements

Statice prefer warm weather and sandy soils, but will tolerate any well-draining soil provided it is not too rich with nutrients. Plant them in full sun, 12 to 15 inches apart. Prevent crowding by pruning rigorous plants back, because Statice is susceptible to a variety of fungal diseases and rots, which are often caused by fungus. Allow plenty of air circulation between plants and protect from frequent overhead watering for best success.

## Drying Flowers

Statice shine as a dried flower, and you may want to grow them with this end in mind. Once about 75 percent of each flower head's blooms are open, cut the flower stalks near the crown, bundle loosely and hang upside down to dry in a warm place. By hanging them, you will increase air circulation as well as preserve the shape of the blossoms. Depending on humidity, flowers should be fully dry within a week.