

Cosmos

Cosmos bipinnatus var. *cosmicos*

A hardy, easy to grow, heirloom garden favourite with a charming and vibrant flower. This annual is a good background plant that grows over a metre tall. Feathery foliage fills plants in from top to bottom creating a bushy look. A native of Mexico, it prefers a sunny position with protection from wind. Also useful in the orchard as bee forage and nectar source for beneficial insects and butterflies. It's beautiful as a cut flower. Dead head it regularly by removing old flowers as this will encourage new flowers to bloom. Cosmos will often self-sow from year to year.

Recommendations:

- To easily identify your seedlings, label your stake.
- Cosmos make a beautiful cut flower
- Very useful as a nectar source for beneficial insects and butterflies. To reap those benefits, grow near plants that require polination.

To save your seed:

Allow some of the flowers to go to seed by allowing the petals to fall off and the bud to dry up. Once the bud dries completely, rub the bud between your fingers and catch the seeds that fall out. Blow away the chaff and store in a sealed container in a cool and dry place.

Remember to label your seeds with the name and date of when they were collected