



Start with a pack of seeds in spring. By late summer your arbor, trellis, or fence will be a glorious wall of living color! There is nothing quite like a morning glory to make people stop and admire the sheer exuberance of life. Vines grow from 5 to 15 feet tall, and flower colors range from sky blue to red violet; most have a white eye and some are rimmed with white as well. If you don't have the space for unbridled exuberance, look for the double-flowered varieties, such as 'Split Second' or 'Cotton Candy'. They tend to be slightly more restrained, and can even be successfully grown in containers.

Sow morning glory seeds where they will receive sun for most of the day. Like many plants, they prefer fertile, well-drained soil, but they are tolerant of a wide range of conditions. They thrive in the heat of summer.

- 1. Prepare.** Begin by choosing a spot where morning glories can climb high—many reach 10 feet or higher. If you plan to grow them on a stockade or privacy-type fence, fasten netting onto the surface, or stretch a few strings from bottom to top and back down again, in a zigzag pattern. A string made from natural fiber will make cleanup easier, as it can be composted along with the vines at the end of the season. Loosen soil to a depth of 6 to 8 inches using a shovel or fork, and mix in some compost to improve the soil structure and drainage. There is no need to fertilize. Soak your seeds in water for 24 hours before planting them.
- 2. Plant.** Sow soaked morning glory seeds directly in the garden in spring, about ½ inch deep and 6 to 8 inches apart, after danger of frost has passed. Cover seeds lightly with soil and press gently.
- 3. Grow.** Water the soil to keep it moist for a week or two, until seeds germinate. Pull weeds that sprout nearby, and apply organic mulch, such as bark chips, to control weeds and conserve soil moisture. As the vines grow, guide them onto the netting or string if they stray.
- 4. Enjoy.** The dense vines of trumpet flowers and heart-shaped leaves will create a stunning privacy screen by late summer. They can also adorn an arch or pergola with old-fashioned style and grace.



AT A GLANCE



Exposure: Full sun; tolerant of part shade.

Planting time: after danger of frost.

Planting depth: 1/2 inch deep

Spacing in row: Sow 6 to 8 inches apart

Time to flower: 80 to 120 days from seed.



Morning glories can be grown in large containers. Provide them with a trellis, or extend strings from the pot to a sturdy support, and watch them climb.