

Delphinium

Delphiniums are traditional English garden plants. The tall spikes of flowers add height and color to the early to midsummer garden. They are excellent plants for the center of island beds or the back of the border. They are basically insect and disease free. Colors include white, pink, lavender, blue and purple.

Site Preference: Delphiniums grow best in full sun (8 or more hours of direct sunlight). They can also be grown in partial shade (4-8 hours of direct sunlight).

Soil: Delphiniums will do well in most conditions. The addition of **Sphagnum Peat** and **Composted Manure** will assure a healthy planting.

Watering, Planting, Winterizing: See instructions included in the *Perennials- General Care* sheet.

Fertilizing: Delphiniums are heavy feeders. Regular fertilizing is essential for best health and superior bloom. Fertilize with **Better Blooms™ Perennial, Tree & Shrub Food** according to package directions.

Staking: Delphinium stems are hollow, making them somewhat susceptible to wind damage. Staking is recommended. Each stem can be individually staked, then gently tied to the stake or several stakes tied together can surround the plant. See the *Perennials- General Care* Sheet. The stake, after being inserted several inches into the ground, should reach to the top of the flower spike. Remove spent blooms to encourage rebloom and new growth from the base. Delphiniums will rebloom if deadheaded.

Cut and Dried Flowers: Delphiniums make excellent cut flowers for indoor arrangements and they may also be dried. To dry, cut the flower spikes in the early morning when the blooms are just beginning to open. Remove the leaves from the stems. Hang the stalks in a warm, dry area.