

# DELPHINIUMS



Blue Lace



Double Innocence



Pagan Purples

Delphiniums are perennial plants, flowering in early summer. Popular with bees, they are a traditional cottage garden plant, and also work well when used as cut flowers as their stems have flowers all round.

They grow best in a sunny position, and will cope with most soils, provided they are free-draining. They dislike growing in shady locations, or with wet, heavy soil conditions. When planting, ensure you plant them with the soil level the same as in the pots they come in, as burying them deeper will be detrimental.

The flowering stems can reach around 1m in height, so they will benefit from having support early on to prevent them being blown over by strong winds. After flowering, cut back the spent stems as this will encourage a second flush of blooms. They are hungry plants so they will benefit from regular feeding with a liquid fertilizer from early on.

Delphiniums can be overwintered by mulching them with leaf-mould or well rotted manure. The main reason they may not re-appear the following spring is due to rotting in soggy conditions, so try adding grit to the planting hole to improve drainage. They can also be prone to slug and snail attack when the new shoots are emerging, so be vigilant in the spring and keep on top of the pests in your garden.