



Agapanthus
cultivar in flower

Planting in the garden

Agapanthus are happy in most soils, with reasonable drainage and plenty of sun. In their native homeland of South Africa, they thrive on the poor, rocky soil of the Drakensburg mountains. However, a sandy soil with added compost will give the best results. Water freely during the growing season and apply an occasional liquid of Miracle-Gro or Levington's Tomorite to encourage profuse flowering. All varieties benefit from a thick insulating mulch of straw, bracken or bark as winter approaches, to protect crowns from harsh frosts when planted in open ground.

caring for...

Agapanthus

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Haskins West End

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Haskins Roundstone

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Haskins Snowhill

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Agapanthus
africanus



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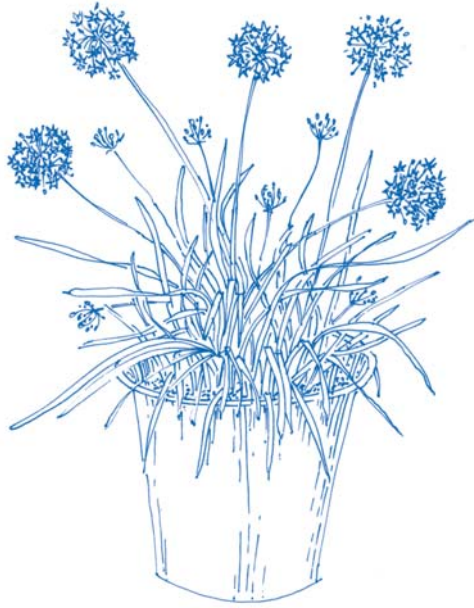
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caring for... Agapanthus

The “African Blue Lily”

The rich blue flower heads of the Agapanthus have graced our gardens since their introduction from South Africa in the late 17th century. They produce bold clumps of strap-like arching leaves, usually deep green, but it is the umbels of bell-shaped blue or white flowers that they are prized for. Given time they can develop into impressive clumps, adding a tropical touch to the flower border, and look simply stunning in pots.



Agapanthus in pots

They particularly thrive on being grown in containers, relishing root confinement. As the pot becomes filled with roots, more flower stems will be produced. Only repot every few years once the plant has completely out-grown the confines of its container. Select a pot just one size larger, add a generous layer of broken crocks (clay pots) or stones to the bottom, before filling with a gritty, soil based compost, such as John Innes no.3. Regular liquid feeds with Miracle-Gro All Purpose Plant Food or Levington’s Tomorite, will boost flowering and maintain dark green healthy foliage throughout summer.

The first plants introduced belonged to a frost-tender species, which gave the unfortunate reputation for tenderness: more recent introductions have proved this wrong. Nevertheless, grown in containers they can be moved and protected from frost.

Flower of love

The name *Agapanthus* is derived from the Greek word agape, meaning love and anthos referring to the flower. Literally translated it means “flower of love”. They are in fact herbaceous perennials, growing from fleshy roots, topped by growth buds. Plants can either be bought as growing plants amongst the “Perennial Section”, or as dry roots, packed in peat, during the winter.

Agapanthus campanulatus
in full bloom



Hardy Agapanthus

Agapanthus campanulatus and its hybrids are considered the hardiest, withstanding temperatures as low as -15°C (5°F). Nevertheless, a mulch of straw, bark or bracken in autumn will ensure crowns over-winter unscathed. Evergreen types, such as *Agapanthus africanus*, definitely require protection. Grow in pots, plunged into the border for the summer and then lift to more sheltered accommodation for the winter. Cool, but frost free conditions are required, with good light levels for evergreen varieties, but not essential for deciduous species, as they quickly become dormant with the approach of winter. Withhold water from deciduous varieties, while keeping evergreens barely moist while growth is dormant.

Agapanthus africanus

“Lily of the Nile”. White or pale to deep blue open - faced flowers with short tubes, stems 60cm (24"). Leaves up to 35cm (14") long. Evergreen.

A. a. 'Albus'

Pure white version of above. Evergreen.

*A. 'Blue Giant'**

Open bell-shaped, rich blue flowers in mid and late summer. Height in bloom 1.2m (4ft), spread 60cm (24"). Fully Hardy.

A. 'Bressingham Blue'

Deep blue flowers on stems up to 90cm (36") tall. Clump forming and fully hardy.

A. 'Bressingham White'

Trumpet-shaped pure white flowers in mid and late summer. Height 90cm (36"), spread 60cm (24"). Fully hardy.

A. campanulatus

Flattish open faced flower heads in shades from pale to deep blue (sometimes white). Narrow strap-shaped greyish green leaves 15-40cm (6-16") long. Strong stems 60-120cm (24-48"). Fully hardy.

A. c. var. albidus

Pure white flowers (similar to above) - very beautiful.

*A. c. 'Isis'**

Dark blue flowers on compact plants 75cm (30") tall, spread 30cm (12"). Fully hardy.

A. Headbourne hybrids

Slightly variable plants, mostly deciduous. Blooms in shades of pale to darker blue. Very hardy.

A. 'Lilliput'

Rounded umbels of trumpet shaped deep blue flowers in mid to late summer. Compact and clump forming 40cm x 40cm (16 x 16"). Fully hardy.

*A. 'Malvern'**

Deep almost violet-blue flowers in great quantity. 1m (3ft) high. Fully Hardy.

*A. 'Midnight Blue'**

Broad trumpet-shaped very dark blue flowers in late summer and early autumn. Neat and compact plant. Height 45cm (18"), spread 30cm (12"). Fully hardy.

*A. 'Peter Pan'**

Dwarf, mid-blue variety with evergreen, strap-shaped foliage. Loose, open flower heads on stems 30-50cm (12-20").

*A. 'Tinkerbell'**

Violet-blue flowers on 80cm (32") stems. Striking variegated leaves 30cm (12") long. Protect in winter. Evergreen. (Sport of 'Peter Pan').

*NB: Availability of varieties marked by an asterisk may be limited, due to scarcity of supply. If unavailable from our normal suppliers, we shall refer customers to an alternative source.