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# How to Grow Morning Glories: The Complete Morning Glory Flower Guide



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**Pla** [Flower](#)

FREE GUIDE!



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# Planting, Growing, and Caring for Morning Glory Flowers

By [Catherine Boeckmann](#)

Last Updated: April 24, 2025



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Want to grow morning glories? This plant, with its romantic tendrils and trumpet-shaped flowers, is beloved by butterflies and hummingbirds. It's often mistaken for a perennial weed with the same name.

Learn how to plant and grow morning glory flowers!

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## About

**NOTE: This guide is NOT about the perennial weed that shares the common name of “morning glory.” That plant is classified as a noxious weed in many states. Read more below.**

Morning glories are tender annuals, so they are sensitive to cool temperatures and late frosts. They bloom from early summer to the first frost of fall.

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Their fragrant, colorful flowers come in

ors. Pollinators love Morning Glories' trumpet-shaped blooms.

Train twining morning glory vines over a pergola or arch, or use them as a dense groundcover. This drought-tolerant plant grows quickly—up to 10 feet in one season—and can self-seed fairly easily. Because of this, you'll want to choose where you put this plant wisely! Otherwise, you may have more morning glories than you bargained for.

**Warning:** All morning glory seeds are poisonous, especially in large quantities. Keep them out of reach of children and pets.

## Annual Versus Perennial Morning Glories

The attractive **annual morning glory** (*Ipomoea spp.*) is often mistaken for its perennial cousin, **field bindweed** (*Convolvulus arvensis*), a very troublesome, invasive weed native to Europe and Asia.

## ADVERTISEMENT

Field bindweed—also called “perennial morning glory” or “creeping jenny”—grows similarly to our annual morning glory but sends out deep, deep roots (up to 9 feet deep!), which make it very difficult to get rid of and allow it to overwinter in areas where cultivated morning glories could not.

**To tell the difference between the plants,**  
look closely at the leaves, flowers,  
and vines:

- The leaves of the annual morning glory are heart-shaped and large (2 or more inches across). Field bindweed leaves are shaped more like an arrowhead

- Annual morning glory flowers may be pink, white, magenta, blue, purple, or red. Field bindweed flowers only occur in either pink or white, and blooms are much smaller than annual morning glory.
- Morning glory vines are usually thicker than bindweed vines and typically have small hairs.

**In any case, if you come across a plant in your garden that resembles Morning Glory and you know you didn't plant it, it's best to err on the side of caution and treat it as a weed.**

#### Read Next

- [What's that Weed? Common Garden Weed Identification \(with Photos\)](#)
- [September Birth Flowers: Asters and Morning Glories](#)
- [Having a Vine Time with Perennial Vines](#)

## PLANTING

Choose a sunny spot. [These plants need a](#)

encourage good foliage growth followed by plenty of flowers.

Finally, choose a location that is sheltered from strong, drying winds. Give them a fence, lattice, or trellis to climb up so that vines don't crowd out other ground-level plants.

## When to Plant Morning Glories

- Sow seeds as early as possible after the danger of frost is over.



## How to Plant Morning Glories

- Germination rates are improved by filing down the seeds just enough to

encourages them to send out a root (it looks like a little worm).

- Cover lightly with 1/4-inch of soil. Space seeds about 6 inches apart.
- Water thoroughly at planting.
- Seedlings should appear in about a week; some seeds may be stubborn and take 2 or 3 weeks to sprout.

## GROWING

- Apply a balanced liquid fertilizer after planting. Do not over-fertilize, or the vine may grow more foliage than flowers.
- Support this climbing plant with structures like trellises, pergolas, or arches.
  - **Tip:** Morning glories climb by twining their vines around a support, so make sure that whichever type of structure you grow them against has plenty of space for whorling!
- Morning glories are low maintenance; just be sure to water during particularly dry periods.
- Mulch to retain moisture and

- If you don't want the plant to reseed itself, pinch off old flowers before they turn into seedpods. This can also encourage the plant to keep producing more flowers.



## Types

- '**Heavenly Blue**' are the classic morning glories with rich azure (blue) flowers and white throats. These plants climb to 12 feet.
- '**Scarlett O'Hara**' has bright red flowers with a white throat. It climbs to 15 feet.
- [Here are more recommended morning glory varieties!](#)



'Heavenly Blue' morning glory. Photo by Heike Loechel/Wikimedia Commons.

## GARDENING PRODUCTS

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## PESTS/DISEASES

Morning glories are fast-growing and are rarely bothered by pests or diseases to a

Pest/Disease	Type	Symptoms	Control/Prevention
<b>Aphids</b>	Insect	Misshapen/yellow leaves; distorted flowers; leaf drop; sticky "honey-dew" (excretion) on leaves; sooty, black mold	Knock off with water spray; apply insecticidal soap; inspect new plants carefully; use slow-release fertilizers; avoid excess nitrogen; encourage aphid predators such as lacewings, ladybugs, spiders
<b>Fusarium wilt</b>	Fungus	Plants wilt (sometimes one-sided) in daytime; later, entire plant wilts/dies; stunting; yellow leaves; poor flowering; roots rot; stem cross-section reveals brown discoloration	Destroy infected plants/roots/surrounding soil (do not compost); remove plant debris regularly; disinfect tools; resistant varieties; avoid excess nitrogen; in acidic soils, raise pH to 7.0; weed; 3- to 5-year rotation
<b>Leaf miners</b>	Insect	Meandering blisters in leaves caused by tunneling larvae	Remove infested leaves; weed; use row covers; till soil early in season; rotate plantings

Pest/Disease	Type	Symptoms	Control/Prevention
		enlarge and turn brown/black; fuzzy growth or pustules in lesions; disease progresses upward; leaves die	infected plants (do not compost); remove plant debris regularly; disinfect tools; resistant varieties; good air circulation; avoid overhead watering
<b>Rust</b>	Fungus	Varies; orange pustules on undersides of lower leaves/stems; spots on upper leaf surfaces; foliage distorts/dies/drops; stunting; poor flowering; plants weakened	Destroy infected parts/severely diseased plants; remove plant debris regularly; disinfect tools; resistant varieties; good air circulation; avoid overhead watering; weed

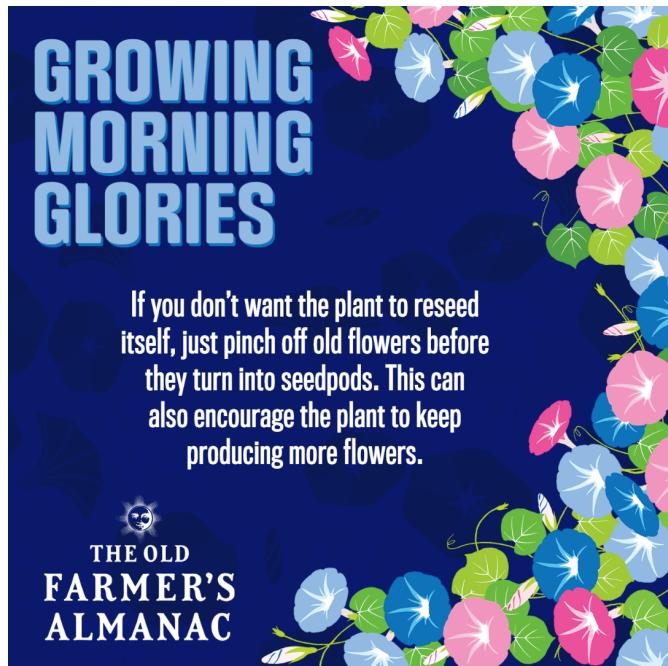
## WIT AND WISDOM

- Morning glories are one of September's birth flowers.
- If you've ever grown sweet potatoes, you may notice a resemblance between their leaves and flowers and those of the morning

related; both belong to the genus

*Ipomoea*.

- Additionally, Morning Glories can help predict the weather!
- The Moonflower is a type of Morning Glory that opens at night!



**FLOWERS**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

### Catherine Boeckmann



Catherine Boeckmann loves nature, stargazing, and gardening so it's not surprising that she and

in the state of Indiana. [Read More](#)  
[from Catherine Boeckmann](#)

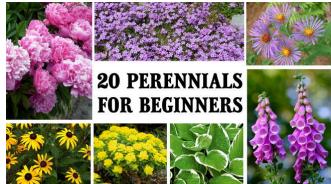
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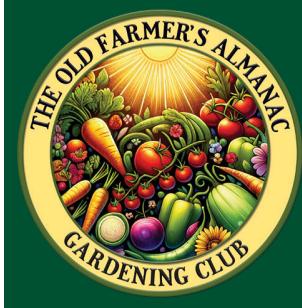
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## COMMENTS

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**Curtis Chuckran (not verified)** 1 week ago

My glories are in 20gl totes 3 of them side by side they were gorgeous few months ago from seed I built a 7ft x6ft trellis and they went after

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shape and I do keep them watered every 2 days

I'm in mid Florida could use some advice

**REPLY**

---

**Joe Fallon (not verified)** 9 months 1 week ago

Something's eating holes in the leaves of my

MG

**REPLY**

**The Editors** 8 months 3 weeks ago

Usually, the pest is the golden beetle,  
but there are other pests, too. Use in-  
secticidal soap to control. Or ask your  
garden nursery about a 3-in-1  
safe pesticide.

**REPLY**

---

**Deb Wood (not verified)** 10 months 1 week

ago

Have nice vine but no flowers. Why

[REPLY](#)**Helia Schramm (not verified)** 8

months 2 weeks ago

Morning glories have nice leaves but  
no flowers

[REPLY](#)**June Bodamer (not verified)** 8

months 3 weeks ago

Alot of leaves but no flowers

[REPLY](#)**Jenny Ellicott (not verified)** 9

months 3 weeks ago

Morning glory plants climbing up  
trellis but no flowers yet. Is it too cold

[REPLY](#)

If you just planted your morning glories this year, it can take a couple of months, up to 120 days from seed to flower. They are one of the last annuals to bloom in many regions and if you planted a late variety, they might not produce flowers until August, or even September, so it would best to be patient.

With that being said, like all flowers, morning glories need a certain set of conditions to thrive. They need average, well-draining soil, and if it is too rich of a soil or they have been over-fertilized, it can lead to beautiful foliage at the expense of blooms. They require full sun and regular waterings, so one deep watering per week is better than frequent, shallow waterings.

Hope this helps!

**REPLY**

Morning glories are my mothers favorite. I am planting under an arbor in a contained raised bed (hopefully to keep it in control). I have 2 questions I know you can help me with!

Number One: at the end of the growing season, should I cut the vines back to the ground and remove the remaining vines from the arbor, or will they grow on last years vines and it's better just to leave them on the arbor?

Number Two: Do deer eat morning glories?

Sorry to be so much trouble. I appreciate everything you do. Thanks, Teresa (Resa to my good friends)

**REPLY**

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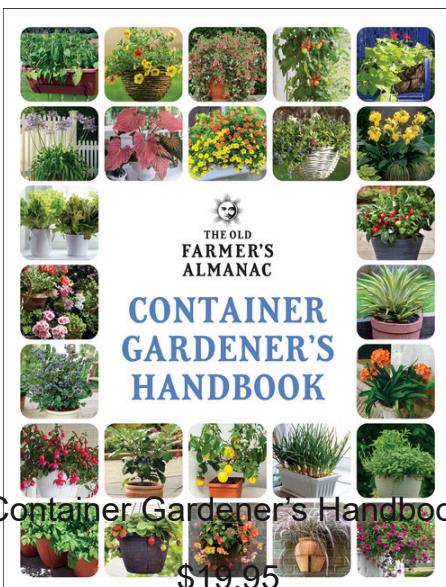
**Donna (not verified)** 1 year 6 months ago

My bindweed flowers blue.

**REPLY**

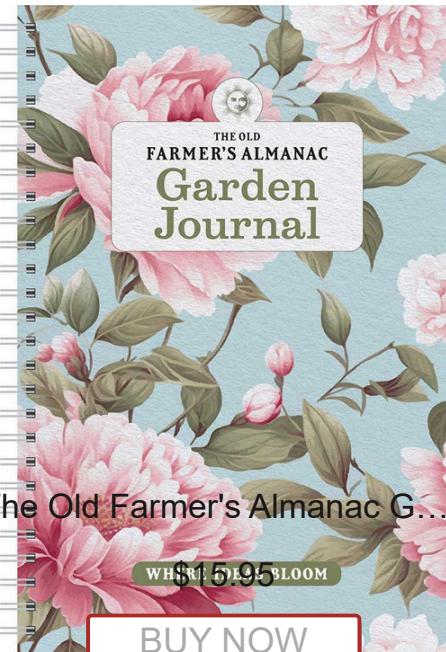
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