



ALMANAC

Thursday, May 1, 2025



ORDER YOUR ALMANAC TODAY!

HOME > GARDENING > GROWING GUIDES

# How to Grow Diascias: The Complete Diascia (Twinspur) Flower Guide



Photo Credit: Lutsenko Oleksandr

Bo	<i>Diascia</i>
tan	<i>spp.</i>
ica	
I	
Na	
me	
:	
Pla	<a href="#">Flower</a>

FREE GUIDE!



**Soi** [Slightly](#)  
**I** [Acidic](#)  
**pH** [to](#)  
**:** [Neutral](#)

**Blo** [Summe](#)  
**om** [r](#)  
**Ti**  
**me**  
**:**

**Flo** [Orange](#)  
**we** , [Pink](#) ,  
**r** [Red](#) ,  
**Col** [White](#)  
**or:**

**Ha** [8](#) , [9](#) ,  
**r di-** [10](#) , [11](#)  
**ne**  
**ss**  
**Zo**  
**ne:**

**Sp** [Attracts](#)  
**eci** [Bees](#) ,  
**al** [Attracts](#)  
**Fe** [Butterfli](#)  
**atu** [es](#)  
**res**  
**:**

# Planting, Growing, and Caring

By [Carol Connare](#)**Last Updated:** January 23, 2025

---

Sign up for daily gardening advice and tips

ADVERTISEMENT

---

**The Almanac Garden Planner -  
Use It Free for 7 Days!**



Plan your 2025 garden with our  
award-winning Garden Planner.

Diascia, also known as Twinspur, thrives in cool weather, gracing gardens from spring to autumn. Their tiny, snapdragon-like flowers, adorned with two signature spurs, erupt in cheerful profusion—blanketing borders, overflowing hanging baskets, and adding a touch of whimsy to containers. Learn how to plant, grow, and care for Diascia flowers.

ADVERTISEMENT

## About Diascia

The common name for Diascia, Twinspur,

blooms (not all 70 species of *Diascia* produce spurs). These tiny receptacles secrete oil that is collected by female pollinating bees of the *Rediviva* genus, such as the Black Daddy Longlegs Oil Bee, which, like the genus, was originally native to South Africa. Such bees feed the oil to their offspring and line their nests with it.

When introduced in England in the 1870s, *Diascia barberae* was deemed insignificant. More than a century later, two botanists undertook a study of the genus and introduced several species into Great Britain. In the ensuing years, commercial hybrids became widely available; many were bred from *D. barberae*.

Today's *Diascia* varieties are indeed varied. Some are annuals, reaching no more than a foot tall; some perennials stand several feet tall on softwood. The flowers resemble those of their cousin, [the snapdragon](#), although they are larger and, depending on the cultivar, can be orange, reddish, coral, pink, salmon, or white.

Diascia is a tender herbaceous perennial; some species are winter-hardy from Zones 7 or 8 to 11, but most are treated as annuals. The plant is suitable for in-ground planting but may fare better in containers, where good drainage can be better controlled.

#### ADVERTISEMENT

##### Read Next

- [How to Grow Bellflowers: The Complete Guide to Campanula](#)
- [How to Grow Fuchsia: The Complete Flower Guide](#)
- [How to Grow Mock Orange: The Complete Guide](#)

These versatile charmers adapt to various sun exposures, tolerating light shade and basking in dappled sunlight. Well-drained soil is key, allowing their delicate roots to breathe. Upright and trailing varieties cater to diverse needs, cascading prettily from window boxes or forming a vibrant carpet when planted in beds.

Diascia performs best in moderately fertile, slightly acidic (6.0 to 6.5 pH) soil that is consistently moist yet well-draining. (Dry soil temporarily halts flower production.)

Fertilize lightly with a slow-release formula; too much may make the plant leggy.

## Propagating Diascia

Although seeds may be available, purchasing new plants or propagating from cuttings is recommended. Prepare slightly damp, [well-draining potting mix](#) in 4-inch pots. Dip 4- to 6-inch cuttings of non-flowering stems into rooting hormone

remove it. When roots form, move to a bright location.

ADVERTISEMENT

## GROWING

Diascia is a gardener's dream, requiring minimal maintenance. Regular watering and occasional deadheading to encourage continuous blooming are all they need to flourish. Pinch stems to promote bushiness—deadhead for continuous bloom.

Diascia prefers cooler temperatures, between 70° and 79°F during the day and 50° and 59°F at night; it blooms best in

Hot summer conditions can cause plants to wilt, but do not despair if this happens. Provide afternoon shade; cut stems back to a few inches, and continue watering. Blooming should resume in the fall.

Although Diascia is somewhat frost-tolerant, protection is recommended if frost threatens. [Learn how to protect your plants from frost.](#)

#### ADVERTISEMENT

Overwintering is seldom advised; propagation of new plants is recommended for the best flower display.

**Times**



Diascia varieties come in almost countless colors and several forms; check specific plant details before purchasing. Here are a few examples; not all are available everywhere, and there are many more.

- *Diascia barberae*: pink flowers; 9 to 12 inches tall, 12 to 18 inches wide.
- D. 'Flirtation' series: pale orange or pink flowers; 8 to 12 inches tall.
- D. *integerrima* 'Coral Canyon': salmon-pink flowers; 12 to 18 inches tall; grows in clumps, with upright, wiry stems; most hardy, up to Zone 5.
- D. *personata*: pink flowers; up to 4 feet tall, 3 feet wide; suitable for large containers.
- D. 'Piccadilly' series: several colors; 7 to 9 inches tall.

## GARDENING PRODUCTS



Vegetable ...	Housepla...	All Purpos...
\$8.99	\$9.99	\$8.79
BUY NOW	BUY NOW	BUY NOW

## WIT AND WISDOM

- *Diascia barberae* was named after British-born, South Africa-based Mary Elizabeth (Bowker) Barber (1818–99), a poet, painter, and illustrator who, without the benefit of formal education, became a recognized authority on botany, ornithology, and entomology.

**FLOWERS**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

### Carol Connare



As the 14th Editor-in-Chief of The Old Farmer's Almanac, Carol Connare works with writers and other editors to develop “new, useful, and entertaining matter”

cations. [Read More from Carol Connare](#)

## MORE LIKE THIS



**How to Grow  
Bellflowers:  
The Complete  
Guide to  
Campanula**



**How to Grow  
Fuchsia: The  
Complete  
Flower Guide**



**How to Grow  
Mock Orange:  
The Complete  
Guide**



**How to Grow  
Dianthus:  
The Complete  
Dianthus  
Flower Guide**



**How to Grow  
Blanket  
Flowers  
(Gaillardia)**



**How to Grow  
Ranunculus:  
The Complete  
Guide**



**GROW YOUR BEST GARDEN YET**

Join The Old Farmer's Almanac  
Gardening Club Today!

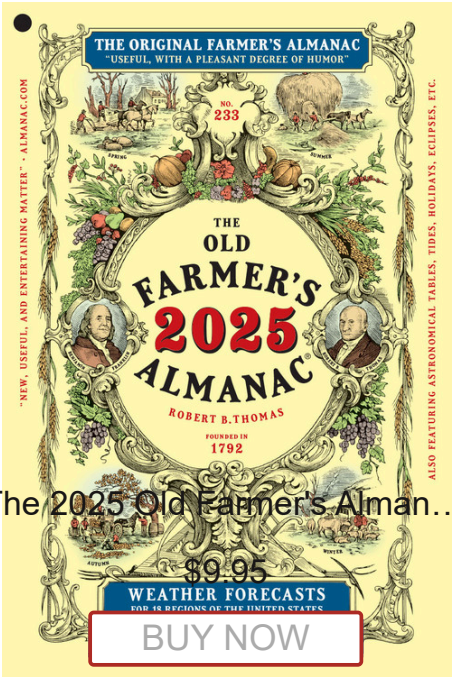
ADVERTISEMENT

## COMMENTS

[ADD A COMMENT](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

THE OLD  
FARMER'S STORE



The 2025 Old Farmer's Almanac...

\$9.95

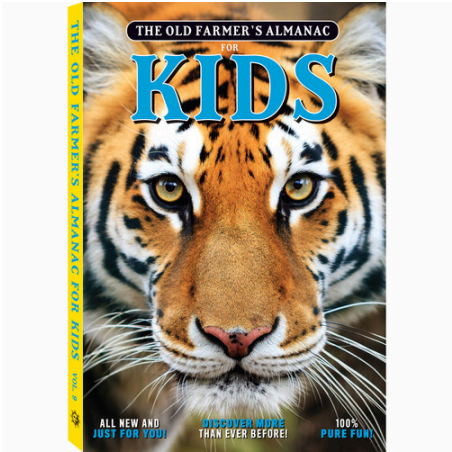
BUY NOW



Gardening Gift Set - Ultimate

\$55.85

BUY NOW



The Old Farmer's Almanac for...

\$9.95

BUY NOW



Mini Sickle Hoe

\$16.99

BUY NOW

## ADVERTISEMENT

### Our Brands

[The Old Farmer's](#)

[Almanac for Kids](#)

[Yankee Magazine](#)

[Family Tree Magazine](#)

[NH Business Review](#)

[New Hampshire](#)

[Magazine](#)

[Yankee Custom](#)

[Marketing](#)

### Resources

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Free Daily Newsletter](#)

[Webcam](#)

[Advertise with Us](#)

[Media Relations](#)

[Sell the Almanac](#)

[Where to Buy](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Cookie List](#)

[Do Not Sell or Share](#)

[My Personal](#)

[Information](#)

### Connect with Us



©2025 [Yankee Publishing Inc.](#), An Employee-Owned Company