

# **ANTIRRHINUM MAJUS**



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Antirrhinum majus, commonly known as Snapdragon, is a plant belonging to the Plantaginaceae family and is known for its showy flower spikes. When the flowers are gently pressed from the sides, they open and close in a way that resembles a lion's mouth, which is how the plant got its name. With its colorful varieties, it adds vibrancy and cheer to gardens.



The species is native to the Mediterranean basin and regions between Morocco and Portugal. It naturally grows on rocky slopes and along roadsides. Today, thanks to many cultivated and improved varieties, it has gained popularity worldwide as a seasonal ornamental plant.



## Cultivation and Uses

*Antirrhinum majus* shows its best growth in sunny or partially shaded areas and in soils rich in organic matter. It is generally a cool-season plant, producing its most vibrant flowers in spring and autumn. It is easily grown from seed and, after flowering, can shed its own seeds and reappear the following year.



In landscaping, it is commonly used in flower beds, borders, and balcony containers. Thanks to its varieties of different heights, it can be used both as a ground cover and as a cut flower. An interesting feature is that its flowers are highly attractive to bees; however, due to the structure of snapdragon flowers, only strong, large bees (such as bumblebees) are able to open the flower's "mouth" and enter.