

Bedding Lobelia

Originating in South Africa, Lobelia is a herbaceous perennial, usually grown as an annual bedding plant and widely planted across the globe for summer colour. In Arriyadh, it is popular for winter colour displays. Plants are prostrate or scrambling up to 20 cm high. The light green leaves are oval, 10 mm long and 4–8 mm broad, with a serrated margin. Depending on the variety, flower colours are of various shades of blue, sometimes white, and borne in loose panicles; each flower is tubular, flattening out to a broad three- to five-lobed tip. Usually best in full sun, it will also tolerate shade in Arriyadh. Soils should be fertile and moist as well as well drained. Plants require abundant water, but should not be waterlogged in winter. Propagation is by seeds, which are poisonous. Generally pest-free, plants may suffer from stem and root rot. Lobelia is a well-known garden plant, grown for its long flowering period. In Arriyadh, it will survive mild frosts and continue flowering after its planting in late autumn until the heat of early summer, when it will begin to burn. *L. erinus* is normally used as an edging plant or groundcover; there are also trailing or cascading varieties, which are suitable for baskets, containers and the tops of walls. Apart from weeding, it requires little maintenance after being planted out.



GENERAL

Origin	: temperate, Mediterranean
Humidity	: semi-humid, very humid
Propagation	: sowing and pricking out
Maintenance	: low

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: vulnerable
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: high
Salinity/ppm	: low (1000 ppm)
Hardiness	: -3°C

SHAPE

Type	: annual
Height	: 0.1 m-0.4 m
Spread	: 0.25 m-0.4 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: violet, blue
Size	: 1 cm - 2 cm
Period	: April - November

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: capsule
Fruit size	: 0.8 cm