

# Lisianthus Growing Guide

Lisianthus are beautiful ruffly flowers that will bloom in the summertime. They are pretty simple to grow after planting in the field. However, they are prone to botrytis blight and fusarium rot. While I have never had this disease in my crops, I would like to provide you with some helpful growing tips to ensure your success growing these amazing long-lasting flowers.

🌸 Plant lisianthus soon after receiving them.

🌸 Plant in a well amended bed with quality compost and fertilizer.

No till growing methods suggest a 1-2 inch top dressing of compost on your field/planting bed with organic fertilizer mixed in following manufacturer quantity recommendations. If you need to water them prior to planting, set them in a tray or cookie sheet. Pour water in the tray and let them soak it up.

🌸 Do not tease out roots when planting.

Lisianthus are tough little plants but they prefer to not have a lot of root disturbance.

🌸 Plant slightly above ground level in well-draining soil.

Lisianthus can experience crown rot so this ensures they will make it through our wet springs.

🌸 Space plants approximately 4 inches apart.

🌸 Some growers dip their plugs in Rootshield when planting to help reduce fusarium root rot.

While suggested by some plug suppliers and farmers, those that I know that grow lisianthus from seed have indicated that they see no significant difference in field success rates.

🌸 Fertilize with calcium nitrate weekly.

Here is a suggested homemade recipe I use: Finely crush 12 egg shells and cook in a pan until brown. It will smell so have an exhaust fan on. Be warned, they will scratch non-stick pans. Place cooked shells in a quart jar and fill with apple cider vinegar. Leave a little bit of head space. Cover with cheese cloth. The mixture will bubble vigorously. Let sit for 1-2 weeks. Strain shells out and seal with lid. Mixture is shelf stable for months. I use 1 tsp per gallon of water. Jennie Love recently shared in her No Till Flowers podcast on January 17<sup>th</sup> (or it may have been the second part of this podcast on Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>) that she has increased her application to 1-2 tbsp per gallon.

While lisianthus do not require high levels of fertilizer, I also fertilize with a quality organic fertilizer high in nitrogen. I switch to a high phosphorus fertilizer when stems start growing.

🌸 Patience is a virtue.

Lisianthus are VERY slow growing. You may not think they are putting on any growth for a while but be assured that they are developing a healthy root system.

🌸 The first bloom will open 1-2 weeks before the rest of the blooms. Many growers harvest this bloom for short stem bouquets prior to harvesting the whole stem. Harvest the whole stem when 2-3 flowers open after the initial flower. Condition as you would other flowers.

I wish you a wonderful time growing and enjoying these beautiful blooms.

With much gratitude,  
Kate

