

BACHELOR BUTTON

C E N T A U R E A C Y A N U S



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CULTURAL & HISTORICAL NOTES...

Bachelor's Button, also known as Cornflower, is native to Europe and Western Asia. Historically, it symbolized resilience and remembrance, notably in France as "Bleuets" to honor World War I soldiers. The flower was found in King Tutankhamen's tomb, woven into a wreath, signifying its ancient cultural significance. In the Victorian era, men wore Bachelor's Buttons to indicate their bachelor status. The petals are edible and have been used decoratively in food and teas. As a dye plant, Bachelor's Button produces subtle blue hues, making it a valuable addition to natural dye gardens.

HOW TO GROW...

Sowing: Direct sow seeds 2 to 4 weeks before the last frost or in early autumn for earlier blooms. Cover seeds with one-half inch of soil, as they require darkness to germinate.

Transplanting: Sow seeds directly into the garden or container to avoid transplanting, as plants don't take well to being moved.

Spacing: Thin seedlings to 6–9 inches apart to ensure adequate air circulation.

Mulching: Once sprouted, add a layer of mulch to help retain soil moisture and reduce watering frequency.

Deadheading: Regularly remove spent flowers to prolong blooming and prevent self-seeding.

Note: Bachelor's Buttons are self-seeding and can spread if not managed. Deadheading spent blooms will help control unwanted propagation and encourage continuous flowering.

DYE TECHNIQUE TO TRY...

Fresh or dried petals can be used in bundle dyeing or to create dye baths. Pre-mordant fabric with alum for lavender hues or iron for gray-blue shades. Gently steam petals with fabric at 140°F for 45 minutes; allow to cool and set for 24 hours before rinsing.

BACHELOR BUTTON/CORNFLOWER
C O L O R S G I V E N



PARTS USED
Flowers, fresh or dried

USDA ZONES
2–11

GERMINATION
7–10 days

HARVEST
60 days

LIGHT
Full sun to
partial shade

SOIL
Well-drained, average
to sandy soil; neutral
to slightly alkaline pH
(7.2–7.8)

WATERING
Drought-tolerant once
established; water deeply
but infrequently, allowing
soil to dry between
waterings

