

# BACHELOR'S BUTTON

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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'S 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



## REFERENCES & RESOURCES ...

The Old Farmer's Almanac – Bachelor's Button Flowers: Planting, Growing, and Caring for  
[almanac.com/plant/bachelors-buttons](https://almanac.com/plant/bachelors-buttons)

Pratt Dye Garden – Bachelor's Button  
[textiledyegarden.pratt.edu/archives/plant-profiles/bachelors-button](https://textiledyegarden.pratt.edu/archives/plant-profiles/bachelors-button)

The Kokoro Garden – How to Grow Bachelor Buttons (*Centaurea cyanus*)  
[thekokorogarden.com/blog/2019/3/7/how-to-grow-bachelor-buttons-centaurea-cyanus](https://thekokorogarden.com/blog/2019/3/7/how-to-grow-bachelor-buttons-centaurea-cyanus)

Better Homes & Gardens – How to Plant and Grow Bachelor's Button  
[bhg.com/gardening/plant-dictionary/annual/bachelors-buttons/](https://bhg.com/gardening/plant-dictionary/annual/bachelors-buttons/)

MasterClass – Bachelor's Button Guide: How to Grow Bachelor Button Flowers  
[masterclass.com/articles/bachelor-button-flower-guide](https://masterclass.com/articles/bachelor-button-flower-guide)

Gardening Know How – Grow Bachelor Buttons: How To Care For Cornflowers  
[gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/bachelor-buttons/growing-bachelor-buttons.htm](https://gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/bachelor-buttons/growing-bachelor-buttons.htm)

The Spruce – How to Grow and Care for Cornflower (Bachelor's Button)  
[thespruce.com/grow-bachelors-buttons-1315694](https://thespruce.com/grow-bachelors-buttons-1315694)

