

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program





Morning Glory

Scientific Name: Ipomoea spp.

Recommended Varieties

Heavenly Blue has rich azure (blue) flowers with yellow or white centers.

Scarlett O'Hara has bright red flowers with a white throat.

Moonflower has bright white flowers. It is unique because it blooms at night and closes in the morning when sun touches it.

Pests/Diseases

Morning glory can occasionally be susceptible to <u>pests</u>, such as aphids, spider mites and leafminers.

Growing Information

Annual Vine

In Southern California's Inland Valley and Desert regions, the morning glory blooms from early summer to the first frost.

Ideal Planting Window

Sow seeds directly in the ground about $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep and 8 – 12" apart, in the early spring after frost, or into early summer.

Growing Guidance

Soak seeds for 24 hours before planting to give them a head start toward germinating. Water moderately. Morning glories are drought tolerant.

Choose wisely where to plant them. As selfseeding plants, they can quickly take over your garden.

More information: Garden Design



Fun Flower Facts

- The morning glory gets its common name from the flower's habit of opening in the morning sunshine and closing as evening approaches. Each flower lasts just one day.
- There are more than 1,000 species, some with vines growing to 15-feet high and flowers measuring 5" wide.
- Morning glories come in many colors: purple, blue, red, orange, pink, and white.
- It's their worm-like stem that gave the morning glory its genus name. Ipomocea comes from the combined Greek words "ips" and "homois" which mean "worm" and "like," respectively.
- Morning glories are the birth flower for those born in September.

More information: <u>JustFunFacts.com</u>

CAUTION: Poisonous Seeds!

<u>Morning glory seeds</u> are toxic if ingested. They can cause hallucination and require medical attention. Always keep seeds away from children and pets.

Contact Information



Pollinators/Beneficial Insects

Morning glories support the local <u>ecosystem</u>. Their colorful trumpet-shaped flowers attract <u>Pollinators</u>, such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

Butterflies are nearsighted, making masses of morning glory flowers easy for them to see from afar. The large surface area of morning glory flowers also provides butterflies with roosting spots, where they can rest.

Hummingbirds love morning glory nectar and are especially attracted to pink and red species.

Suggested Uses

Add a touch of color and whimsy to a garden, trellis, fence, deck, or even a mailbox.

Spruce up a patio or deck: Morning glories can be grown in containers. Just make sure they have a trellis or wire cage to climb.

Lower cooling costs. In the hot summer months, using morning glory vines to cover sun-soaked walls can reduce heat in your home.

Provide a quick screen. Because morning glory vines grow quickly, you can get a fast screen for ugly areas of your yard or for privacy.



All photos: AOL Images