

# Gilia

Bird's Eyes Gilia are a charming wildflower that blooms from spring to mid-summer, producing long-lasting stems of chocolate-scented blue flowers with dark centres. These rise above the ferny foliage and open in sunshine, but close on cloudy days. This easy to grow, nectar-rich annual is attractive to bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

**Type:** Annual

**Height:** 30-45cm (12-18")

**Exposure:** Full sun

**Difficulty:** Easy



## Growing

Gilia is most successful if direct sown outdoors 2-3 weeks before the last frost, or in the autumn in mild climates. Alternately, start indoors 6-8 weeks before the last frost and harden seedlings off gradually in a cold frame before transplanting. This is one of those annuals that require almost no effort. Sprinkle seeds where they are to grow and most gardeners will have a very high success rate.

Sow seeds 2mm (1/8") deep. At a temperature of 12-18°C (55-65°F), seeds should germinate in 17 to 21 days.

## Saving

Flower stalks can be snipped after petals die. Cut as long a stem as you can. Slip this stem into a paper bag, putting it in with the flower head toward the bottom of the bag. You can put more than one stem into the same bag. Close the bag around the stem base using a rubber band, twist tie, or string. Hang the bag up in a closet, dry garage, or basement. As flower heads dry, seeds will fall into the bag. Put the seeds into a dated and labeled envelope and return to Brock!