

Lewis Flax

This drought-tolerant perennial forms clumps of tall, slender stems with narrow, inconspicuous leaves. The plants are crowned with clusters of lovely pale blue, cup-shaped flowers. This plant is often used for erosion control and its seed capsules are attractive to wild birds. Flowers bloom from mid to late summer.

Type: Perennial

Height: 90cm (36")

Exposure: Full sun

Difficulty: Easy



Growing

Direct sow after the last frost date. Sow seeds by barely covering them to a depth of 5mm (1/8"). Seeds germinate in 20 to 25 days. Thin seedlings to 15cm (6") apart.

Cut back about half of the flowering stems in early summer to extend the blooming period. Avoid fertilizer and manure. Rich soil reduces blooming. Lewis Flax dislikes root disturbance, so it is not suitable for transplanting – it's better to simply sow more seeds.

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!