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GROWING VERONICA (SPEEDWELL)

HOW TO PLANT, GROW, AND CARE FOR VERONICA PLANTS

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Support



Veronica, also called **Speedwell**, is a carefree and easy-to-grow perennial with long spikes of small petals in purple, blue, pink, or white. Here's how to grow veronica in your garden!

This attractive plant grows in clusters from 1 to 3 feet tall, and blooms from spring to autumn.

There is also a bushy ground cover variety (*Veronica prostrata*), which features dense clusters of flowers and grows to only about 10 inches tall.

PLANTING

- Grow in moderately fertile, well-drained soil in full sun.
- Plant in the spring. (Veronica can be sowed by seed in containers in a [cold frame](#) in autumn, but most people start this perennial as a transplant from the nursery.)
- Loosen the soil and mix in compost. Dig a hole twice the diameter of the plant's container.
- When placing the plant in the hole, ensure the top of the root ball is level with the soil surface.
- Water thoroughly.

CARE

- Water in the summer if rainfall is less than 1 inch per week.
- Stake tall varieties.
- Keep covered with a thin layer of [compost](#), followed by a 2-inch layer of [mulch](#) to retain moisture.
- Deadhead to extend bloom time.
- After the first killing frost, cut back stems to an inch or two above the soil line.
- Divide perennials in autumn or spring every few years.

PESTS/DISEASES

- Scale insects
- Downy mildew
- [Powdery mildew](#)
- [Rust](#)
- Leaf smut
- Root rot

RECOMMENDED VARIETIES

- ‘Crater Lake Blue’ is a mat-forming perennial that grows 12 to 18 inches tall with beautiful, deep gentian blue flowers in early summer.
- ‘Sunny Border Blue’ is a clump-forming perennial that grows to 20 inches tall and bears erect spikes of tubular, dark violet-blue flowers from early summer to late autumn.
- ‘Red Fox’ has very deep pink flowers on a narrow spike and grows as a mat-forming perennial to 12 inches tall, blooming from early to late summer.
- ‘Dick’s Wine’ is a ground cover that grows to about 10 inches tall and produces an abundance of rose-wine-colored blooms—so many that they actually hide the dark-green foliage.

VEGETABLE GARDENER’S HANDBOOK



VEGETABLE GARDENER'S HANDBOOK

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GROWING VERONICA (SPEEDWELL)

Botanical Name	<i>Veronica</i>
Plant Type	Flower
Sun Exposure	Full Sun
Soil Type	Loamy
Soil pH	
Bloom Time	Spring , Summer , Fall
Flower Color	Blue , Pink , Purple , White
Hardiness Zones	3 , 4 , 5 , 6 , 7 , 8 , 9 , 10 , 11
Special Features	Attracts Birds , Attracts Butterflies