



## **How to Grow Acanthus**

**Position** – Full sun or part shade  
**Soil** – Well-drained  
**Flowering Period** – Summer  
**Hardiness** – Fully hardy

### **About Acanthus**

Acanthus are sturdy herbaceous perennial plants with attractive and often variegated tufts of lobed foliage and erect towers of funnel-shaped flowers that display brightly colourful bracts. They are often and most commonly referred to as 'Bears Breeches'.

They are best suited to flower beds and borders within cottage and informal garden settings. These plants will also make delightful cut and dried flower arrangements. You should expect to see Acanthus grow to an approximate height and spread of 1m (3.2').

### **How to plant Acanthus**

Acanthus are best planted in well-drained soil of loam, chalk and sand within an acidic, alkaline or neutral PH balance. Dig a hole the same depth and twice the width of the root ball leaving 1m (3.2') spacing between companion plants. Water thoroughly and deeply to settle the soil in place and to encourage a healthy root system. Acanthus are best positioned in an area of full sun or part shade where they will thrive to optimum effect.

### **How to care for Acanthus**

Acanthus are incredibly easy to care for and will require thorough watering whilst in active growth, decreasing the volumes when dormant and when fully established. Pruning is only necessary when removing spent flowers along with old or damaged foliage. Apply a general-purpose fertiliser twice a year to encourage better foliage and even more profuse flowering.

### **How to propagate Acanthus**

It is possible to propagate Acanthus by division or by root cuttings.