



## How to Grow Cirsium

**Position** – Full sun or part shade

**Soil** – Moist, well-drained

**Flowering Period** – All year if mild

**Hardiness** – Fully hardy to hardy (dependant on variety)

### About Cirsium

Cirsium are perennials or biennials with spiny leaves and prickly thistle-like flower heads. These flower heads are unusual in appearance, rich in colour and are held over a rosette of plum-green coloured spiny and leafless foliage. These plants will flower all year round if the weather remains mild. If this is not the case it will rest during the cold winter months and re bloom again in the spring season. Cirsium look highly attractive in beds and borders within wildlife gardens, wildflower meadows and cottage gardens. They will reach an approximate height of around 1m (40") and a spread of 60cm (24").

### How to plant Cirsium

Grow your Cirsium in moist, well-drained soil of loam, chalk and sand in an acidic, alkaline or neutral PH balance. Dig a hole that is the same depth and width of the root ball and position your plant in place. Backfill the planting area and water thoroughly and deeply to settle the soil in place. Cirsium will thrive in a position of full sun but will also tolerate areas of part shade.

### How to care for Cirsium

Water Cirsium generously after planting and apply a generous layer of mulch to retain moisture levels in the soil. During the spring, it is recommended to feed your plant with a general fertiliser which should encourage optimum health and growth. Cut back Cirsium during the autumn when it starts to get cooler, to prevent self-seeding.

### How to propagate Cirsium

It is possible to propagate Cirsium from seed sown in a cold frame during the spring season. Alternatively, you can divide your plants in the autumn which should be ready for the following season.