

Hyacinth

(Hyacinthus sp.)

Few things are more delightful than the sweet scent of hyacinths in mid-spring. The rounded clusters of small, star-shaped flowers are as pretty to look at as they are fragrant. Available in shades of red, white, pink, blue, purple, or yellow, the 6- to 8-inch flowers grow from the center of straplike leaves.

Soil: Rich, well-drained soil

Light: Full sun to light shade

Planting Depth: 8 inches

Planting Distance: 6 inches

Comments

To make the most of their fragrance, plant hyacinths near a window, breakfast nook, or other areas where you can catch their scent in a breeze. Blooms also can be cut and used indoors to fill an entire room with a natural air freshener. Unfortunately, hyacinths lose some of their compactness after a few years, and become loose, thin clusters. When this occurs, replace them.