

Borage

I love Borage, it's easy to grow, it has a cucumber like flavor, and the flowers are the most beautiful blue. Two years ago at the Calaveras Master Gardeners' Plant sale, I purchased a few small plants and fell in love. They were planted in a partial shady location, in amended clay soil, and off they went. Now there are patches of Borage all over the yard. The best part is the flowers are edible and look great on appetizers or in summer drinks.

Size: 18" tall and 12" wide

Exposure: Full sun, partial shade.

How to Plant: Plant seeds in early spring and lightly cover with soil. Keep moist until germination occurs, thin to 12" apart.

Pruning: Pinch back or trim leaves to keep it in shape.

Water needs: regular watering, but can take dry spells and heat if shaded.

Soil: Borage will tolerate dry soils, but will take off in well amended soil and with regular feeding. For best results, amend your soil with compost or well rotted manure before planting.

Snapshot: Borage is actually considered an herb. It is edible and the leaves and flowers are used in salads. Borage has large green leaves with nodding clusters of brilliant blue star-shaped flowers. *Borago Officinalis* is the botanical name, and it is grown as an annual. It freely self sows about the garden once planted, and is virtually pest free. Little care is required once established. As it grows older the larger leaves get spiny and need to be removed. Borage is a great companion plant as it attracts pollinating bees like crazy. Plant it near squash, tomatoes and strawberries.

Novella Springer

Calaveras Master Gardener

San Andreas