

Growing Cockscomb or Brain Flower

Cockscomb flowers are also known as Wool Flowers or Brain Celosia, suggestive of a highly colored brain. Cockscomb blooms with a compacted crested head 2-5 inches across, on leafy stems that are 12-28 inches long. The Cockscomb flower blooms from late summer through late fall

- Plant seedlings 8 inches apart in full sun and well-drained soil.
- Plant seeds indoors six to eight weeks before your region's last frost, then plant outdoors 8 inches apart.
- Keep the soil moist. Cockscomb does best in hot, slightly dry conditions, but will wilt if overly dry. Fertilize every four weeks or so. Cockscomb benefits from regular fertilizing.
- Cockscombs are easy to grow from seed, either indoors under lights or outdoors in the garden.
- Space plants 8-12 inches apart depending on the expected height of the variety you are planting.
- Cockscombs grow best when mulched.
- Spray the foliage of flowering annuals with a dilute solution of liquid fertilizer to give them a hot weather energy boost.
- When the plants die with the first hard frost, remove them to the compost pile but keep the beds mulched right through the winter, ready for next year's plants.