

How to Propagate *Phlomoïdes tuberosa*



Unlocking the Beauty of Jerusalem Sage: A Guide to Propagating *Phlomoïdes Tuberosa*

Jerusalem sage (*Phlomoïdes tuberosa*), despite its name, isn't a true sage, but rather a captivating perennial boasting vibrant pink to purple flower spikes that grace gardens from early summer to fall. Its unique beauty and ability to thrive in various conditions make it a favorite among seasoned gardeners and beginners alike. Intrigued? Let's delve into the world of propagating this resilient beauty.

Two Paths to Success: Seeds and Divisions

Propagating *Phlomoïdes tuberosa* offers two main avenues:

1. Sowing the Seeds:

- **Timing is Key:** Spring, after the last frost, is the ideal time for direct sowing. For an early start, begin

indoors about 6-8 weeks prior.

- **Sowing Depth:** Plant the seeds about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep in well-draining soil, keeping a distance of 12-18 inches.
- **Patience is a Virtue:** Germination can take anywhere from 2-4 weeks, depending on temperature and moisture levels.
- **Thinning the Herd:** Once seedlings have a couple of true leaves, thin them out, leaving the strongest one.

Pro Tip: Soaking the seeds in water overnight prior to sowing can help speed up germination.

2. Dividing and Conquering:

- **The Right Time:** Early spring or fall, when the plant is dormant, is the optimal time for division.
- **Digging Deep:** Carefully dig up established clumps, ensuring you get a good portion of the root system.
- **Separating with Care:** Using a sharp, clean knife or spade, divide the clump into smaller sections, each with healthy roots and shoots.
- **Replanting:** Place the divisions in well-prepared soil, ensuring the crown is level with the ground.

Pro Tip: Watering the plant thoroughly a day before division makes the process easier and minimizes stress.

Caring for Your Propagated Plants:

- **Sunlight is Key:** *Phlomis tuberosa* thrives in full sun to partial shade.
- **Well-Drained Soil is a Must:** These beauties prefer well-drained soil and are relatively drought-tolerant once established.
- **Watering Wisely:** Water regularly during the first growing season to establish a strong root system.
- **Pruning for Beauty:** Deadhead spent flowers to encourage more blooms and maintain a tidy appearance.

Reaping the Rewards:

With a little patience and care, you'll be rewarded with a flourishing patch of *Phlomis tuberosa*. These beauties attract pollinators, add vertical [interest](#) to your garden, and even double as stunning cut flowers.

Propagation isn't just about multiplying your plants; it's about sharing the joy and beauty of gardening with others. So, why not give it a try with the captivating *Phlomis tuberosa*? You might just discover a new favorite in the process!