

Bupleurum

B. rotundifolium

Thoroughwax, Hare's Ear

Annual

One-hit wonder

Full sun



Quick Reference Guide

Type	Filler
Sow in	Late fall, direct sow
Days to Germinate	14–21 at ~70F (21C)
Spacing	9–12" (23–30 cm)
Pinching	No
Support	Yes
Days to Harvest	80–90 days from germination
Succession Planting	Yes
Cut and Come Again	No
When to Harvest	When flower heads are fully open and developed
Stem Length	24–30" (60–76 cm)
Vase Life	7–10 days
Good for Drying	Yes
Deer Browsing (1=best, 5=worst)	2–3

Basics: A dedicated workhorse for bouquet fillers, as well as being useful as wholesale greenery for florists. The flowers are cool enough, but the stems are also attractive in that they appear to grow through the leaves. The branching habit allows smaller stems to be useful in smaller bouquets, but the entire stems also provide a graceful addition

to market bouquets. Bupleurum is a cool season annual because of its tolerance to soft frosts.

Useful Selections: ‘Green Gold’ is the standard

Propagation:

Direct sowing (recommended): Direct sow in early spring as soon as the soil is workable. Seedlings will emerge when temperatures are consistently above 60F (15C). Fall sowing: Plants are considered cool-season flowers; however, outdoor sowing in the fall is debatable north of USDA Zone 6, even though some reports show success as far north as Zone 5.

Greenhouse: Seeds can be sown in the greenhouse for 8–10 weeks before transplanting outdoors. Seedlings emerge in 14–21 days at ~70F (21C)

Plugs: If success with seeds is frustrating, buy in plugs and transplant.

Planting: Winter: As a cool-season annual, plants may be grown during the winter months south of Zone 6 but have frost protection ready.

Spring: Floating row covers or low tunnels are helpful when planting out early, regardless of zone. Bupleurum reseeds readily in the field.

pH: 6.0–6.8

Spacing: 9–12" (23–30 cm)

Pinching: No

Support: Two layers of netting to keep stems straight

Fertility: Low fertility, high N causes weak stems.

Succession planting: Every two weeks starting in early spring

Problems: Generally problem free.

Bloom Time: Bloom time is ~70 days from seedling emergence but varies with cultivar and temperatures.

Stage of Harvest: Harvest when the majority of the small yellow flowers have opened. Be patient, harvesting too early is a no-no—nothing worse than sagging hare’s ears.

Side shoots: Side shoots will grow and may be harvested but have shorter stem lengths.

Finish Use: Filler in bouquets.

Hydrangea, Panicle

H. paniculata

Panicle Hydrangea

Perennial, USDA Zones 4–8

Full sun to afternoon shade



Quick Reference Guide

Type	Focal/filler
Plant Liners	Fall, spring
Spacing	3–4' (76–122 cm)
Pinching	No
Support	No
Succession Planting	No
Cut and Come Again	No
When to Harvest	See the stage of harvest
Stem Length	Varies
Vase Life	7–10 days
Good for Drying	Yes
Deer Browsing (1=best, 5=worst)	4–5

Basics: In the last ten years, the panicle hydrangea has soared to the front lines of hydrangea obsession—in gardens, landscapes, and on cut flower farms. The diversity of flower color is lacking (most are white, often with late rose and pink hues as they mature), but breeders are working on additional colors. Regardless, they are easier to grow and handle in many respects than the mophead forms (*H. macrophylla*). Mopheads are covered separately in this Guide.

Useful Selections: ‘Limelight’ revolutionized the panicle hydrangea as a landscape plant, and it was soon recognized that it could be an excellent cut as well. ‘Tardiva’, PeeGee (*Paniculata grandiflora*), and the Diamond series are also well-known; however, so much breeding has occurred since the introduction of ‘Limelight’ that dozens of choices are available. Some newer cultivars are marketed for their rich ruby/red color on mature flowers. Unfortunately, this richness only consistently occurs in northern climates, when late summer and fall temperatures cool significantly.

Other selections include:

- ‘Pinky Winky’
- ‘Vanille Fraise’
- ‘Fire Light’
- Quickfire series
- Magical series

ASCFG Cut Flower of the Year: ‘Pinky Winky’ (2023), ‘Quick Fire’ (2019), ‘Hamburg’ (2009), ‘Limelight’ (2007)

Propagation: Purchase liners from a reputable nursery. Most cultivars are patented, and you may not propagate them.

Planting: Plant in the spring so they can establish a deep root system before going through the winter. Do not harvest any flowers that may occur in the first year. In milder climates, fall planting is fine, but plant as soon as temperatures cool off in the fall.

Panicles are significantly more sun tolerant than mopheads, but in southern climes, they perform better with afternoon shade. If there is no area on the farm with morning sun/afternoon shade conditions, growing under 45–55% shade cloth may be useful, but only if plants persistently wilt in the afternoon.

pH: 6.0–6.5

Spacing: 3–4' centers (91–122 cm). They will grow to be large plants, especially if left unpruned.



‘Pinky Winky’, fall color, UK