

Urginea maritime  
Giant White Sea Squill

**What:** A Mediterranean native, this soccer sized bulb will produce 4'-6' stalks crowned with a spire of white flowers.

**Planting:** Plant bulb with tip up in a sunny, dry spot that has well draining soil. Bury the bulb to its tip, spacing bulbs 18" to 24" apart. Water thoroughly after planting and then infrequently until the fall foliage begins. Avoid planting in frequently watered areas.

**Growing Cycle:** In late fall, green leaves will emerge from the soil and will resemble Agapanthus leaves. Leaves will continue all winter and into the spring. By May, the foliage will begin turning yellow and will wilt toward the soil. At this time, cut the foliage and wait for the bloom cycle which begins in a few months. During mid to late summer, a flower bud will emerge and grow rapidly, about 3 to 4 inches per day. When the spike reaches about 3', it will begin blooming and continue growing taller. The flowers will open on the bottom of the spike and move to the top of the stalk. Eventually the stalk may reach 5'-6'.

**Care of:** Once established, the squill needs no supplemental water and grows with natural rainfall. However, in well draining soil, infrequent irrigations will not harm the plant. Fertilizing is not necessary. Squill is disease resistant.

**What to Expect:** In summer, when the squill has bloomed, the spikes can be cut and used in flower arrangements. These blooms are treasured by florists who use them in tall, dramatic arrangements. Stems can retail as high as \$12 each. Leave the stems uncut and enjoy in the dryer part of your garden. These look great in Mediterranean landscapes. They are tall so plant in the back.

**Miscellaneous:** These plants are used as a rodent poison, so they are toxic if ingested. They are also of medicinal value and contain materials used to treat asthma, bronchitis and heart disorders.