

Ornithogalum Sun Star

Ornithogalum dubium, also known as a Sun Star (or Orange star, snake flower) is a perennial bulb plant type that bursts into a gorgeous bloom of bright tangerine colored flowers.

It prefers full sun and moderately moist soil while growing or blooming. The Sun Star typically blooms in the spring or summer and likes full sunlight.

While blooming, keep soil moist and put in an area with bright indirect light.

Remove any spent flowers by gently pulling the spike from the main body of the plant. This may seem harmful, but once the plant has bloomed, it will die back on its own. But with proper care, it will come back into bloom each winter.

Prune off foliage only after it has turned yellow and is dead. Before this, it is still gathering sunlight to use for the next year's growth.

Once the blooming period has finished and the leaves die back, this plant requires a bit of a rest. It will need a cool, dry dormant period and you should limit watering. Some people say to not water until the plant begins growth again, which is fine just don't let it dry out.



Once it begins to start growing again, you can begin to water and fertilize the plant and wait for those beautiful vibrant blooms. Check the soil every few days to make sure it is moist - water as needed.

Foolproof method to watering your Sun Star - insert a stick into the soil (like baking muffins) and pull it out, if it comes out slightly dry or complete dry then it's time to water your plant.

Fertilize After Blooming

Fertilize star of Bethlehem in late spring after the last of the flowers fade. Mix ½ teaspoons of balanced fertilizer - 10-10-10, 14-14-14 or 20-20-20 - in 1 quart of water and then pour it over the soil around the base.