



Growing Great Flowers

TOPICS TO COVER

1. GOALS
2. KEY CUTTING GARDEN PLANT TYPES
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5. HARVEST & POST CARE

GOALS

Getting clear on why you want to grow flowers will help you decide what flowers to grow. Are you growing them to cut for a vase or to enjoy in your landscape? What you grow in your community garden plot may be different than what you grow at home.

KEY CUTTING GARDEN PLANT TYPES

Bulbs, Corms, and Tubers – Big show stoppers like anemones, daffodils, dahlias, fritillaria, gladiolas, hyacinths, lily's, ranunculus, and tulips.

Biennials – Bridge a gap in late spring. Plant in late summer then the following spring they bloom for 6-8 weeks. Canterbury bells, Foxglove, Sweet William.

Hardy Annuals – Short lived plants include larkspur, love in a mist, and false Queen Anne's Lace. In warm climates they are planted in the fall, but in cold climates like Colorado plant them in March. Think of March as the flower's October. They can take a little cold weather. For example Sweet Peas.

Perennials – These plants die back to the ground in the winter but return in the spring for a number of years, gaining in size and flowers. Typically, they take 3 years to fully mature.

Woodies – Some woody shrubs make great flowers as well, like lavender, ninebark, and viburnum. They have beautiful flowers in the spring followed by lovely foliage.

Tender Annuals – These are plants that are sown in the spring, bloom in the summer, and set seed in the fall. This is the easiest and cheapest way to grow flowers. Some examples are Cosmos, Zinnia's, Amaranth, and Sweet Peas.

Vines – Tuck a few vines in by a trellis or wall to add movement to the garden. Plants are vigorous and just need pruned in the winter. These include clematis, hopes, and grapes.



PLANT AND BULB RESOURCES

Plant and Bulbs Suppliers (Retail):

B&D Lilies
Brent & Becky's Bulbs
Floret
John Sheepers
White Flower Farm

Peonies (Retail)

Adelman Peony Collection

Garden Roses (Wholesale)

High Country Roses
David Austin Roses
Heirloom Roses
Star Roses
Weeks Roses

Dahlias Suppliers (Retail):

Accent Dahlias
Arrowhead Dahlias (CO)
Dan's Dahlias
Floret
K Connell Dahlias
Swan Island Dahlias
Summer Dreams Farm
The Flower Hat
Goldenrod Gardens

SUCCESSION PLANTING



Cut & Come Again Flowers – These are the workhorses of my garden. They produce all season long from one succession.

Medium Producers – These are similar to Cut & Come Again Flowers but they typically bloom for only 3-4 weeks.

One Hit Wonders – These big blooms come in like a wildfire then they are gone in a flash. They need to be planted every two weeks in the summer for a steady harvest.

CUT & COME AGAIN FLOWERS	MEDIUM PRODUCING FLOWERS	ONE HIT WONDERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anemones • Basil • Carnation • Cosmos • Cup & Saucer Vine • Dahlia • Lace Flower • Dusty Miller • Gomphena • Hibiscus • Hyacinth Bean • Marigold • Nasturium • Phlox • Scabiosa (Pincushion) • Poppy (California, Icelandic) • Ranunulus • Salvia • Scented Geranium • Statice • Strawflower • Sweet Pea • Zinnia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amaranth • Artemesia (Sweet Annie) • Aster • Bachelor Buttons • Bells of Ireland • Calendula • Cerinthe (Honeywort) • Chocolate Laceflower • Chinese Forget-Me-Knots • Dianthus • Dill • Foxglove • Godetia • Grass, Ornamental • Larkspur • Lupine • Matricaria (Feverfew) • Monarda (Bee Balm) • Nigella (Love in a Mist) • Orach (Atriplex) • Queen Ann's Lace • Rose • Rudbeckia (Black Eyed Susan) • Snapdragon • Sunflowers, Branching • Yaroww 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bupleurum • Celosia, Bombay • Cress • Flax • Grain, Ornamental • Lavender • Peony • Poppy, Breadseed • Stock • Sunflower, Single Stem

SEED STARTING RESOURCES

Seeds (Retail)

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds
 Botanical Interest
 Floret
 Johnny's Seeds
 Thompson & Morgan
 Applewood Seeds (Arvada, Wholesale)

Renee's Garden
 Swalltail Garden
 Territorial Seeds
 Uprising Seeds
 Wild Garden Seeds

GROWING ON

To have enough flowers to cut and enjoy, plant a large quantity of flowers and space them close together. I grow very intensely on our farm using the square foot gardening concept. Some flowers also require pinching to encourage side growth, or trellising to support their upward growth, or corraling to keep them from falling over. Here are a few of my favorites and how I plant them.

NAME	SPACING	DIRECT SEED	PINCH	FABRIC	NET	CORRAL	HARDY ANNUAL
Amaranth	12"	X	X	X		X	
Aster	9"			X	X		
Bachelor Button's	9"	X		X	X	X	
Basil	9"		X	X			
Bells of Ireland	12"	X		X			X
Calendula	9"	X	X	X	X		X
Carnations	9"		X	X	X		
Celosia	12"	X	X	X			
Celosia, Bombay	6"			X			
Chocolate Laceflower	12"			X	X		
Cosmos	12"	X	X	X	X		
Dahlia	12"		X			X	
Delphinium	12"		X	X	X		X
Foxglove	9"			X	X		X
Gomphena	9"			X	X		
Grains	9"			X	X		
Gypsophila (Annual Baby's Breath)	6"	X		X	X		X
Larkspur	9"	X		X		X	X
Marigold	12"		X	X		X	
Matricaria (Feverfew)	9"			X		X	
Nasturtium	8"	X		X			
Nigella	9"	X		X			
Poppies, Breadseed	9"					X	X
Poppies, Icelandic	9"			X			X
Poppies, California	9"			X			X
Ranunculus	9"						X
Rudebeckia (Black Eyed Susan)	9"			X	X		
Scabiosa (Pincushion)	9"	X		X	X		X
Snapdragon	9"		X	X	X		X
Sunflower, Single Stem	6"	X					
Sunflower, Branching	18"	X	X				
Sweet Pea	8"						X
Yarrow	9"			X	X		
Zinnia	9"	X	X	X	X		

HARVESTING AND POST CARE



Most flowers like to be harvested before the bees get to them. Once flowers are pollinated they begin to produce seeds. Once flowers are cut they like to be in cold environments. I store them in water, with hydrating solution, in a cooler set to 32 degrees. They can last for weeks to a month in this environment. For your garden, continue to cut flowers when they are blooming and store them in clean water, away from food (especially bananas) and they will last for 5-7 days in a vase.

Peony – Harvest when buds are marshmallow soft

Roses – Harvest when buds are just opening

Lavender – Harvest when $\frac{1}{4}$ of flowers are open

Sweet Pea – Harvest when top flowers are open

Gomphena – Harvest when flowers are hard

Sunflowers – Harvest when petals just start to open

Snapdragons – Harvest when $\frac{1}{4}$ of buds are open

Ranunculus – Harvest when flowers are $\frac{1}{2}$ open

Zinnia – Harvest when flowers are open

Cosmos – Harvest when flowers start to open

Amaranth – Harvest when color starts to get vibrant and before seeds drop

Dahlias – Harvest when flowers are $\frac{1}{2}$ open

Thank you!

Follow my journey of Instagram & Facebook @shegrowsflowers.

Watch our show on Colorado Public Television 12.2, Tuesday nights at 9:00 and Saturday mornings at 12:30. Follow the show on Instagram @urbanconversion.com.