



# FLOWER GARDENING GUIDE

**MONTHLY GUIDE  
BY PLANTING ZONE**

Also includes printable worksheets for tracking & planning your garden.

**50 POPULAR  
FLOWERS TO GROW**

With detailed information on planting and maintaining a stunning flower garden.

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# Flower Gardening:

## Beauty & Function

Everyone loves sitting out on their deck or patio and seeing the beauty of an organic flower garden. The colors and the scents can add hours of joy to any day.

Flower gardens are useful for growing food as honeybees, bumblebees, wasps, hummingbirds, butterflies, and beetles do much of the heavy lifting for you in your edible gardens. These insects and birds pollinate our food crops from big to small, leading to increased yields and harvests.



On top of bringing beauty and function to your outdoor spaces a fresh-cut bunch of flowers displayed in your home adds to the flower garden appeal. If you're intrigued about starting a flower garden here are some simple tips for successfully designing a flower garden.



## Annuals vs Perennials

Have you ever noticed that some flowers need to be planted each spring, while others pop up all by themselves year after year? That's because some are annuals and some are perennials.

### Annuals

As their name suggests, annual plants and flowers last one year. They grow from seed, bloom, produce seeds, and die in one growing season and will need to be replanted each year. Most annuals bloom for a long time and provide beautiful color from spring to fall. Some examples are:

- Petunias
- Marigolds
- Zinnias
- Geraniums
- Begonia
- Chrysanthemum

### Perennials

Unlike annuals, perennials have a long lifespan and come back stronger every year. Perennials tend to bloom for a shorter time, one to three weeks, each year. Perennials are able to establish deeper, stronger roots so they need less water and can better feed on the soil's nutrients. Some examples are:

- Asters
- Tulips
- Black Eyed Susans
- Lilies
- Hydrangea
- Peony

### Biennials

Biennial flowers take two years to complete their life cycle. The first year is primary growth while the second year the plant produces flowers and seeds before it finally dies. Biennials do not always follow a strict two-year life cycle.



# Flower Gardening:

## Planting & Maintaining

### Planting Your Flowers

Flowers can be annuals or perennials and can be established by seed, bulb, or transplants. If you choose to sow seeds or plant bulbs, be sure you're doing so at the correct time for your area – the information will be on the seed or bulb packet itself, but you can also ask your County Extension Office. Garden center transplants will be more expensive but will provide more instant gratification. Ensure that the plants you are choosing have the same growing requirements in terms of sun and water.

**Helpful Tip:** Plant a mix of annuals and perennials to enjoy gorgeous blooms all year long.



### Choosing the Right Soil

Most flowers prefer a neutral to slightly acidic soil with a pH between 6.0 and 7.0. Use a high quality, organic, well-drained, nutrient-rich organic soil to provide your plants with essential nutrients and ensure beautiful blooms. Some flowers have slightly different soil preferences so be sure to check which soil type and pH best suits your flower.

# Flower Gardening:

## Planting & Maintaining

### Maintaining the Garden

Mulch lightly to discourage weeds and water weekly unless you've had good recent rainfall. Remember, it's better to water less frequently but more deeply to ensure healthy roots. And keep cutting – the more you cut, the more prolific your plants will bloom.



### Fertilizing the Garden

Fertilizing your garden allows your flowers to bloom at peak performance because they have access to an abundance of organic nutrients. Fertilizers come in two forms, liquid and granular. Below is a general guide for fertilizing your flowers:

- Liquid fertilizers are a quick release nutrient source that is diluted and can be administered to the soil or as a foliar spray to the leaves.
- Granular fertilizers are buried into the soil to slowly release nutrients.
- Fertilize annuals consistently all season all the way through early fall.
- Fertilize perennials in the spring as soon as the soil warms up and then again in early summer while the plants are blooming.

# Flower Gardening:

## Mulching Your Garden

**Mulch** is one of the most beneficial additions that you can incorporate into your flower beds. Adding mulch to your garden builds healthier plants by providing weed control, soil erosion prevention, increased moisture and nutrient retention, and an overall enhancement of your garden. This simple component can also save you endless hours of maintenance affording you less time watering, weeding, and even battling pests.



### Rock Mulch

- **Costs much more** but is a more permanent solution that requires minimal maintenance which has an impact on the long-term expense.
- **Does not decay** and doesn't require periodic replacement.
- **Helps with moisture retention** in soil and prevents soil erosion.
- **Look for light-colored rocks** to avoid them heating up and damaging your garden or drying out the soil.
- **Looks great but is very heavy** and labor-intensive to move around reducing garden flexibility.

### Organic Wood Mulch

- **Costs much less** than any variety of rock mulch. You can even create the organic mulch yourself with compost or other materials.
- **Breaks down over time** and deposits nutrients into the soil for greater plant health.
- **Replaced** about every 2 years.
- **Great for hot, dry climates** because it absorbs water and keeps the soil underneath moist.
- **Easy to work with** and allows you to shape your landscape with new perennial and annual plantings continually.

# Flower Gardening:

## Finding Your Gardening Zone

Identifying your plant hardiness zone is essential to your garden growing success. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Plant Hardiness Zone Map provides an informative view of average temperature trends across The United States and Canada. Zone Hardiness maps are based on the average yearly extremes for minimum temperatures in a given area.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND YOUR ZONE.](#)



The USDA Zone Hardiness Map is divided up into 13 planting zones. They are sectioned off by a 10-degree Fahrenheit differential for the average annual minimum temperatures. The larger the number is, the warmer the temperature is in the corresponding garden zone. For added clarity, zones are broken down into subsets of a and b, which represents a 5-degree differential in which a is colder than b is.

The majority of the United States falls under USDA Planting Zones 4 through 8. Most garden centers label their plants with markers that signify a plant's grow zone. Understanding your gardening zone for plant hardiness can help you decide which plants to select for your garden and can mean the difference between a successful crop and a failing garden.



# Flower Gardening:

## January

### PLANNING

While there isn't a whole lot of planting to be done in January, take stock. What garden tools and supplies do you have and what is on your wish/must-have list for the new year? January is a great time to look for those garden bargains. Look for things such as:

- Sharp Pruning Shears
- Watering Can
- New Gardenig Gloves
- Floral Scissors

**Zone 6:** If you love starting seeds, you're in luck! Seeds of pansies, snapdragons, dusty miller, begonias, and delphiniums can be started indoors. These seeds will do best under grow lights. If you forgot to plant your tulip or daffodil bulbs last fall, there's still time to get them in the ground if you do it quickly.



**Zones 9-11:** Prune off flowers on your tropical fruit and immature citrus trees to give them more energy to grow. Flower seeds like zinnias, cosmos, and sunflowers can all be started indoors as well.

# Flower Gardening:

## February

### SEED STARTING

**Zone 5:** If you're a seed-starter, you've got some work to do this month. Indoors under grow lights, start seeds of flowers, daisy, columbine stock, and impatiens. Bring your geranium plants out from their winter storage, cut them back by half, and place them in a bright window after thoroughly watering.

**Zone 7:** Start seeds of all petunias, snapdragons, and ageratum indoors under grow lights.



### PLANT

**Zone 6:** If weather allows, transplant roses and start seeds of verbena, wallflower, and ageratum.

**Zone 9:** If you didn't get all of your ornamental planting done last fall, do it now. Bare root roses fare better when planted during cooler months. Start wax begonias, petunias, and geraniums inside under grow lights. Plant dahlia bulbs, begonia tubers, Iceland poppies, calendula, foxglove, and primrose.

### PRUNE

**Prune,** feed, and mulch those roses. For most gardeners and for most roses, winter pruning while plants are dormant is the ideal time.

**Zone 8:** *Love roses? This is your month!* On Valentine's Day, prune your existing roses, then top dress with a thick layer of mulch. Plant new rose bushes around the same time. Plant larkspur, lobelia, hollyhock, and alyssum.

# Flower Gardening:

## March

### PLANT

**Zone 5:** Perennials like columbine, bellflower, globe flower, and blanket flower are good candidates for seed starting indoors this month, as are annuals like marigolds and zinnias.

**Zone 6:** This is a perfect month to plant roses if you're enjoying mild weather. Plant poppies and rocket larkspur directly in the garden, and start seeds of annuals, and perennials indoors under grow lights.

**Zone 8:** Plant daisies, marigolds, petunias, and snapdragons for early season color.



### PRUNE

**Prune** with a goal in mind. If you prune an early flowering tree, shrub, or vine now, you're removing the future blooms. Wait until after they are finished blooming to prune those back.

**Zone 3:** If you have flowering shrubs, go ahead and prune them unless they are spring-flowering. Bring out your stored bulbs (tuberous begonias, calla lilies, dahlias, cannas) and place them near a light source

### PROTECT

**Zone 4:** Make sure mulch is still protecting your perennials, as the sun can heat up the soil, causing new growth that is susceptible to a late freeze

# Flower Gardening:

## April

### PLANT

**Plant** your patio container gardens. Use high-quality organic soil specially created for containers, and plant spring-blooming annuals like petunias, violas, pansies, alyssum, snapdragons, gerbera daisy, impatiens, and dianthus.

**Zone 5:** Plant your roses and lilies, and divide your hostas and asters when the soil is warm.

**Zone 8:** Plant warm-season caladiums, callas, and gladiolus.

**Zone 9:** Summer color like petunias, impatiens, wax begonias, iris, coreopsis, yarrow, daisies, bellflowers, and statice are great planting choices. Into sowing seeds? Start some marigolds, portulaca, salvias, vinca, sunflowers, and zinnias.

**Zone 10:** Plant any and all heat-loving perennials and annuals, from salvias and coreopsis to gazanias, vincas, gaillardia, and strawflowers



### MAINTAIN

**Zone 3:** As the weather warms up remove the winter protective covering from perennials and roses.

**Zone 4:** If you have any perennials that need dividing (I'm looking at you, day lilies and irises), dig them up and carefully separate before replanting them. Now is the perfect time to plant primroses, lily-of-the-valley, and lilies for vibrant color in the coming months.

**Zone 6:** Dig up and divide those overgrown perennials like asters, phlox, helenium, and chrysanthemums. Once the soil warms, set out transplants of pansies, foxglove, and forget-me-nots, and sow seeds of larkspur, sweet peas, and bachelor's buttons for charming seasonal color.

# Flower Gardening:

## May

### ENJOY

Strolls through the garden reveal new seedlings popping up, flowers unfolding.

Get your warm-weather annuals **planted**. The garden centers are full of seasonal color — be sure to get your potted and bedding color in now, or you'll run the risk of not having any plants to choose from once the weather heats up. Petunias, pansies, alyssum, violas, snapdragons, vinca, nasturtiums, marigolds — whatever is in season in your area, plant 'em now

**Pollinators** - Plant for the monarchs. While they drink nectar from a variety of flowers, Monarch butterflies only eat milkweed, so it's vital to plant a wide range of native nectar plants as well as native milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.).

**Prune** spring-flowering shrubs and trees properly. Wait until after those spring-blooming trees and shrubs are finished flowering, then prune. Pruning before they bloom, well, removes the bloom and we want to enjoy our flowers.

**Plant** tender **bulbs**. Whether you started them indoors or bought new bulbs, get your dahlias, cannas, and caladiums in the ground now, using support stakes if necessary. And speaking of bulbs, notice if your tulip bulbs have weak bloom this spring; if so, they may be exhausted. If you think they've lived their best life, dig them up and order new ones for planting in the fall.



**Helpful Tip:** Know your area's last frost date. Too many gardeners either don't know this date, or they ignore it. Plant too early and then get a late-season cold snap? Your flowers are toast.

# Flower Gardening:

## May

### PLANT

**Zone 4:** Sow warm-season annual flower seeds like marigolds, zinnias, and bachelor's buttons. If you have spring-flowering shrubs like lilacs, spirea, and azaleas, wait until after they've bloomed to prune them. And if you have flowering perennials that are overgrown and need dividing, now's the time.

**Zone 5:** If you have summer and fall-blooming perennials that are overgrown, dig them up, divide them, and replant them where they can thrive. Plant your warm-season annuals for quick spots of color.

**Zone 6:** Sunflowers, zinnias, marigolds, and cosmos are great candidates for direct seeding into the garden this month. Apply a 1-inch layer of compost around your roses.



**Zone 7:** If you've had an unusually cold winter, play a bit of a waiting game with your tender perennials like dahlias, cannas, datura and Mexican bush sage, while they may look dead, they may just be waiting to put out new growth a little late. Plant warm weather colors like zinnias, coleus, caladiums, moonflower, and marigolds. Water all new transplants regularly.

**Zone 8:** Plant warm-season flowers like coreopsis, sunflowers, marigolds, asters, daisies, and zinnias, giving them plenty of water to establish strong roots for the upcoming hot temps.

### MAINTAIN

**Zone 9:** If you have any leftover cool-season annuals that are past their prime (pansies, violas, primula, calendula), remove and compost them to make room for warm-season moss rose, marigolds, sunflowers, and vinca.

# Flower Gardening:

## June

**Water** your garden regularly. Spring rains may be lessening, and your garden depends upon you for consistent irrigation in order to flower the best it can.

### PRUNE

Prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees (if necessary) after they have completed blooming. Start pinching back those fall bloomers – like monarda and asters – it'll keep their shape more attractive when the time comes for them to shine.

**Zone 3-6:** Prune old canes from climbing roses, and fertilize all roses after flowers begin to fade. Plant container roses as well as warm-season annuals.



### PLANT

**Zones 7-8:** Plant summer annuals like cosmos, marigolds, vincas, and sunflowers, and remove faded or dead flowers on plants to encourage new growth. If you're planting perennials, give them plenty of regular water to get established. Avoid planting during heat waves as your plants can get stressed.

**Zones 9-11:** Plant heat-loving annuals like celosia, vinca, portulaca, and zinnia

Continue **succession-sowing** and **planting** warm-season flowers for a continuous harvest and bloom. Deadhead spring-flowering perennials and prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees.

# Flower Gardening:

## July

### PRUNE

Are your flowering perennials or annuals looking a bit peaked? Consider **pruning** them back by half, or giving them some organic fertilizer (if you haven't already). They will reward you with growth and bloom.

### MAINTAIN

**Zones 3-5:** Regularly remove dead flowers from annuals and perennials, and inspect all of your plants for summertime pest or disease damage.

**Zones 9-11:** Lightly fertilize flowering plants to encourage continuous bloom and health, and remove any dead or diseased plant from your garden immediately.



### PLANT

**Zones 6-8:** Plant irises and daylilies late in the month, and dig up and divide spring-blooming bulbs when they go dormant. Planning a fall garden? Start prepping the soil now! Fertilize roses mid-month to coax additional blooms, but avoid fertilizing trees and shrubs at this time of year. Remove and dispose of any annuals that are spent, and stay on top of deadheading on those annuals that are still trekking.

**Helpful Tip:** Get your container plantings and annual flowers on a regular fertilizing schedule using organic materials.



# Flower Gardening:

## August

### PREPARE

Start **gathering seeds** of plants that are finishing their job for the season like sunflowers and cosmos. Then start those seeds for your fall garden! – Those cool-season annuals are ideal candidates for mid/late summer planting.

Flowering perennials looking a little bedraggled? Consider **cutting** some back by half, this will give your plant a little break and encourage it to set a late-season bloom.



**Zone 3-5:** Seed your wildflowers, and order spring-blooming bulbs for fall planting. Prune summer-blooming shrubs (hydrangea, caryopteris, clethra) after they're done blooming. Dig up, divide, and transplant overgrown perennials. Love planting bulbs? Prepare those beds now for fall planting!

**Zones 6-8:** Trim back spring-planted annuals that have gotten leggy, and remove spent flowers from perennials to encourage a new flush of blooms.

**Zones 9-11:** Water most container plantings daily, and fertilize regularly for best blooming.

# Flower Gardening:

## September

**All Zones:** Want your annuals like sunflowers, zinnias, and poppies to reseed? Stop deadheading them and just let them go!

**Zone 3-4:** Plant cool-season annuals like pansies, snapdragons, and violas. Divide and transplant your perennials, as well as dig up and store tender bulbs and tubers like dahlias, begonias, gladiolus, caladium, and cannas. Order fall bulbs but hold off on planting them until after the first frost.

**Zones 5-6:** Plant your bulbs promptly after receiving them. Dig and divide day lilies, iris, hosta, and peonies. Dig up and store dahlias, begonias, gladiolus, and other bulbs and tubers. Thoroughly water trees and shrubs so they enter their dormant period hydrated.



**Zone 7:** Unless your area is experiencing a late-season heatwave, you can plant your cool-season annuals like pansies, violas, and snapdragon. This is an ideal time to plant peonies or divide existing ones – and speaking of dividing, plan to dig up and divide your bearded iris or other spring-blooming perennials that need a little extra room. Plant spring-blooming bulbs and perennials, making sure to plan for a succession of bloom time. Bring in poinsettias and amaryllis if you've had them outside in the garden.

**Zones 8-11:** Hold off on planting cool weather annuals like pansies, violas, and snapdragons, even if you see them at the garden center. It's too early and the inevitable heat will make them suffer. Order roses for fall planting now.

# Flower Gardening:

## October

### PREPARE

**Zones 3-5:** Collect, label, and store seeds from plants that did well, and get your spring-flowering bulbs in the ground as soon as possible. You'll be happy next spring when you see those happy faces of tulips, daffodils, and hyacinth. You can always use a cold frame to extend your gardening season but proceed with cleaning up your larger flower garden beds now. Love indoor bulbs for the *holidays*? Start your first round of paperwhites now, and plan to pot up more every couple of weeks to ensure a beautiful display all winter long.



### PLANT

**Zones 6-7:** In these warmer climates, you can still plant spring-flowering bulbs. Now's the time to get those cool-season annuals like violas, pansies, and snapdragons in the ground or in containers. Dig up and store your summer-flowering bulbs and tubers to store for next year.

**Zone 8-11:** Start planting flowering perennials and cool weather annuals. Seed wildflowers now, but remember to prepare the soil by removing weeds first and raking the soil. Make sure your Christmas cactus starts getting 12 hours of uninterrupted darkness daily for one month, this will stimulate flower buds. If you live in the warmest climates and still have late-season flowers like zinnias, marigolds, and salvias deadhead them to encourage more bloom.

# Flower Gardening:

## November & December

Much of our attention this month is on the holidays, not necessarily out in the garden. The days are shorter, and our time seems to be even shorter yet. While we enjoy the holidays and everything it brings, we can still keep our gardening muscles flexed. After all, we're gardeners – a little cold weather and blustery winds won't keep us down, right?

This is a great time for preparing a wildflower garden if you haven't already. Read up on the seeds recommended for your area and the best times to sow the seed for a gorgeous spring display.



**Zone 3-5:** If you're in the warmer parts of these zones, you might still have time to get your spring-flowering bulbs in the ground (tulips, daffodils, crocus, and hyacinth). And speaking of bulbs, continue potting up amaryllis if you want a long succession of blooms over the cold months.

**Zone 6-7:** Continue planting cool-season annuals like pansies, viola, cyclamen, and dianthus. Divide and replant perennials like day lilies and iris. Cut back flowering perennials after the first killing freeze.

**Zones 9-11:** Get those winter annuals, spring-blooming bulbs, in the ground or in your container plantings

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## CONTAINER FLOWERS

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- Begonias
- Calibrachoas
- Chrysanthemums
- Daisies
- Geraniums
- Hibiscus
- Hydrangeas
- Impatiens
- Mandeville
- Marigolds
- Petchoas
- Petunias
- Verbena

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## POLLINATOR FLOWERS

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- Asters
- Bee Balm
- Black Eyed Susan
- Butterfly Bush
- Borage
- Coneflowers
- Coreopsis
- Hollyhocks
- Lantana
- Milkweed
- Nasturtium
- Pineapple Lily
- Salvia
- Sunflowers
- Zinnias

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## WILD FLOWERS

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- Bachelor Buttons
- Bee Balm
- Bellflower
- Blanket Flowers
- Cardinal Flowers
- Coneflower
- Coreopsis Varieties
- Gloriosa Daisy
- Meadow Cranesbill
- New England Asters
- Poppies
- Queen Anne's Lace

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## CUTTING FLOWERS

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- Ageratum
- Aster
- Azaleas
- Black Eyed Susan
- Coneflower
- Cosmos
- Dahlia
- Larkspur
- Lupine
- Peony
- Sunflowers
- Sweet Pea
- Ranunculus
- Yarrow
- Zinnias

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## FLOWERING SHRUBS

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- Abelia
- Azalea
- Butterfly Bush
- Caryopteris
- Hydrangea
- Lilac
- Limelight
- BushPearl
- Rhododendron
- Rose of Sharon
- Sweet Shrub
- Weigela

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## EDIBLE FLOWERS

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- Borage
- Calendula
- Chive Blossoms
- Dandelion
- Hibiscus
- Honeysuckle
- Nasturtiums
- Pansies
- Roses
- Sage Flowers
- Squash Blossoms
- Sunflowers
- Violets

# TIPS ON GROWING: ROSES

## VARIETIES

There are many varieties of roses to choose from that come in a wide array of shapes, colors, heights, fragrance, and more. Consider disease resistance, fragrance, bloom-time, thorniness, rose hips, height, landscape usage, color, planting zone, and maintenance level. Try these varieties:

- **David Austin** varieties combine the fragrance of old roses with the disease resistance and repeat-blooming quality of modern roses.
- **Black Cherry Floribunda Rose** has high disease resistance and is deeply pigmented. It works well as a low hedge or container plant.
- **Rosa Apothecary** or **Rosa Ballerina** are hardy and healthy and often very fragrant.
- **Amadis Rambler, Rosa Goldfinch**, are less thorny, climber varieties.
- **Blue Magenta** is a color-changing, practically thornless variety.



**PRUNING** should be done early in the year in warm climates, and anytime between January and April in cold climates, just before the rose bush breaks its dormancy after spring's closing frost.

- Cut spent flowers  $\frac{1}{2}$ " above the first set of 5 leaves on the branch behind the bloom.
- With sharp pruning shears, snip, at a 45-degree angle, any branches that are crisscrossing or growing horizontally causing crowding of the bush.

# TIPS ON GROWING: ROSES

## COMPANION PLANTING

Planting roses with companion plants can improve their appearance, health, and extend the color and visual interest of your garden.

- **Coreopsis** flowers are showy bloomers that can help camouflage damaged leaves and can extend the blooming time of your rose garden.
- **Speedwell** thrives with minimal care when tucked in average, well-drained soil. Blossom spikes contrast strikingly with the round flower form of roses.
- **Four o'clock's** poisonous leaves attract beneficial Japanese beetles.
- **Scented geraniums** will keep damaging insects off of your roses, add beauty, fragrance, and welcome pollinators.
- **Sage, thyme, lavender rosemary, garlic, allium, and chives** are all great herbal companions that produce highly scented leaves that deter pests.



## QUICK TIPS:

- Roses love a soil pH of 6.5 and lots of organic nutrients.
- Plant roses during the first hints of Spring. You can plant either bare root roses or container-grown rose plants to enjoy blooms by summer.
- Keep rose bushes spaced well to allow for good oxygen movement through and around the rose bushes and help keep diseases at bay.
- Reduce disease by watering the soil, not the leaves. Roses require more water more frequently in hot weather than in cooler weather.
- Roses do their very best in full sun, so plant your rose garden in a location that receives at least one half of a day of the sun's rays.

# TIPS ON GROWING: ZINNIAS

## VARIETIES

Zinnias are truly some of the most easy-care and lovely flowers to grow, giving the garden an old-fashioned cottage charm. The only issue you may have is deciding upon which variety to grow like zinnias offer a wide range of colors, petal formations, and sizes. Try one of these for your garden:

**Dwarf:** Ideal for borders and tucking into containers as they stay at 10-12" tall.

**Cut Flower:** Taller forms with strong and sturdy stems, these zinnias are ideal for cutting and flower arranging.

**Single Flowered:** Have a center surrounded by one row of petals, giving it a daisy-like appearance

**Double Flowered:** Have multiple rows of petals and their centers are not visible.



## QUICK TIPS:

- Zinnias prefer rich, well-drained soil with a pH between 5.5 - 7.5
- Give them full sun to light afternoon shade in very hot/strong sun climates.
- Space plants 6 inches apart and sow them 1/4 inch deep.
- Zinnias are sensitive to frost, so do not seed until the last frost has passed.
- Avoid watering on foliage to prevent fungus and mildew.
- Zinnias are annuals, so they'll grow for one season and produce seeds, but the original plant will not come back in subsequent years.
- Sow a round of seeds every week or so for several weeks to extend the flowering period.



# TIPS ON GROWING: DAHLIAS

## PLANTING

- Start seeds indoors 4-6 weeks before your last frost date.
- Dahlias love rich and well-drained soil with a pH between 6.5 and 7.0
- Plant once the soil reaches 60 degrees F.
- Choose a location with good light. Dahlias require full sun, with 6 or more hours of sunlight daily.
- Follow the spacing and depth instructions listed on your seed packet.

Add a **stake** at planting time, or use a tomato cage – dahlias tend to get big and need extra support. Tie the plant to the stake in several locations as it grows to secure it.



**WATER** regularly avoiding the leaves and aim for less frequent, but deep watering, about 1 inch per week.

Frequent **FERTILIZING** allows Dahlias to grow their root mass and produce bigger, more beautiful blooms.

In very hot, dry areas, you may want to **MULCH** to help retain moisture, but in most areas you can skip mulch so that the soil can stay warmer and the foliage can stay dry. Wet soil can attract slugs which can harm dahlias if you see any pick them off.

# TIPS ON GROWING: RANUNCULUS

## ENJOY

These gorgeous bloomers have a rose-like appearance with layers of thin petals, straight stems, and frilly foliage. And the color range! Anywhere from white, cream, and pale yellow to golden yellow, apricot, orange, red, and burgundy. Most gardeners, regardless of zone, can grow ranunculus, you simply have to understand what they like in order to be their blooming best.

## PLANTING

Plant bulbs 4" apart and about 2" deep with the "claw" side down in a location receiving full sun. Cover with soil and lightly water in. Now, leave it alone until you see signs of leaves sprouting, that's right, no water! Then moderately water during active growth and blooming.

- Light and well-drained soil with a pH between 6.0 -6.5
- USDA Hardiness Zones 4-7 (annuals) & Zones 8-10 (perennials)



## CUTTING

- **Cut** the stems when buds are showing but aren't yet open.
- **Remove** lower leaves
- **Re-cut** the bottoms of the stems and place them in a vase of water.
- **Change water** every other day

## PRUNING

When blooms have finished, let the foliage yellow and wither before cutting back. And during this time, don't water at all, as that could rot your bulbs.

# TIPS ON GROWING: SUNFLOWERS

## ENJOY

Sunflowers are one of the easiest flowers to grow in the garden. Sunflowers are a beautiful addition to a summer flower garden and are helpful with attracting pollinators to the garden. Many of us have memories of planting sunflowers when we were young; the stems seemed to shoot up before our eyes. Bring some of that magic into your garden by growing sunflowers. If you choose the right variety, you get the added benefit of harvesting delicious sunflower seeds.

## PLANTING

Sunflowers aren't picky about soil.

- Sunflowers tolerate rocky and sandy soils; to be sure though, sunflowers grown in rich soil will grow taller and fuller than those that aren't.
- Sunflowers are easily grown from seed. If you do transplant, don't wait too long as sunflowers get root bound quickly and don't always recover well.
- Space large sunflower plants 2-3 feet apart. If the plants are too close to each other, the heads will be smaller.



## SEED HARVESTING

- Harvest when seeds are plump and developed.
- Harvest when flower petals begin to dry out and fall off.
- Harvest when the back of flower turns from green to yellow (if you are cutting the stem off to dry).
- Harvest when the back of the flower is brown (if you are letting seeds dry with the stem intact).

# TIPS ON GROWING: WILDFLOWERS

## GATHER SEEDS

Look for seed mixes that feature wildflowers that are native to your area, garden centers, and feed stores are great sources. You can also order seeds from a trusted online source.

## PLANTING

Most wildflowers require a minimum of six hours of full **sun**, but there are wildflowers that also prefer a partially shaded area. When you're using a mix, carefully read the information on the package to pick the best planting site.

**Prep Soil:** Start by removing all existing plant material, grass, and weeds in the area for planting (including roots). If your soil is very poor, consider adding some compost to enrich it before adding your seed.

**Scatter Seeds:** Again, read the directions on the package(s) you are using, but in general, you'll scatter the seeds at a predetermined rate of pounds per square foot. Once you have scattered the seeds, lightly compress them into the soil with a garden roller or by walking on them.



## WATER

Keep your seeds watered until they are 4-6" tall, aiming for consistent moisture rather than a soaking wet texture. After that, they survive on natural rainfall just as they do out in nature.

- If you want your wildflowers to reseed and come back next year, be slow to mow after they are done blooming. It will look a bit ratty for a while, but it's necessary to give them time to go to release their seeds back into the soil.
- After that, you can mow or string trim to a 3-6" height to neaten things up.

# CERTIFIED WILDLIFE HABITAT

You've taken the time to create a garden that is beautiful and full of all sorts of interesting plants and features and you notice that all sorts of creatures love it just as much as the humans do. You've spotted a variety of birds, and a fair share of butterflies, bees, and other winged and furry friends. But did you know that your garden could be certified as a wildlife habitat by the **National Wildlife Federation**?

## REQUIREMENTS

**Food** — Does your garden offer at least 3 sources of food for wildlife? Think about native plants that have seeds, berries, or nectar, additional bird feeders, or a good amount of insects.

**Water** — All you need is one water source on your property, and you probably already have it. Birdbaths, water dishes, water gardens, and ponds or other water features all offer animals life-giving water.



**Cover** — All creatures need nooks and crannies to protect them. You'll need to identify two sources of cover. Rock or brush piles, bat houses, roosting boxes, and dense vegetation are great ideas.

**Sustainable Practices** — Two of the three sustainable practices are necessary for certification: soil and water conservation, controlling invasive exotic plant species, and organic practices.

**Places to Raise Young** — When mamas give birth, those babies need a safe place to get started. A variety of trees and shrubs, birdhouses, host plants for caterpillars, and ponds for fish and other amphibians are all great examples. Create two different places for wildlife to safely raise their young.

# Flower Gardening:

## Troubleshooting

### FLOWER BULBS NOT GROWING

You planted your flower bulbs but nothing is happening, so what went wrong?

#### Things to Consider:

- Are your bulbs planted in a sunny location?
- Are your bulbs planted in well-draining soil?
- Did you plant the bulbs upside-down?
- Did you plant too late in the season?
- Did you plant the bulbs at the correct depth?
- Are your bulbs old or overcrowded?
- Do you have critters that like flower bulbs?



### TRANSPLANT SHOCK

There's nothing worse than planting your new seedling into its permanent pot or garden bed and then it doesn't thrive. This can be due to transplant shock.

#### How to Avoid:

- When planting your seedling break up the roots and the surrounding soil to ensure your plant doesn't become root-bound.
- Be gentle when repotting, your seedlings are delicate.
- Water before and after transplanting.
- Add a liquid fertilizer such as a fish & Kelp Fertilizer diluted with water.

# Flower Gardening:

## Troubleshooting

### MY FLOWERS AREN'T BLOOMING

There are numerous reasons why plants may not flower. Here are the most common reasons for non-flowering in plants:

**Age** – In many cases, a plant is too young to bloom. It can oftentimes take up to two or three years for some plants to mature, and others may take even longer to bloom.

**Pollination** – A lack of adequate pollinators can inhibit both flower and fruit production. Try hand pollinating or planting flowers and plants that attract pollinators.



**Temperature** also affects blooming. Low temperatures can quickly damage or kill flower buds, resulting in no flowers on a plant. In some cases though, a plant needs to go through a cold period to provoke flowering. This is true of many spring-flowering bulbs. In addition, the bloom cycle can be disrupted by extremes in temperature, moisture levels, humidity, and winds.

**Nutrient** balance can affect plant growth. Nitrogen is needed to produce vegetative growth, phosphorous to produce flower buds, and root development, while potassium builds strong healthy plants.

# Flower Gardening:

## Troubleshooting

### DROOPY FLOWERS

Oftentimes flowers can become droopy, begin wilting, and experience their leaves turning brown or yellow.

#### Causes:

- Lack of water
- Overwatering or poor drainage creating moist soil
- Transplant shock

#### Solutions:

- Try watering deeply instead of frequently
- Ensure your pot or bed has adequate drainage holes
- Use a light, well-drained soil



### FREEZE DAMAGE

Frost can blacken the most exposed parts of the plant. Hardy perennials usually grow back after freeze damage, but, just to be safe, protect plants from unseasonable cold spells by temporarily covering them with old sheets or blankets. Don't use plastic as frost goes right through it.

### LACK OF SUNLIGHT

When a flower isn't getting enough light, it turns sickly pale and its stems become long and spindly. If you plant in a shady area, choose shade-tolerant flowers.





## Troubleshooting Pests

As always, cultivating strong and healthy plants goes a long way to deterring unwanted and damaging garden pests – start with healthy soil and ensure adequate sunlight and water. Here are some of the most common garden pests and how to combat them organically.

### APHIDS

Aphids are one of the most common and destructive garden pests, sucking the sap from veggies, fruits, flowers, and even shade trees. These tiny bugs are pear-shaped with two long antennae and two black “tubes” that project rearward from their abdomens. **Look for:**

- Misshapen, curling, stunted, or yellowing leaves.
- Look closely at your flower bud and between the petals, for tiny, light green to yellow colored bugs.
- Flowers can become distorted or deformed due to feeding aphids.

When you see them, use a hard spray of water from your hose to dislodge them. Encourage natural predators like lacewings, lady beetles (aka ladybugs), and aphid midges.



### CUTWORMS

These destructive pests are about 1” long, fat, and gray or black colored. Mostly active at night, they damage young veggie and flower transplants by chewing through the stems at ground level.

Use cutworm collars to **protect** tender stems, and hand-pick these beasts off when you see them.

# Organic Gardening:

## Resources:

[How to Find Your Planting Zone](#)  
[Monthly Edible Gardening Guide by Zone](#)  
[Edible Companion Planting Guide](#)  
[Container Gardening Guide](#)  
[The Best Gardening Books For Beginners](#)

[Flower Gardening Blog](#)  
[How To Grow Dahlias](#)  
[Best Way To Plant Flowers From Pots](#)  
[How to Start a Rose Garden At Home](#)  
[Growing Tips for Common Zinnia Varieties](#)  
[How to Plant, Grow, and Care for Daisy Flowers](#)  
[Growing Ranunculus: The Correct Way To Plant Bulbs](#)

[5 Tips for Growing and Harvesting Sunflower Seeds](#)  
[Sunflower Varieties](#)

[How To Start A Wildflower Garden](#)  
[Top Plants That Attract Pollinators](#)  
[Creating a Pollinator Friendly Garden](#)  
[Certified Wildlife Habitat: Does My Garden Qualify?](#)

[Beneficial Insects for Natural Pest Control](#)  
[Rock Mulch vs. Wood Mulch For Flower Beds](#)



### Social Media:

[Instagram](#)  
[Youtube](#)  
[Facebook](#)  
[Organic Garden Nation](#)  
[Facebook Group](#)



# GARDEN DESIGN

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OBSERVATIONS:



Prep & Maintain:

Four horizontal red lines for notes.

Sun:

Seven horizontal red lines for notes.



Watering:

Four horizontal red lines for notes.

Pests:

Four horizontal red lines for notes.



Notes:

Four horizontal red lines for notes.



# FLOWER GARDEN

## PLANTING PLAN

	VARIETY	PERENNIAL OR ANNUAL	DATE
FLOWER	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____

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FLOWER	_____	_____	_____
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FLOWER	_____	_____	_____
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FLOWER	_____	_____	_____
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FLOWER	_____	_____	_____
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# Chore Chart

my weekly garden chores

**CHORES**

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**M T W T F S**

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**REMINDERS**

**NOTES**

# Kellogg Garden Organics

Kellogg Garden Products, family-owned and operated since its establishment in 1925 by our founder, H. Clay Kellogg, now spans four generations. The company continues its success as a steadfast business, guided by Mr. Kellogg's original core values: innovation, loyalty, experience, commitment, and generosity.

These values have led our company to seek the highest level of organic rigor in all its branded products.

In 2012, Kellogg Garden Products committed to strictly follow the USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) guidelines for manufacturing all Kellogg Garden Organics and G&B Organics branded soils and fertilizers.

Every ingredient and every process used to produce our branded products has been verified 100% compliant as organic, all the way back to the source, meeting all federal guidelines.

All our branded products are approved by the California Department of Food and Agriculture's stringent Organic Input Materials (OIM) program, as well as the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) – the leading independent review agency accredited by the USDA NOP.

Kellogg is still the first and only manufacturer to have all our branded organic soils and fertilizers OIM approved and OMRI Listed, making Kellogg the first to offer Proven Organic soils and fertilizers that build life in the soil. Since 1925, we continue to strive to be the leading organic source helping people grow beautiful and healthy gardens – organically.





## Product Recommendations



### ORGANIC SOIL



### ORGANIC LIQUID FERTILIZER



### ORGANIC GRANULAR FERTILIZER

\*\*G&B Organics Only Available in the Western United States

