

Annuals: Gardens Come Alive With Colour

Annuals are those plants whose life cycle is completed within a single season. The seed germinates, the plants bloom, set seed and then die ñ from spring to the following autumn. Owing to their short life span, annuals allow you to experiment and express yourself anew each year.

Colour

Annuals should be planted so that they complement the plants around them, for example, mauve or orchid-coloured Petunias in front of a yellow-flowering potentilla shrub, low-growing white Alyssum interplanted with blue Forget-me-nots, or blue Ageratum and yellow Calendula surrounding red Salvia.

Light Requirements

The bulk of annuals prefer sunny locations but the following list will help you choose plants for all areas of your garden.

Sun	Semi-Shade	Shade
Ageratum	Ageratum	Begonias
Alyssum	Alyssum	Browallia
Asters	Begonias	Coleus
Carnation	Browallia	Fuchsia
Celosia	Coleus	Impatiens
Coleus	Dusty Miller	Lobelia
Dahlia	Geraniums	
Dusty Miller	Impatiens	
Geraniums	Lobelia	
Marigolds	Marigolds	
Morning Glory	Morning Glory	
Petunias	Nicotiana	
Portulaca	Pansy	
Salvia	Petunias	
Snapdragons	Salvia	
Sunshine Impatiens	Snapdragons	
Verbena	Vinca	
Zinnia		



Grouping

Annuals, often referred to as bedding plants, show themselves best when planted in groups rather than individually. Even when planting on a small scale, use a minimum of three plants and try to plant so that each group overlaps with the one beside it, creating a unified flow rather than isolated spots of colour.

Height

In designing your garden, keep in mind that annuals offer a tremendous range of heights accommodating virtually any area in your yard. Here is a small but representative sampling of the possibilities:

Ageratum ëBlue Blazerí	15 cm	Evening Scented Stock	38 cm
Browallia	30 cm	Fibrous-rooted Begonia	25 cm
Butterfly Snapdragons	75 cm	Geraniums	36 cm
Celosia plumosa	45 cm	Dwart Impatiens	18 cm
Dahlia-flowering Zinnias	90 cm	Lobelia	13 cm
Dusty Miller	20 cm	Petunia	25 cm
Dwarf Marigolds	20 cm	Sweet Alyssum	10 cm

How to Plant Annuals

1. Prepare the flower bed to a depth of 30 cm, using good soil, composted manure and peat moss, all well mixed.
2. Gently loosen the roots of each plant as you remove them from the ìcell-pak.î
3. Water thoroughly and fertilize each plant with 5-15-5 plant starter.
4. Keep the bed well watered for the first two weeks until the plants are rooted. Then water once a week with a soluble fertilizer, 20-20-20 or 15-30-15.
5. In choosing and placing your annuals, consider their need for sun or shade.
6. Should the floral display diminish, ìpinchí the plants by nipping or cutting the stems back. In a week or so your plants will look better than ever. Do this before going on vacation and your garden will delight you when you return.

Pinching



One of your most important pruning tools costs nothing! It consists of your thumb and index fingers.



Annuals and perennials or, for that matter, anything you can break off with your fingers will become more dense and bushier with new growth after pinching.



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