



Annuals

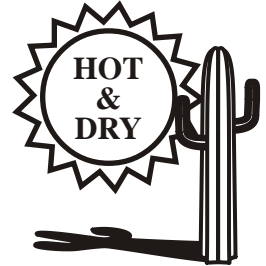


Ageratum
Amaranthus
Alyssum
Asters
Celosia
Cleome
Coreopsis
Cosmos
Dahlberg Daisy
Delphinium
Dusty Miller
Gazania



Geranium
Gomphrena
Gypsy Gypsophila
Heliotrope
Lisianthus
Marigold

Melampodium
Nicotiana
Petunia
Portulaca
Rudbeckia
Salvia
Sanvitalia
Statice
Strawflower
Verbena
Vinca
Zinnia



Amaranthus
Alyssum
Celosia
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Salvia
Sanvitalia
Statice
Strawflower
Verbena
Vinca
Zinnia



Ageratum
Alyssum
Begonia
Browallia
Dianthus
Dusty Miller
Geranium
Impatien
Lobelia
Nicotiana
Pansy
Salvia
Thunbergia
Torenia
Viola

Begonia
Coleus
Fuchsia



Impatien
Pansy
Torenia

Ageratum
Alyssum
Browallia
Calendula
Impatien



Lobelia
Nicotiana
Salvia
Stock
Torenia
Viola

Ageratum
Alyssum
Begonia
Dahlberg Daisy
Dusty Miller
Dwarf Snapdragon



Dwarf Zinnia
Fantasy Petunia

Hypoestes
Lobelia
Nierembergia
Portulaca
Sanvitalia
Viola
Zinnia angustifolia



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Planting and Caring for Annuals

Annuals can add season long color to beds and borders and also supply a summer full of cut flowers for decorating. Annuals are easy to grow and require little care except watering and deadheading. They can be mixed in with perennials, including shrubs and trees, and fill empty spaces in the garden until slower plants grow and mature. They can also be grown with vegetables and are well adapted to pots and containers. Experiment with annuals; you can always change your plan for next year!

1. **Location** - Is your desired area sunny, shady, dry, wet, rocky. Hot or full sun means 6 or more hours of sun per day. Light shade is shade found beneath leafy branches of a tall, stately tree. Heavy shade means no direct sunlight, just dappled light as in the woods.

2. **Design** - Do you desire a formal garden with neat, geometric shaped beds or do you prefer an informal bed or border with soft, curving edges. Will your garden be seen from all sides or will it have a background of some sort, i.e. a fence or wall. Annuals also mix in well with shrub plantings and perennial gardens. Some points to consider are height and spread of mature plants, color, texture and form. Taller plants should be placed in the back of a border with the shortest plants in front. In a bed, the taller plants go in the center with the shorter plants around the edges. Be sure to choose plants with the right light and soil requirements for the area you have selected for your bed. (sunny, shady, wet or dry etc.)

3. **Plant Selection** - When buying annuals, look for healthy, young foliage; leaves should be green. Choose plants that are low and bushy if possible. If plants are leggy, they should be pinched back when planted. If plants are held for a few days before planting, keep them under a shade tree and water regularly.

4. **Bed Preparation** - Whether you are planting in an established bed or creating a whole new bed, you will need to determine the texture and structure of your soil. Dig up the soil a bit; take a handful of soil, squeeze it in your palm and then open your hand. Clay soil will sit in your hand in a big lump. Sandy soil will not stick together even briefly. If the soil holds together for a few seconds and then crumbles apart, it's good loam. All soils require regular rejuvenation. We recommend that you incorporate organic matter into the soil in a new bed and then add a thin layer every year or two after. You may use your own compost or purchase a product like Bumper Crop, Posy Power™, cow manure or peat moss. To improve clay soil, additional amendment is needed. Add Southland Bark Soil Conditioner or Schultz® Clay Soil Conditioner™ along with organic matter listed above and incorporate into existing soil.

To determine the shape and size of your bed, outline the area with a garden hose and find a shape that pleases you. Use this outline as a pattern when you are ready to dig. New beds will need to be stripped of sod first. To prevent recurring grass, spray the area with Roundup®; wait one to two weeks and then strip dead sod. Next, spread your amendments on the bed, and cultivate either by hand or cultivator. Dig and turn the soil to a depth of 6-10". Break up large clods and rake out weeds and rocks. Now you're ready to plant!

5. **Planting Annuals** - An overcast day is best for transplanting your annuals. Be sure to check the tag to determine how far apart to plant. Water the plants thoroughly before you start. Dig a hole the depth of the potted plant, then fill the hole with water. Remove plant from container; if it is root bound, pull roots apart or cut them apart with a sharp utility knife. Place the plant in the hole at the same depth as it was in the pot or slightly lower if your bed will settle. Firmly pat the soil around the crown of the plant (where the root meets the stem). We suggest you fertilize the bed or the planting hole with as Espoma® Flower-tone or a slow-release fertilizer such as Osmocote®. Espoma® Plant-tone® is a totally organic option.

6. **Care of Annuals** - Give plants a boost during the growing season with regular feedings of Miracle-Gro, bi-weekly feedings with Espoma® products or monthly feedings with Osmocote®. Proven Winners and other aggressive growing annuals like Wave petunias and sun coleus benefit from extra iron; we recommend Ironite®. If you mulch, be sure to keep the mulch a few inches from the crown of the plants. To prevent weeds, you may treat the bed with Miracle-Gro® Garden Weed Preventer™ and then mulch to retain moisture. Remove dead flowers and broken branches weekly to discourage disease and promote more blooms. If you use overhead watering, be sure to water early in the day so that the foliage dries out before nightfall. Use a gentle spray on young transplants to avoid disturbing the roots and *water thoroughly*, don't just wet the surface. *Sit back and enjoy!*