The Cut Flower Garden

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Plan First!

• Do your homework?
• Plan on Paper first!
  • How Complex?
  • Location
  • Which flowers to grow?
    • Favorite Flower
    • Favorite Color
  • When do you want blooms?
• Seed vs. Transplant
• Purchase seeds early

Plant First! - Location

• Out-of-the-way location?
  • No center stage or focal point
  • Don’t have to be attractive
• Within another garden or Separate garden?
• Grown in rows vs. in the landscape?
• Containers
• Full Sun
• Well-Drained site

Plan First! Lots of Options!

• Garden timing – spring, summer, fall
• Plan for long bloom times
• Plan for size, shape and color
  • Showy, large flowers
  • Small, delicate flowers
  • Brilliant blazes of color
  • Muted, dusty tones
  • Soft Pastels
• Plant perennials early in fall to hasten the first blooming season by one year.

Plant First! Selecting Flowers

• What do you like?
  • Favorite flowers, colors, or shapes?
• Look for the scissor symbol on packets and in Catalogs
• Look for varieties with long stems
• Diversify – short, tall, big, little, etc.
• Something for every season
• Netting/staking/caging?
Plan First! Timing!
• Frost Dates
• Establish
  • Seeding Dates
  • Planting Dates
  • Approx. Harvest Dates
• Days until germination
• Recommended planting method for each flower variety grown
• Reality? Consider time, energy and space

Many Resources....
• Your Local Extension Specialist
• University Extension Websites
• Books
• Seed Catalogs
• Seed Company Websites
  • Johnny’s Selected Seed

Sourcing Plant Materials
Seeds Vs. Transplants
• Local Garden Centers
• Farm Stores
• Catalogs
• Online
• Purchase Seeds
  • Perennials
  • Annuals
  • Mixes
• Purchase Transplants
• Grow Transplants Yourself

Option: Layout in the Vegetable Garden

Option: Stand Alone Flower Bed

Prep to Plant
• Soil Test
• Work and Amend Soil
• Weed Barrier
• Gather Tools
  • Hand trowels
  • Rakes
  • Scissors
• Gather Plant Materials
  • Plants
  • Seeds
**Planting**

Plant on overcast days or in the evenings!

**Once Planted...**

- Water Plants in...
- Remove any existing blooms
- Pinch plants for branching and encourage root establishment
- Mulch if desired
- Don’t forget plant supports

**Seed starting outdoors...**

- Timing
- Soil Moisture
- Soil Crusting
- Weed Control

**Maintenance Needed!**

- Succession Planting
- Thin
- Water
- Provide Support, Trellis or Cages
- Weeding
- Fertilizer
- Mulch
- Deadheading
- Harvest

**Zinnias**

**Cosmos**
Annual Flowers
- Calendula
- Bachelor Buttons
- Baby’s Breath
- Tithonia
- Snapdragons

Annual Flowers
- Ageratum
- Candytuft
- Globe Amaranth
- Marigold
- Strawflower
Perennial Flowers

Flowering Bulbs

- Daffodils
- Tulips
- Hyacinths
- Gladiolas
- Dahlias
- Cannas

Herbs

- Mint
- Basil
- Chives
- Dill
- Oregano
- Rosemary

Greenery/Foliage

- Ferns (various)
- Coleus
- Ornamental grasses (various)
- Ivy or trailing vinca
- Dusty Miller
- Artemesia
- Tree and shrub leaves

Cutting Flowers Tips

- Harvest flowers during coolest part of day.
- Select Optimum stage of bloom
- Always take a bucket of water with you.
- Always use a sharp, clean pair of scissors or knife.

Cutting Flower Tips

- Cut long stems
  - 5-18” long
- Remove lower foliage that would be under water in the vase.
- Recut stems at an angle once ready for vase
- Keep flowers in water while designing
- Keep flowers in a cool area to keep them fresher longer!
Happy Gardening!