

Favorites for an easy-care Cut Flower Garden

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Warm season annuals – grow this group indoors. Most are best planted around Mother's day. Start seeds in early-mid April – do not start too early

Species	Height	Weeks to flower	Spacing	Weeks indoors	Growing notes – based on last frost date of March 15
Amaranth	3 – 6'	8-12	12-18"	2-3	Root bound plants will be stunted, plant when very small, pinch
Cosmos	24" – 48"	6-8	10-12'	3	Grows fast when summer arrives, pinch at 3 or 4 th set of leaves
Dahlia	24" – 5'	8-12	12"	4-6	Pinch to 2-3 sets of leaves at planting. Protect from slugs
Gomphrena	24"	10-12	10-12"	4-6	Slow to get going, but worth the wait. Nice globe filler, everlasting, pinch
Marigold	12-36"	6-10	9-12"	4	Tall varieties need more space, very long vase life. Protect from slugs
Rudbeckia hirta	18-24"	16	10-12	8-10	Perennial grown as annual, slow starting, fantastic cut
Statice	18"	6-8	9"	4-6	Easy to grow, nice cut and come again filler flower. Soft colors, everlasting
Sunflower	5-8'	6-8	12"	4	Choose branching varieties and small blooms. Protect from rabbits

Mexican sunflower	4-5'	8-10	12-18	4-5	A single plant can become a big bush if watered/fed well. Great pollinator plant.
Zinnia	2-5'	6-8	9"	4-5	Countless varieties available, pinch to 2-3 sets of leaves when small
Cool season annuals – Direct sow this group in late summer/early fall, or start in flats for transplant. OR – start in late winter and plant 2-4 weeks before last frost					
Ammi	3-5'	6-8	9-10"	3-4	Fall planting gives early summer blooms. Succession plant in spring
Bachelor button	3'	12-14	12-14"	Direct sow	Grows best when fall planted. Seedlings overwinter w/no protection
Feverfew	18"	6-8	9-12"	4-5	Early summer blooms in sprays – 'White Wonder' is a favorite.
Larkspur	24-36"	8-10	9-12"	Direct sow	Early summer blooms on tall spikes, second flush in August
Orlaya	18-24"	9-10	9-12"	Direct sow	One and done flower, but worth the effort to plant in 3-4 weeks rounds
Snapdragon	24-36"	12-14	9-12"	4-6	Chantilly, Madame butterfly, Potomac. Pinch to 3 sets of leaves when young
Sweet pea	6-8"	10-12	6"	3-4 or direct	Direct sow in fall or very early spring. Pinch when 6" tall

Sample seed starting schedule

Plant name	Days to flower	Indoor growing time	Light/dark	Sow date	transplant date	Germ temp	Growing notes

Mason Jar soil texture test

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/em-9304-soil-dirty-secrets-living-landscape>

King Conservation District Home Garden Soil testing program

<https://kingcd.org/programs/better-soils/healthy-soil/>

How to test your soil for drainage

www.kitsap.gov/dcd/FormsandBrochures/WSU%20Raingarden%20Handbook%20-%20Test%20Your%20Soil.pdf

Creating healthy soil

<https://puyallup.wsu.edu/soils/gardening/>

Favorite resources:

Books

The Cut Flower Handbook, Lisa Mason Ziegler – great resource for practical information

Cool Flowers, Lisa Mason Ziegler – all you need to know to have gorgeous blooms in June

Floret Farm's Cut Flower Garden, Erin Benzakein – beautiful photography

The New Seed Starter's Handbook, Nancy Bubel – great resource on starting seeds

Various grower's libraries – Johnny's seeds, Floret Flower Farm, Three Acre Farm

A very useful Bloom Time Chart:

<https://www.threeacrefarm.net/bloom-time-chart>

A very useful seed starting calendar calculator, based on frost dates:

https://www.johnnyseeds.com/growers-library/seed-planting-schedule-calculator.html?srsId=AfmBOob_pNN3_wxtijDgTHrXGBeOyLUKEQuf0rCFvUVJu-89eK-S5Cj