

# Annuals

## Annuals

Annuals are probably the easiest, fastest and generally most economical way to add color to your spring, summer and fall garden. They are also referred to as bedding plants. Annuals are plants that germinate, flower, set seed and die in one season in a garden.

### Tips for selecting annuals:

- Select the right annual for the right location: consider amount of sun, water requirements, soil type, height and width desired
- Have a purpose for planting annuals in your garden: for aesthetics, quick ground cover, cut flower source, to attract hummingbirds or butterflies, or other use
- Annuals can be planted in containers, window boxes, hanging baskets, and the ground
- Keep color schemes simple. Warm colors (yellow, orange, red) draw attention and excitement. Cool colors (green, blue, purple) tend to recede and have a calming effect. White and gray are versatile and help unify parts of a garden
- Buy annuals when the temperature is right for planting them; be aware of last frost date
- Plant on a cloudy or overcast day, or late in the day to help plants acclimate in sun
- Water plants before removing them from containers to insure easy removal from containers. For peat pots, remove the top half of the pot prior to planting

### Annuals for Beginners

The annuals listed are considered easy to grow. With a well-prepared soil and a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer at planting, the following annuals should give good results.

Snapdragons (Antirrhinum)  
Wax Begonia (Begonia)  
Coleus (Coleus)  
Sweet William (Dianthus)  
Globe amaranth (Gomphrena)  
Impatiens (Impatiens spp.)  
Lantana (Lantana spp.)  
Petunias (Petunia x hybrida)  
Moss Rose (Portulaca)  
Verbena (Verbena x hybrida)  
Pansies (Viola)  
Narrowleaf Zinnia (Zinnia augustifolia)



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## Fast-Establishing Annuals

These annuals can be used where slower-growing plants are getting established and to fill in spaces in new or established beds.

- Wheat celosia (*Celosia spicata*)
- Yellow cosmos (*Cosmos sulfureus*)
- Sweet potato vine (*Ipomoea batatas*)
- Purple Wave petunia (*Petunia* 'Purple Wave')
- Annual black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta* 'Indian Summer')
- Mexican black sage (*Salvia leucantha*)
- Scarlet sage (*Salvia splendens*)
- Black-eyed Susan vine (*Thunbergia alata*)
- Mexican sunflower (*Tithonia rotundifolia*)

## Annuals for Hot, Sunny Areas

Hot sunny areas require plants that can sustain high temperatures with little reprieve from the sun throughout the day. They are both heat and drought tolerant.

- Floss flower (*Blue ageratum*)
- Crested celosia (*Celosia argentea* var. *cristata*)
- Plumed celosia (*Celosia argentea* var. *plumosa*)
- Spider flower (*Cleome hassleriana*)
- Cosmos (*Cosmos sulfureus*)
- Angel's trumpets (*Datura metel*)
- Snow on the Mountain (*Euphorbia marginata*)
- Blanket flower (*Gaillardia puchella*)
- Gazania (*Gazania regins*)
- Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)
- Sweet potato vine (*Ipomoea batatas*)
- Dwarf flowering tobacco (*Nicotiana alata*)
- Geranium (*Pelargonium x hortorum*)
- Petunia (*Petunia x hybrida*)
- Black-eyed Susan (*Redbeckia hirta*)
- Scarlet sage (*Salvia splendens*)
- Dusty Miller (*Senecio cineraria*)
- African marigold (*Tagetes erecta*)
- French marigold (*Tagetes patula*)
- Signet marigold (*Tagetes tenuifolia*)
- Verbena (*Verbena hybs.*)
- Zinnia (*Zinnia elegans*)



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## Annuals for Shade

### Light or Partial Shade

Floss flower (*Ageratum houstonianum*)  
Caladium (*Caladium x hortulanum*)  
Canterbury bells (*Campanula medium*)  
Ornamental peppers (*Capsicum annuum*)  
Coleus (*Coleus x hybs.*)  
Dahlia (*Dahlia hybs.*)  
Sweet William (*Dianthus spp.*)  
Impatiens (*Impatiens walleriana*)  
Lobelia (*Lobelia erinus*)  
Sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*)  
Forget-me-not (*Myosotis sylvatica*)

### Light to Dark Shade

Wax Begonia (*Begonia*)  
Coleus (*Coleus x hybs.*)  
Fuchsia (*Fuchsia spp.*)  
Impatiens (*Impatiens walleriana*)  
Lobelia (*Lobelia erinus*)



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