

# how to grow Garden colour

Flowers are a gardener's joy, and inject colour and fragrance into any garden. There are many varieties of flowers available in different shapes, sizes and colours that you can grow in traditional gardens, or in pots and containers to brighten up decks or courtyards. Some varieties can also be planted in your vegetable garden to help attract bees and other beneficial insects to aid pollination, and others such as marigolds can help keep garden pests away.

## Choosing the right variety

Flowers generally fall into three main groups and can be grown at certain times of the year.

### Annuals

Grow only once, then need to be replaced (some varieties self seed), many varieties to choose from.

### Perennials

Non woody plants that last two or more years (they usually multiply and can be divided) and varieties come in a wide range of colours and sizes.

### Biennials

Sown the first year, flower second year, then are finished.



## Flowers for shady gardens

There are flower varieties available that tolerate shade well and don't require as much sun. These are perfect for filling up those difficult shady areas in your garden; just ensure you prepare your soil well before planting (see planting).

Some varieties to try are:

Impatiens | Cyclamen | Clivias | Fuscias | Hostas | Cineraria

## Regional tips

For guidance on regional planting please talk to your local garden centre and see what is available as in some instances planting too early or late can lead to problems.

## Bulbs and Roses

There are also a wide variety of flowering spring bulbs you can grow that add a burst of colour after a long winter – look out for the **Daltons How to Grow Bulbs Guide** for more information.

For Rose lovers, Daltons also has a specific **How to Grow Roses Guide** if you wish to grow beautiful blooming roses in your garden.

## Growing flowers in containers & baskets

The best types of flowers that grow well in containers or baskets are varieties which are more robust and prefer the drier conditions found within a pot. You can also choose from varieties that are more compact or have a nice trailing habit (for baskets). Always use a good quality container mix such as such as **Daltons Premium Potting Mix**, or **Daltons Premium Tub Mix** – these have been specially developed to have moisture retaining qualities and deliver a well balanced slow release of nutrients. Many people grow annuals in pots – for best results toss out last season's worn-out soil and replace with a fresh new soil mix. Alternatively, you can revive old soil with **Daltons Premium Rose and Flower Fertiliser**.

### Ideal varieties for pots/ container planting are –

Dianthus  
Lavender  
Geraniums  
Pansy  
Violas  
Petunias  
Marigolds  
Primulas  
Lobelias  
Portulaca  
Livingstone Daisies

### For lovely hanging baskets the following annuals are highly recommended –

Alyssum  
Lobelias  
Bacopa  
Portulaca  
Verbena  
Cascade Petunias  
Livingstone Daisies  
Ivy Geranium

## Planting

Spring is the time when flowers really come into their own. Once winter flowers such as violas and pansies draw to an end, it's time to plant summer annuals such as cosmos, petunias, and marigolds. Use the 'When to Grow Flowers' guide for a more detailed planting plan. What you are planting into is very important, so for best results prepare your soil a week or two before you plant out –

- 1 To prepare your flower bed for planting, firstly remove any dead or old plants and weeds.
- 2 Apply evenly a generous layer of **Daltons Enriched Compost** approx 40L per 2m<sup>2</sup> and thoroughly work it into the soil. You can also add in **Goldcote Planting Mix**.
- 3 As a guide, try and work it in to 1 ½ spade depth. This ensures that the soil has been fully aerated and the compost has been mixed thoroughly with the existing soil, improving organic matter, nutrient content and microbial activity.
- 4 If growing in raised planters or gardens, fill up the site with **Daltons Flower Bed Mix**.

## Feeding and watering

For all summer annuals, apply **Daltons Premium Rose and Flower Fertiliser** every 4-6 weeks during growing season. Apply the same for perennials.

Water regularly to keep plants growing twice a week until plants are well established, and then drop back to once a week (weather dependant). Avoid overwatering.



# When to Grow Flowers

## Summer annuals

Annuals are usually grown in the garden, and in containers or pots. There are summer annuals that can tolerate shade, but in general choose a warm sunny position for best results. Below is a guide of the ideal times to plant flowers in your garden throughout the season.

MONTH	SOWING INDOORS	DIRECT PLANTING
	Seeds should be sown in trays indoors using <b>Daltons Premium Seed Mix</b> , then plant seedlings out in the garden six weeks later. <i>Varieties to try are:</i>	Purchase seedlings from your local garden centre and plant directly outside in garden.  <i>Varieties to try are:</i>
<b>August/September</b>	Ageratum Asters Livingstone Daisy Lobelia Marigolds Petunias Portulacas Salvias Zinnias	Alyssum Calendula Cornflowers Hollyhock Nemesia Snapdragons Sweatpeas
<b>October</b>	Arctotis Asters Cosmos Marigolds Sunflowers Petunias Phlox Salvias Zinnias	Alyssum Cornflowers Delphiniums Hollyhock Nemesias Portulacas Statice Sweet peas Verbena Zinnias
<b>November</b>	Asters Celosia Chrysanthemums Marigolds Sunflowers Petunias Salvias Strawflowers	Alyssum Ageratum Arctotis Asters Cornflowers Cosmos Marigolds Nemesias Phlox Portulacas Zinnias



## Perennials

A wide selection of flowering Perennials are available in garden centres from May and they can advise you on the best varieties for the season and your region. Some perennial varieties you can try are:

Alstroemeria	Astilbe	Gardennia	Lavender
Armeria	Cannas	Hot Rox Scaevola	Primulas
Anigozanthos	Dianthus	Iris	Polyanthus
Asters	Dahlia	Flocks	

## Winter Annuals

These flowers are quite hardy and can tolerate the colder conditions, plus they add a lovely pop of colour in your winter garden.

MONTH	SOWING INDOORS	DIRECT PLANTING
	Seeds should be sown in trays indoors using <b>Daltons Premium Seed Mix</b> , then plant seedlings out in the garden six weeks later. <i>Varieties to try are:</i>	Purchase seedlings from your local garden centre and plant directly outside in garden.  <i>Varieties to try are:</i>
<b>March/April</b>	Calendulas Cineraria Cornflowers Lobelia Nemesia Pansy Lupins (South Island) Snapdragons Stock Sweet pea Sweet William Viola	Alyssum Aquilegia Calendular Cornflowes Russell Lupins Status Stock Sweet Pea Viola
<b>May</b>	Cineraria Cornflowers Poppies Russell lupins Snapdragons Stock Sweet pea Wall flowers	Alyssum Calendular Cornflower Russell Lupins Pansy Stock Sweet pea Wall flowers
<b>June/July/August</b>	Last plantings can continue till early June and into July, then stop and enjoy the flowers!	Last plantings can continue till early June and into July, then stop and enjoy the flowers!

## Pests and diseases

Slugs and snails can be an issue so protect plants with non-toxic pet and child friendly slug/snail pellets, or try organic alternatives such as beer traps, and surrounding plants with crushed shell, bark or saw dust. It does help to include marigolds and calendulas in your flower planting (particularly in summer) as the pungent odour they produce can help deter pests.

Use **Daltons Organic Bio-Fungicides** as a non-toxic and organic natural protectant.

## Gardening terms explained

**Annuals** – Only lasts a growing season.

**Deadheading** – The removal of finished flowers to encourage continuous succession flowering.

**Free draining soil** – Soil that is light and well broken up. Water can penetrate the soil and drain without pooling.

**Hardy plants** – Robust plants that can tolerate severe conditions.

**Perennials** – Plants that live for more than one growing season.

**Replacement planting/or succession planting** – Planting the same plant again as the previous one comes to an end.

**Side dressing** – To apply fertiliser around the sides of the plant.

## General maintenance

To ensure continuity of flowering, it is worth deadheading your flowers throughout the growing season. With some annuals such as cascade petunias, cut plants back once or twice during the growing season to encourage healthy new growth and flowering. Use **Daltons Organic Bio-Fungicides** as a non-toxic and organic natural protectant.

## Products to try

Daltons Premium Potting Mix | Daltons Premium Tub Mix  
 Daltons Premium Seed Mix | Daltons Enriched Compost  
 Daltons Premium Rose and Flower Fertiliser | Daltons Goldcote Planting Mix  
 Daltons Ready to Grow Rose & Flower Mix

