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Andy's Flowering Annual Guide

Soil Preparation Prepare flower beds by spading deeply. Loosen up heavy clay and clay loam soil with addition of peat moss, ground bark, or compost. Add about 2 lbs of 5-10-5 fertilizer per 100 sq ft or 1 lb of 10-10-10 per 100 sq ft and turn the soil over again. Then rake it smooth, and the bed will be ready for the plants.

Pre-Planting Care If you buy bedding plants but cannot plant them in the same day, water the packs or flats thoroughly and put them in the shade to prevent excessive wilting. Evenings or cloudy days are the best time to plant.

How To Plant Choose plants that are dark-green, vigorous-looking specimens, short in height. Plant the root ball of the plant even with the soil line. Individual peat pots must be planted slightly below the soil line to keep the pot from drying out by exposure to air.

Watering Bedding flat annuals are thirsty. Water them in thoroughly to give them a good start. Thereafter water whenever the soil begins to dry. Do it early in the day with soaking technique at ground level. Don't be satisfied with just sprinkling the foliage since plants will not receive enough water, and the moisture on the leaves for more than 24 hours encourages plant disease. Don't rely on rainfall to keep plants fresh...you are more reliable than Mother Nature in this case.

After-Planting Care To promote bushy, vigorous growth in bedding annuals and more continuous blossoming, pinch out the central bud of annuals such as tall snapdragons, zinnias, and marigolds. The tops of plants which tend to vine such as petunias should be cut back to 3 or 4 inches when they are too tall. Fertilize every 3 or 4 weeks with 5-10-5 fertilizer. Vacation Tip: Cut plants back again so when you return home they will be fresh, thriving and vigorous.

Plants for Sunny Areas

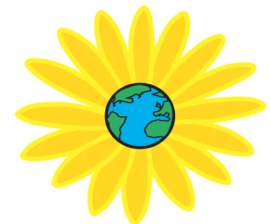
Ageratum	Cornflowers	Gloriosa Daisies	Petunias
Alyssum	Cosmos	Lantana	Phlox
Asters	Daisies	Lobelia	Salvia
Balsam	Dahlias	Marigolds	Snapdragons
Calendula	Dusty Miller	Nasturtiums	Stock
Celosia	Gaillardia	Nicotiana	Verbena
Cleome	Geranium	Pansies	Zinnias

Plants for Semi-Shady Areas

Ageratum	Cosmos
Alyssum	Impatiens

Plants for Shady Areas

Begonia	Impatiens
Browallia	Lobelia



*Making the world beautiful
one flower at a time.*