

Annual Planting and Care



Annuals are non woody plants that complete their life cycle in one season. The many varieties of different colors, sizes, and sun choices are great in landscape beds, flower gardens, hanging baskets, window boxes, containers, or as temporary fillers and ground covers.

Planting With Annuals

Annuals need higher levels of water and maintenance, so plant them near accessible water sources. Plant annuals in beds with other plants with the same maintenance requirements. Annuals are most known for the bright colors they provide, so consider what colors will complement each other when picking them out. Warm colors make the plants appear closer to the viewer and the space seem smaller. Cool colors are more soothing and relaxing. When planting annuals consider the plant height and where each plant will draw the most attention to itself. In containers, plant the tallest plants in the back, so all plants are seen, or in the center when all sides of the planter are visible.



Growing Annuals

Prepare an annual bed by working the soil 8-12 inches deep. A soil amendment may be helpful such as compost, peat moss, or perlite to improve the soil conditions

Annuals will need to be watered thoroughly at the time of planting. Annual flowers usually require 1-1½ inches of water a week. Long infrequent waterings are preferred to short frequent ones. Annuals in landscape beds should be watered at least 1-2 times a week. While annuals in containers may need to be watered every day if they are in the sun and temperatures are high. Poking a finger into the soil is a simple way to feel if the soil is moist.

There are many great fertilizers for annuals, here are some we prefer. *Osmocote* is a slow-release plant food that will start feeding plants at relatively low soil temperatures, so it will give annuals an early start. It promotes vigorous growth and strong roots, can be used on edible plants, and feeds up to 4 months. *Fertilome Start and Grow* is another option of a slow-release plant food that feeds up to 4 months. *Jack's All Purpose* and *Jack's Blossom Booster Water Soluble Plant Foods* are two great options of fast-release fertilizers for annuals. These fertilizers feed through the roots and leaves and can be used alone or together for quick green up and brighter flowers.