

# Essentials For A Beautiful Flower Bed

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Having a beautiful flower garden is something I have always thrived to have, seems like every time I get my garden looking good I move. I am hoping these plant “Essentials For A Beautiful Flower Bed,” will aid you in having the flower garden you desire.

To get started the decision of having annuals or perennials flowers needs to be made.

#### The Pros of Annuals:

- Annuals are easy plants for beginner gardening.
- Are widely available and easy to grow, just follow the simple planting & growing instructions.
- They are great bloomers, they do bloom their heads off all season.
- Annuals are great for where you want a lot of flowers.
- Annuals aid you in changing the look of your garden every year.
- Annuals are good for containers.
- Want flowers now? Annuals bloom right away.

#### The Cons of Annuals:

- They generally need more watering and fertilizing.
- And planting them every year can be a chore.

#### The Pros of Perennials:

- They come back year after year.
- They tend to need less care than annuals.
- They bloom for weeks
- Root system stays alive for years, even decades.

#### The Cons of Perennials

- They have a shorter bloom time.
- They may take a year or more to get established.
- May take a year or more to get established.



## PLANT ESSENTIALS:

Plants are like people they have their own unique personality and like different things, water, sunlight and soil. Some plants like it hot and sunny and some like it cool and shady.

It is all an experiment, a trial and error, so relax and have fun with your flower garden. How much time do you want to spend gardening? Plants require care, so the size of your garden will determine how much time you want to be willing to work on producing those beautiful flowers, starting small and increasing the size as you go. So if you want to have those flowers you so enjoy use the, "Essentials For A Beautiful Flower Bed."

**SUN** : Like anything, humans, plants, animals they all take energy and sun is the great source of energy. Because plants need sun to grow, which many of them need 6 to 8 hours of sunlight, what plant you are planting where. Of course there are those plants that thrive in the shade, shade and part-shade plants will do best where they don't get hot afternoon sun.

**TIP:** Don't know how much sun you get in your yard, try this, one day spend time watching how much sun your chosen flower

space gets.

**LOCATION:** Of course location has much to do about the sun/shade element and which plants you pick to plant. Consider if you are planting in a pot or in an actual flower bed, both annuals and perennials can be planted in either. Perennials do very well in the flower bed as their roots continue to stay alive in the ground and especially in very cold climate, of course with the right care.

**Zone:** Know your planting ZONE, it is critical for some plants. <https://garden.org/nga/zipzone/> Your seed packets generally provide the zone planting information. I live in Zone 4, the winters can get very cold, sometimes down to 30 below zero, some perennials would not survive in those temperatures.

**WATERING:** Another essential for having a beautiful flower garden. You may need to water your plants regularly to keep those plants healthy and blooming! Watering your plants that are in container is critical because they dry out faster. How often to water? It depends, hotter and/or air pulls the moisture out of plants and soil quicker, so more watering is required.

**AN EASY TEST:** Put your finger in the soil, does it feel moist 2 to 3 inches down, then you are good! For container plants I always use those under the pot saucers, keeping them full then your plant can drink when it is thirsty!

Also depends on how often it rains and how humid the climate is. If your plants are looking wilted obviously they need a drink! Water slowly and deeply, watering in the early morning hours or in the cool of the evening.

**NUTRIENTS:** Plants need nutrients just like we do, to keep growing and stay healthy. Plants need nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, if the soil doesn't have enough of these needed nutrients you may need to add some manually. There are fertilizers you can buy that will add the needed nutrients to your plants. I have some common household products to enhance my plants, epsom salt and used coffee grounds add nutrients to any garden, flower or vegetable. Mulches help to keep weeds out and water in! There are all kinds of mulch, pine needles to bark chips. For perennials a long lasting mulch like bark chips is the best.

### **A FEW GOODIES:**

- In northern climates annuals are best for color in containers, although there are annuals like zinnas, marigolds or nasturtium I have found work beautifully planted right in the garden.
- Spring is a good time to begin growing.
- Start planning before the snow melts.
- Fall is a good time to plant trees, shrubs, bulbs and some perennials.



Plant Ideas

## PLANT IDEAS:

### Shade Plants:

#### Annuals:

- Fushia
- Lobelia
- Impatients
- Coleus
- Begonia

#### Perennials:

- Astilbe
- Hosta
- Bleeding Hearts
- Foxgloves
- Columbine

### Sunlight Plants:

#### Annuals:

- Cosmos
- Marigolds
- Petunia
- Geraniums
- Sunflowers
- Morning Glories

#### Perennials:

- Russian Sage
- Lamb's Ears
- Black-eyed Susans
- Phlox
- Pansies
- Daylillies

Ta-da you are set for enjoying a beautiful  
flower garden!!