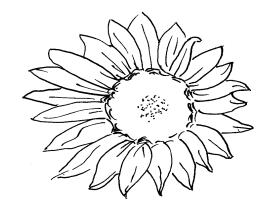
Growing Tips 23

ANNUALS FOR SUN



Flowering annual plants bloom from spring to fall. They **don't overwinter**, but the **reward of low maintenance continuous color** is worth the effort of planting out in May.

This list includes annuals bred for easy maintenance and to bloom through the heat of summer. Some will benefit from weekly removal of faded blossoms ("dead-heading") or shearing mid-season to stimulate blooming. Read the labels on transplants available in your garden center to verify the identity of plants and for care instructions.

Prepare the soil for annuals as you would for a vegetable garden. The same steps apply.

→ See *Growing Tips 18* Plan a Vegetable Garden.

FLOWERING ANNUALS	Prefers	Color	
Angelonia (Angelonia angustifolia)	<u>٥</u> ٥	B,I,V,W,P	
Bidens (Bidens ferulifolia)	$\bigcirc \Diamond$	Υ	
Blanket Flower (Gaillardia pulchella)	$\bigcirc \Diamond$	R,O,Y O,Y,V,W,P	
Cape Daisy (Osteospermum x hybrida)	○€◊		
Flossflower (Ageratum houstonianum)	O€O	B,I,V,W,P	
Gazania (Gazania ringens)	$\bigcirc \Diamond$	O,Y,W,P	
Lantana (<i>Lantana camara</i>)	$\bigcirc \Diamond$	R,O,Y,V,P,W	
Marigold (Tagetes spp.)	$\bigcirc \Diamond$	O,Y,W	
Mexican Heather (Cuphea spp.)	$\bigcirc \Diamond$	R,O,Y,V,W,P	
Petunia (<i>Petunia x hybrida</i>)	$\bigcirc \Diamond$	R,O,Y,B,I,V,W,P	
Phlox (Phlox drummondii)	$\bigcirc \Diamond$	R,B,V,W,P	
Portulaca (Portulaca grandiflora)	$\bigcirc \Diamond$	R,O,Y,W,P	
Salvia (Salvia x hybrida and spp.)	$\bigcirc \Diamond$	R,O,B,I,V,W,P	
Snapdragon (Antirrhinum majus)	$\bigcirc \Diamond$	R,O,Y,V,W,P	
Strawflower (Bracteantha bracteata)	0	R,O,Y,W,P	
Sweet Alyssum (Lobularia maritima)	$\bigcirc \Diamond$	V,W,P	
Verbena (<i>Verbena x hybrida</i>)	$\bigcirc \Diamond$	R,O,B,I,V,W,P	
Zinnia (<i>Zinnia x hybrida</i>)	$\bigcirc \Diamond$	R,O,Y,G,V,W,P	
FOLIAGE ANNUALS			
Sweet Potato Vine (Ipomoea batatas)	○①	G,V,multi	
Dusty Miller (Senecio cineraria)	$\bigcirc \Diamond$	G, Silver	
Ornamental Kale (Brassica oleracea)	೦	G,V,W,P multi	
Ornamental Pepper (Capsicum annum)	೦	R,O,Y,G,V multi	

○ Sun - at least 6 hours ● Part shade			
	♦ Average moisture ♦ Steady moisture		
	Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet. White, Pink		

Nifty Note

For earliest blooms, **transplant annuals from individual cell-packs**. Your garden will fill out in quickly for enjoyment the entire season!

ANNUAL GRASSES	Prefers	Color
Feather Grass	\bigcirc 00	G
(Stipa tenuissima)		
Fountain Grass	\bigcirc 00	R,P
(Pennisetum setaceum)		
Golden Millet Grass	00	Y,G
(Milium effusum)		

Keep it Simple

- Combine contrasting colors for dramatic visual effect. Multi-colored foliage plants will tie everything together! Include tall plants for architectural interest.
- Plant sturdy, well-grown young plants after the last frost in your area.
- Space according to directions on the label.
 Plants should grow to touch each other to discourage weeds.
- Mulch, then water with care throughout the season, as necessary. → See Growing Tips 6 Watering New Plantings.

Great Combos

Plants in the combinations below are listed by height, low to high. Choose your favorite colors.

- Full Sun: bidens, salvia, lantana, ornamental pepper, angelonia, fountain grass
- Sun/Part Shade: sweet alyssum, flossflower, cape daisy, dusty miller, snapdragon, feather grass

Sow Seeds

Plant seeds of carefree annuals such as calendula, cosmos, bachelor's button, nasturtium, sunflower and zinnia into prepared soil in late May. Annuals will provide **bouquets** all summer.



www.umassgreeninfo.org/homegarden www.mass.gov/massgrown www.massflowergrowers.com/