



PREDESIGNED CUT FLOWER GARDEN PLANTING GUIDE

SITE SELECTION

Select a sight that has well-draining soil and receives at least 8 hours of sun, with some afternoon shade.

SITE PREPARATION

Begin by spreading a thick 3–4 inch (7–10 cm) layer of compost evenly over each garden bed. Next, add a generous sprinkle of high-quality organic fertilizer. Our favorite is Nature’s Intent (7-2-4), which contains natural ingredients like bone meal, cottonseed meal, feather meal, kelp meal, and rock powders. If this brand isn’t available in your area, take the nutrient profile to your local garden or feed store—they’ll likely have a good alternative. Once the compost and fertilizer are down, mix them lightly into the top layer of soil.

PLANTING PREPARATION

We recommend using a Warren Triangular hoe, to make rows to plant the plants. This makes it easier and more efficient than making individual holes. Wetting the soil thoroughly before will make this easier.

Plant your plants about an inch above the soil line, that way after settling, they are not too low, and in an area where water will pool and settle.

POST PLANTING AND WATERING

For newly planted flowers, aim to keep the soil consistently moist. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP!!! In the beginning, this may mean watering 2–3 times a day. As the plants establish themselves, you can gradually reduce to 1–2 deep waterings per week, and more frequently during hot spells. Deep watering encourages strong root growth and helps the plants become more resilient over time. Water at the base of the plants, as overhead watering can lead to fungal infections, sunburn and other diseases.

To help retain moisture and suppress weeds, we recommend mulching your flower beds thickly with straw (avoid hay, as it often contains weed seeds). As your plants grow, feed them every other week with compost tea or liquid sea kelp. Flowers will also need support, bamboo stakes and twine or flower netting both work well.

HARVESTING

When harvesting, make your cuts deep into the plant. This promotes branching, encourages more blooms, and results in longer stems over time. Cut flowers during the cooler parts of the day—early morning or late evening is ideal. Place them immediately into a bucket or vase of cool water, and allow them to rest for at least a few hours before arranging or working with them.

All of your plants are "cut-and-come-again" varieties, meaning the more you harvest from them, the more they'll grow and bloom. Regular cutting encourages continuous flower production throughout the season.

VASE LIFE

To keep your cut flowers fresh for as long as possible, start with a clean vase. Wash it thoroughly with hot, soapy water, rinse well, and consider sanitizing it with a solution of one part bleach to ten parts water. Always clean the vase each time you change the water and before storing it. Fresh water is essential—replace it every 2–3 days, or even daily, depending on the flowers and environment. Don't just top it off; empty the vase and refill it with fresh, cool water, and consider adding commercial flower food to nourish the blooms and reduce bacterial growth. Proper stem care is also key: trim the stems at an angle each time you change the water to help them absorb moisture more effectively, and remove any foliage that would sit below the waterline to prevent rot. Finally, place your arrangement in a cool, shaded spot, away from direct sunlight, heat sources, and drafts to help extend the life of your flowers.