

Cutting Gardens

You can start a cutting garden

- in already existing flower beds in your landscape.
- by making space in your vegetable garden.
- by making a raised bed.
- in containers.

A sunny site offers more options; but if you don't have a sunny spot, there are still flowers suitable for cutting that will grow in shade to partial sun.

Soil is another consideration - it is important to have good drainage. Clay and sandy soils will have to be amended by adding organic matter such as compost, well-rotted manure, and peat moss.

Timing and Tools

The best time to cut flowers is early morning while the dew is still on the blossom. The reason this is the best time is because the blossoms have had a long, cool night to revive from the heat of the previous day. The second best time to cut flowers is late evening around sunset.

You will need sharp clippers and pruners to cut stems and branches. You will also need a pail of "air temperature" water to immediately submerge the stems into.

Never pull or break stems by hand. This could affect water flow to the flower and damage future blossom potential to the plant.

Always cut the stem at a 45° angle so water flow is not blocked at the bottom of the pail or vase.

When cutting your stems always cut below a node to ensure future blossoms.

Select blossoms at the proper stage of their blooming cycle. Almost all blossoms should be cut when buds are tight. If they are too tight, they won't open; and if they are already open, they won't last long in your arrangement.

Budding branches of flowering shrubs or trees should be cut when buds are tight, so they can open in the warmth of your house.

Annuals

Annuals - Spring/Early Summer

Ageratum
Antirrhinum (snapdragon)
Calendula (pot marigold)
Dianthus (carnation, sweet william)
Stock
Dusty Miller
Lathyrus (sweet pea)
Nicotiana (flowering tobacco)
Nigella (Love-in-a-mist)
Nemesia
Pansy and Viola
Lobularia-sweet alyssum

Annuals - Summer

Amaranthus (love lies bleeding)
Aster
Campanula medium (canterbury bells)
Capsicum (ornamental peppers)
Celosia (cocks comb)
Centaurea (bachelor buttons)
Clarkia
Cleome
Coleus
Coreopsis
Cosmos
Euphorbia
Gebera daisy
Gomphrena
Helichrysum (straw flower)
Heliotrope

Lantana
Limonium (statice)
Lobelia
Lunaria (money plant)
Molucella (bells of Ireland)
Perilla
Phlox
Physalis (Chinese lantern)
Salvia
Sunflower
Tagetes (marigold)
Talinum (jewels of opar)
Tithonia (Mexican sunflower)
Tropaeolum (nasturtium)
Verbena
Zinnia

Perennials

Spring/Early Summer

- Doronicum (leopard's bane)
- Bergenia (pigs squeak)
- Pulmonaria (lungwort)
- Dicentra (bleeding heart)
- Helleborus (Lenten rose)
- Primula (primroses, candelabra)
- Bellis (English daisy)
- Myosotis (forget me not)
- Anemone
- Dianthus
- Mertensia (Virginia bluebells)
- Polygonatum (Solomon's seal)
- Peony

Summer

- Achillea (yarrow)
- Alcea (hollyhocks)
- Aquilegia (columbine)
- Artemesia (wormwood)
- Asclepias (butterfly weed)
- Astilbe
- Brunnera
- Campanula
- Centaurea (cornflower)
- Centranthus (red valerian)
- Coreopsis
- Delphinium
- Digitalis (foxglove)
- Echinacea (coneflower)
- Echinops (globe thistle)
- Eryngium (sea holly)

Late Summer

- Aster
- Chrysanthemum
- Helenium
- Helianthus
- Heliopsis
- Rudbeckia
- Sedum
- Solidago (golden rod)
- Echinacea (coneflower)

Vines

- Clematis
- Anaphalis (Porcilan vine)
- Akebia (chocolate vine)
- Lonicera (honeysuckle)
- Sweet Pea
- Hops Vine

Tropical

- Agapanthus (lily of the Nile)
- Alstroemeria (lily of Peru)
- Buddleia (butterfly bush)
- Hibiscus
- Bouganvillea
- Mandevilla
- Passion flower

Ornamental/Edibles

- Dill
- Fennel
- Mentha
- Rue
- Artichoke

Shrubs & Trees

Cornus (dogwood)

Amilanchier (serviceberry)

Forsythia

Malus (crabapple)

Prunus (flowering cherry)

Rhododendren

Azalea

Syringa (lilac)

Magnolia

Redbud

Corylus (hazel)

Hamamelis (witch hazel)

Philadelphus (mock orange)

Hydrangea

Spiraea

Deutzia

Cotoneaster

Cotinus (smoke bush)

Viburnum

Rose

Ilex (holly)