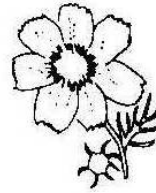


ANNUALS



Tips for the Home Gardener

Annuals brighten the landscape with dependable color that often lasts until the autumn frost. True annuals, unlike biennial or perennial plants, grow from seed each year and complete their life cycle in one growing season. Many other plants are grown as annuals in northern climates, but are actually perennials in warmer regions where they are not threatened by frost.

Tips for Growing Annuals

- ☞ To prepare the soil, turn it over with a pitchfork, breaking up lumps as you go. Have the soil tested to determine if fertilizer or other amendments are needed.
- ☞ If organic matter is needed, spread 2"-3" of compost or manure over the bed. If necessary, you can also add a light application of fertilizer, about 2 lbs. per 100 square feet. The organic matter and fertilizer will mix into the soil as you plant.
- ☞ Purchasing transplants at local garden centers is a simple method to obtain popular annuals. You can also grow annuals from seed to save money and access a greater selection of plants. Consult the seed package to determine when seeds need to be started and transplanted.
- ☞ Use the seed packet, plant label, or other literature to learn about the cultural requirements for each annual.

Longwood's Annual Display

Visit Longwood's Annual Display in the Idea Garden to access a living catalog of annuals that perform well in southeastern Pennsylvania, showcasing familiar favorites as well as innovative new cultivars. The fourteen beds include many "All-America Selections Winners," recognized by a non-profit organization dedicated to testing new plant varieties throughout the nation, selecting the best, and recommending them to the general public. To see a list of this year's All-America Selections Winners, visit their website at <http://www.all-americaelections.org/>.

Maintenance for Annuals

- ☞ When the plants are 2"-4" in height, pinch off the upper part of the plant just above the top set of leaves. This will encourage the plant to develop side branches, making the plant fuller and more prolific in flowers.
- ☞ If plants grow tall and begin to bend or fall, loosely tie them to stakes several inches shorter than the anticipated height of the plant at maturity. (See Longwood's [Tips for the Home Gardener: Perennials](#) for more information about staking.)
- ☞ Deadhead annuals routinely by removing and discarding old flower heads. This process will make the plant look more attractive as well as encourage continual flower production.
- ☞ Mulch the flower beds with two inches of shredded bark or leaves to keep weeds down and retain moisture.
- ☞ Fertilize as needed with organic or chemical fertilizers. Organic fertilizers are slightly more expensive and are slower acting, but are less disruptive to the environment than chemical fertilizers.

List of Recommended Annuals

SUN ANNUALS		
Scientific name	Common Name	Bloom Colors
<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	Ageratum	blue, white
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> *	Black-eyed Susan	orange, yellow, rust
<i>Sanvitalia procumbens</i> *	Creeping zinnia	orange, yellow
<i>Gomphrena globosa</i> *	Globe amaranth	red, pink, purple, white
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	Madagascar periwinkle	pink, white
<i>Tagetes</i> spp.	Marigold	orange-red, orange, yellow, white
<i>Salvia farinacea</i>	Mealy-cup sage	blue, white
<i>Salvia splendens</i>	Scarlet sage	red, coral, purple, white
<i>Melampodium divaricatum</i> *	Melampodium	yellow
<i>Capsicum annuum</i>	Ornamental pepper	red, yellow, and purple (fruit)
<i>Petunia x hybrida</i>	Petunia	wide color range
<i>Gazania rigens</i> *	Treasure flower	pink, orange, yellow, white, bi-colors
<i>Zinnia elegans</i>	Zinnia	wide color range

Notes: Sun annuals need at least six hours of direct sunlight per day, so plant them in a sunny area. They often do well on the south side of a building.

LIGHT SHADE ANNUALS		
Scientific name	Common Name	Bloom Colors
<i>Browallia americana</i>	Bush violet	blue, purple-blue, white
<i>Solenostemon scutellarioides</i>	Coleus	various colors (foliage)
<i>Lobelia erinus</i>	Edging lobelia	blue, white
<i>Pentas lanceolata</i>	Egyptian star cluster	red, pink, white
<i>Nicotiana alata</i>	Flowering tobacco	greenish-yellow, purple, white
<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>	Four o'clock	pink, purple, white
<i>Verbena x hybrida</i> *	Garden verbena	red, pink, purple, white
<i>Torenia fournieri</i>	Wishbone flower	pink, blue, purple, white

Notes: Light shade annuals do best with 3-6 hours per day of direct sun, preferring the cooler sunshine of early morning or evening. For the remaining daylight hours, they like indirect or dappled light.

SHADE ANNUALS		
Scientific name	Common Name	Bloom Colors
<i>Begonia</i> spp. (some cultivars)	Wax begonia	red, pink, white
<i>Impatiens walleriana</i>	Sultana impatiens	wide color range
<i>Nicotiana sylvestris</i>	Woodland tobacco	white

Notes: Shade annuals prefer to grow in areas with less than three hours of direct sunlight. Plant them under trees with dense canopies or on the north side of a building.

*Drought-tolerant