

Annual Care



Planting

These plants grow and flower best in the warm months of late spring, summer, and early fall; they're cold tender and may perish in a late frost if planted too early in the spring. In cold-winter climates, set out warm-season annuals after the danger of frost has passed.

Fertilizer

- Granular Fertilizer: For annuals in beds and borders, granular fertilizers are one option. Spread granular fertilizers over the soil around the plants and scratch them in lightly. Then water. You can apply synthetic granular fertilizers at planting time and periodically throughout the growing season.

- Liquid Fertilizer: Ideal for potted plants. Apply every three to four weeks.

Pruning

Pinching or nipping off growing tips makes a plant bushier. Use your thumb and forefinger to pinch back annuals that often get leggy; do this two or three times during the growing season.

Deadheading simply means removing faded flowers. Use pruners or sharp shears to clip spent blossoms from flowering plants such as petunias, marigolds, and geraniums.

Watering

Look for signs such as loss of gloss on leaves - or simply stick your finger into the soil. Most annuals like soil slightly and evenly moist 2 or 3 inches down. If possible while watering, water the soil directly into pot or on the ground, not the plants, flowers and leaves.

Sunlight

- Full Sun: This is an area that gets at least 6 hours of direct sunlight throughout the day.

- Partial Sun/Partial Shade: These terms are similar and generally mean an area that gets 3 to 6 hours of sun.

- Shade/Full Shade: Shade refers to an area that receives less than 3 hours of direct sunlight each day. Full shade is an area that doesn't get any direct sun exposure, but may receive bright, indirect light.