



ANNUALS

Plants that perform their entire life cycle from seed to flower to seed within a single growing season. All roots, stems and leaves of the plant die annually. Only the dormant seed bridges the gap between one generation and the next.

BEST TIME TO PLANT

Annuals need to be planted at different times of the season depending on variety, acclimation processes and the growing process.

Some prefer the cooler temperatures of spring and fall while others prefer the heat of summer. It is best to wait till the ground has thawed in March to begin planting cool season annuals such as pansies, alyssum, violas snapdragons, petunias, verbena, dusty miller, and so forth.

For heat loving annuals such as impatiens, geraniums, periwinkle, coleus, potato vine, etc., it is best to wait until the danger of the last frost has passed. This is early May in our area.

FERTILIZING

Fertilizing is important for plant health. A starving plant cannot perform to its best potential, just like you and I.

Healthy/vigorous plants can also ward off disease and bugs better than a weak plant.

Some plants required a special fertilizer like orchids and African violets. Most all flowering annuals and flowering tropicals can be fertilized with a good general purpose fertilizer like osmocote or flower tome.

Foliage plants and tropical house plants can be fertilized with a natural type fertilizer.

BASIC CARE

Upon planting any annuals, it best to make sure you have planted your plants in the proper lighting/sun conditions.

A plant labeled as "sun lover", needs at least a half of day of sun or more, and even better if a good portion for the sun is in the afternoon.

Plants labeled as "shade", can handle some sun in the morning when it is cooler, but need to be protected from the harsh afternoon sun.

WATER REQUIREMENTS

Watering is extremely important in successfully growing plants. Too little can stress the plant, and too much makes conditions favorable for disease and root rot to occur. Each variety of annual may have different water needs, therefore check you plants often and water well when dry, especially in summer.

DEADHEADING

Annuals are a great way to add wall to wall color to you landscape and containers as they continually boom throughout the season.

Picking/clipping off old blooms will encourage new blooms to continually keep coming and rewarding you!

