Growing Annuals in South Dakota

Dean Martin

Follow this and additional works at: https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension_fact

Recommended Citation
https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension_fact/1321

This Fact Sheet is brought to you for free and open access by the SDSU Extension at Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in SDSU Extension Fact Sheets by an authorized administrator of Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. For more information, please contact michael.biondo@sdstate.edu.
ANNUAL FLOWERS

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Annuals are plants which grow from seeds, attain maturity, flower, and produce seeds, all in one season or less, then die. They are different from perennials which grow and flower year after year, or biennials which grow vegetatively one year, flower the second season, then die. Some annuals appear to live over from year to year. Some hardy annuals may do this, but more often the plants which seemingly persist from season to season grow from seed which has wintered over in the soil.

As a group, annuals come from all parts of the world. There is no class more versatile. They are admirable for bedding, for edging, or for "fill-in" material in the spring bulb garden and perennial border. The length of the colorful garden display can be increased by several weeks if annuals are seeded in the garden from mid to late summer.

Keep these basic principles in mind when growing annual flowers:

• **Procure seed from a reputable source.** Investigate those varieties which have been tested and approved. Seedsmen are proud of their pure strains of annuals, and the desirability of using them can not be over-emphasized. Note which varieties have been awarded special citations. Most of them are truly superb.

• **Keep annuals blooming and prolong the blooming season by picking faded flowers from the plants all summer long.** If this is not done, the plants will bloom for only a short time and then die.

Annuals are listed under three classifications:

1. **Hardy**—withstand early spring frosts and can be seeded in the garden as soon as the ground can be worked.
2. **Half-hardy**—require a longer season in which to mature and bloom; should be started indoors.
3. **Tender**—require a still earlier start in the greenhouse or hotbed; cannot be transplanted outdoors until all danger of frost is past.

**Hardy Annuals**

These may be sowed directly into the soil early in the spring. Dig the soil deeply, pulverize, and liberally enrich with well-rotted barnyard manure or other organic matter at the rate of about 5 bushels per 100 square feet of garden area. A 10-10-10 or similar commercial fertilizer—2 pounds used over the same area—may be incorporated during soil preparation.

Hardy annuals include these . . .

- African Daisy (Arctotis and Dimorphotheca)
- Alyssum
- Annual Anchusa
- Annual Baby's Breath
- Bachelor's Button
- Calendula
- California Poppy (Escholtzia)
- Calliopsis
- Candytuft
- Celosia
- Clarkia
- Cosmos
- Annual Sweet William (Dianthus)
- Stock
- Gaillardia
- Larkspur
- Lupine
- Marigold (all types)
- Petunia
- Phlox
- Poppy (Shirley)
- Sunflower (Helianthus)
- Sweet Pea
- Verbena
- Zinnia

**Half-Hardy Annuals**

These may be started indoors or in the greenhouse about mid-March in shallow containers (3 to 4 inches deep). Sow the seeds in a light, friable soil containing 30 to 40 per cent sand. Sow very fine seeds on the surface of the soil, and press in—don't cover. Keep the containers in a warm place. Shade the container with a piece of paper and water sparingly until the new plants emerge above the soil. Then move gradually to full sunlight. There they may require more water, but be cautious not to overwater—this causes plants to grow rank and succulent, and predisposes them to attack by "damping-off" diseases.

The list of half-hardy annuals includes these . . .

- Annual Asters
- Annual Flax (blue and scarlet)
- Lobelia
- Painted Tongue (Salpiglossis)
- Pansy
- Petunia
- Phlox
- Salvia
- Snapdragon
- Sweet Sultan
- Torenia
- Verbena
- Zinnia
- Wallflower
Tender Annuals

These must be started in the same way as half-hardy sorts, but earlier—in February in the greenhouse or in hotbeds during March.

Tender annuals include...

- Balsam (Impatiens)
- Butterfly Flower (Schizanthis)
- Castor Bean
- Chrysanthemum (annual)
- Floss Flower (Ageratum)
- Gourd
- Mignonette
- Nasturtium
- Scarlet Runner Bean
- Everlastings

Annuals for Color

Not even among perennials can the brilliance and variety of colors match those of annuals. Annuals truly run the gamut of the spectrum. Individual tastes will determine the arrangement of colors in regard to pleasing combinations, but pay attention to harmony. Beautiful effects can be achieved by arranging single sorts or types or colors of flowers in masses or “drifts” rather than by using only a few of each type spaced far apart in the garden. The following combinations have been tried and found to give excellent results:

**MAROON AND WHITE:** Scabiosa and Nicotiana; Black Prince Snapdragon and Sweet Alyssum

**BLUE AND YELLOW:** Calliopsis and Bachelor Button; Zinnias and Larkspur

**PINK AND YELLOW:** Snapdragon and Marigold; Verbena and Calendula; Annual Phlox Drummondi and Snapdragon; Scabiosa and Marigold

**PINK AND BLUE:** Annual Phlox Drummondi as edging for Larkspur; pink and blue Larkspur; Sweet William and Ageratum

**ORANGE AND RED:** Calliopsis and Nasturtium; Marigold and Salvia; Zinnia and Marigold; Gaillardia and Marigold

Annuals for Cutting

Annuals planted in rows are a valuable addition to any vegetable garden. They may be cut and used for floral arrangements without ruining the display as they would if taken from the permanent border planting.

Among the best annuals for the cutting garden are the following...

- African Daisy
- Annual Asters
- Annual Carnation
- Baby's Breath
- Bachelor's Button
- Chrysanthemum (annual)
- Cosmos
- Everlastings (ideal for dried arrangements)
- Grass: annual
- Lark
- Love
- Mar
- Mig
- Nast
- Painted Tongue (Salpiglossis)
- Pansy
- Pentunia
- Phlox
- Poppy
- Stocks
- Sweet Pea
- Sweet Sultan
- Verbena

Annuals for Shade

More often than not it is difficult to grow good, thrifty plants in shade. Plants grown with insufficient sunlight tend to grow tall and rank, have weak stems, and foliage and flowers lack good color. There are some sorts of annuals, however, which are shade tolerant. They include...

- Annual Asters
- Bachelor's Button
- Pansy
- Butterfly Flower (Schizanthis)
- Snapdragon
- Torenia

Annuals for the Rock Garden

The “backbone” of any good rock garden is a selection of low-growing evergreens and deciduous shrubs and perennial plants. Annuals are valuable here, too, because of their brilliant color display, especially at a time when other sorts have finished flowering. The best of the low-growing annuals for this purpose includes...

- Baby Blue-eyes (Nemophila)
- Baby's Breath (Gypsophila)
- Meadow Foam (native in wooded areas of the state)
- Pimpernel
- Stonecrop (Sedum species)
- Violet Cress
- Diamond-Flower
Annuals to Grow on Dry Soil

Browallia
Candytuft
Cosmos
Cynoglossum (Blanche Burpee)
Gaillardia
California Poppies
Calliopsis
Zinnias
Red Flax
Portulaca

Annual Climbing Vines

Canary Creeper
Cardinal Climber
Cup and Saucer Vine
Cypress Vine
Gourds
Hyacinth-bean Vine
Moonflower Vine
Nasturtium
Scarlet Runner Bean
Sweet Pea
Wild Cucumber

Annuals for Edging

Alyssum varieties:
- Little Gem (white)
- Carpet of Snow (white)
- Royal Carpet (violet)
- Violet Queen (violet and white)
- Anagallis (Pimpernel, many colored)
Brachycome
Lobelia
Dwarf Nasturtium
Nemesia
Nemophila
Pansy

Annuals for Hanging Baskets and Window Boxes

Clock Vine
Kenilworth Ivy
Alyssum
Browallia
Dusty Miller
Dwarf Zinnias
Floss Flower (Ageratum)
Lobelia
Perwinkle (Vinca)
French Marigolds
Tom Thumb Nasturtiums
Pansy
Petunia
Phlox
Portulaca
Verbena

Annuals for Fragrance

Alyssum
Candytuft
Dianthus (Sweet William)
Stock
Mignonette
Petunia
Snapdragon
Sweet Pea
Nicotiana
Verbena
Siberian Wallflower

Annuals to Grow in a Damp Location

Annual Forget-me-nots (Myosotis)
Pansy
Phlox
Sanvitalia
Butterfly-flower (Schizanthus)
# ANNUAL FLOWERS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Uses</th>
<th>Planting Time</th>
<th>Planting Site Preference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Ageratum</td>
<td>Floss flower</td>
<td>4-8 inches</td>
<td>Lavender</td>
<td>Edging</td>
<td>Inside*-March</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td></td>
<td>9-12 inches</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Bedding</td>
<td>Outside-May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tall</td>
<td></td>
<td>18-24 inches</td>
<td>White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Alyssum</td>
<td>Sweet Alyssum</td>
<td>3-4 inches</td>
<td>Lilac</td>
<td>Edging</td>
<td>Inside-March</td>
<td>Sun or Shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compact</td>
<td></td>
<td>6-10 inches</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Bedding</td>
<td>Outside*-April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spreading</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Antirrhinum</td>
<td>Snapdragon</td>
<td>6 inches</td>
<td>Most colors</td>
<td>Cut flowers</td>
<td>Inside*-March</td>
<td>Sun or Shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwarf</td>
<td></td>
<td>18 inches</td>
<td>except blue</td>
<td></td>
<td>Outside-April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td></td>
<td>36 inches</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Calendula</td>
<td>Pot Marigold</td>
<td>18-24 inches</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Cut flowers</td>
<td>Outside-April</td>
<td>Sun or partial shade, Most soils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Calliopsis</td>
<td>Calliopsis</td>
<td>9-15 inches</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Cut flowers</td>
<td>Outside-April</td>
<td>Sun or Shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwarf</td>
<td></td>
<td>18-30 inches</td>
<td>Brownish-red</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Callistephus</td>
<td>Annual or China Asters</td>
<td>18-36 inches</td>
<td>White, Pink</td>
<td>Border</td>
<td>Inside-April-May</td>
<td>Sun or Partial Shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Scarlet, Blue</td>
<td>Cut flowers</td>
<td>Outside-May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Purple</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Celosia</td>
<td>Crested Cockscomb</td>
<td>12-24 inches</td>
<td>Bright yellow,</td>
<td>Bedding</td>
<td>Inside*-March</td>
<td>Sun or shade. Prefer rich soil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cristata</td>
<td>Plume type Cockscomb</td>
<td></td>
<td>Red</td>
<td></td>
<td>Outside-May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Centaurea</td>
<td>Bachelor Button</td>
<td>24-36 inches</td>
<td>Blue, Pink</td>
<td>Cut flowers</td>
<td>Outside-March</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyanus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Purple, White</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Cosmos</td>
<td>Cosmos</td>
<td>2-5 ft.</td>
<td>White, Lilac</td>
<td>Inside*-April</td>
<td>Outside-May</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3-4 ft.</td>
<td>Pink, Crimson</td>
<td>Outside-March</td>
<td>Outside-April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6-3 ft.</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Cut Flowers</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Delphinium</td>
<td>Larkspur</td>
<td>2 ft.</td>
<td>White, Pink,</td>
<td>Border</td>
<td>Fall or Early</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ajacis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Blue, Scarlet, Blue</td>
<td>Cut flowers</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Purple</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Dianthus</td>
<td>Annual Pinks</td>
<td>12-inches</td>
<td>Red and</td>
<td>Bedding</td>
<td>Inside*-March</td>
<td>Full Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many species and varieties</td>
<td></td>
<td>related</td>
<td>plants, cut</td>
<td>Outside-April</td>
<td>Outside-April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>varieties</td>
<td>Carnation</td>
<td>1-1½ ft.</td>
<td>tones</td>
<td>flowers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caryophyl-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lus</td>
<td>Balsam, Touch-Me-Not</td>
<td>6-8 inches</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Bedding</td>
<td>Inside-March</td>
<td>Sun or Shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwarf</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rose</td>
<td></td>
<td>Outside-April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tall</td>
<td></td>
<td>2-2½ ft.</td>
<td>White, Pink</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sultanis</td>
<td>Sultana</td>
<td>15 in.</td>
<td>Pink,</td>
<td>Border</td>
<td>Outside-April</td>
<td>Tolerates shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rose</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Lathyrus</td>
<td>Sweet Pea</td>
<td>8 inches</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Arrangements</td>
<td>Inside-Feb.</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>odoratus</td>
<td></td>
<td>5-6 ft.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Carsages</td>
<td>or March</td>
<td>or March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwarf</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Outside-April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Mirabilis</td>
<td>Four O'Clock</td>
<td>1½-3½ ft.</td>
<td>Crimson, Yellow</td>
<td>Hedge</td>
<td>Inside*-March</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jalopa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>White, Striped</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>Outside-April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bells of Ireland</td>
<td>2-3 ft.</td>
<td>Bell-like sheath is green, Small flowers white</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Inside*-March</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arrangements</td>
<td>Outside-May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flowering Tobacco</td>
<td>1-5 feet</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Bedding</td>
<td>Inside*-March</td>
<td>Sun or partial shade, Most soils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1-3 feet</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td></td>
<td>Outside-April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1-5 feet</td>
<td>White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Molucella</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laevis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Nicotiana</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alata</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanderae</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>syvlestris</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botanical Name</td>
<td>Common Name</td>
<td>Height</td>
<td>Color</td>
<td>Uses</td>
<td>Planting Time (*Best Method)</td>
<td>Planting Site Preference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Petunia</td>
<td>Petunia</td>
<td>6-12 inches</td>
<td>White, Rose, Purple, Yellow, Pink</td>
<td>Bedding</td>
<td>Inside*—March Outside—May</td>
<td>Sun or Shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Phlox</td>
<td>Annual Phlox</td>
<td>6 inches</td>
<td>White, Magenta, Rose, Purple</td>
<td>Bedding</td>
<td>Inside*—March Outside—May</td>
<td>Full Sun Sandy Soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwarf Tall</td>
<td>Tall</td>
<td>1-1½ ft.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Border</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Portulaca</td>
<td>Moss Rose</td>
<td>6 inches</td>
<td>Purplish-crimson, Yellow, White</td>
<td>Bedding</td>
<td>Outside—October or April</td>
<td>Hot, Sunny location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grandiflora</td>
<td>or Sun Plant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Salvia</td>
<td>Salvia,</td>
<td>2-3 ft.</td>
<td>Scarlet</td>
<td>Foundation bedding Border</td>
<td>Inside*—March Outside—May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>splendens</td>
<td>Scarlet Sage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Scabiosa</td>
<td>Pincushion</td>
<td>2-3 ft.</td>
<td>Purple, Blue, Mahogany, Rose, White</td>
<td>Cut flowers</td>
<td>Inside*—March Outside—April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>atropurpurea</td>
<td>flower</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Tagetes</td>
<td>Marigold</td>
<td>8-12 inches</td>
<td>Yellow, Red, Orange</td>
<td>Edgings Cut flowers Bedding Background of Border</td>
<td>Inside*—March Outside—May</td>
<td>Sandy soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwarf (French)</td>
<td>Tall (African)</td>
<td>2-3 ft.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Tropaeolum</td>
<td>Nasturtium</td>
<td>10 inches</td>
<td>Yellow, Orange, Scarlet</td>
<td>Bedding</td>
<td>Outside—April Sun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwarf Medium</td>
<td></td>
<td>1½ ft.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tall (Climbing)</td>
<td></td>
<td>6 ft.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Verbena</td>
<td>Verbena</td>
<td>6 inches</td>
<td>White, Rose, Purple, Yellow</td>
<td>Ground cover Bedding Border Cut flowers</td>
<td>Inside*—March Outside—April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwarf Tall</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 foot</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Viola</td>
<td>Pansy</td>
<td>8 inches</td>
<td>Purple, Blue, White Yellow</td>
<td>Bedding Small arrangement</td>
<td>Inside*—February</td>
<td>Partial Shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tricolor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwarf Tall</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 ft.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>