



HOW TO PLANT ANNUALS

Many people choose annual plants for their gardens because they complete their life cycle in one year, starting from seeds in spring, blooming in summer and dying in the fall. As you prepare for planting season, here are some things to know before you begin.

ANNUALS FALL INTO THREE MAJOR HARDINESS CATEGORIES



TENDER ANNUALS

- Thrive in warm climates and have low tolerance for cold.
 - Exposure to cold temperatures can halt their growth or cause them to rot.
- Plant them in the spring, about two to three weeks before the final frost date, to allow the soil and air to warm up.
- **Tender annuals include:**
 - American Marigold
 - Mexican Sunflower

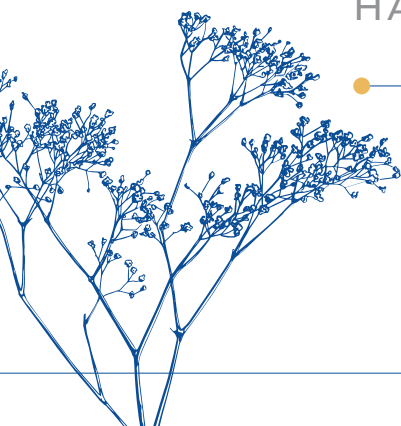
1



HARDY ANNUALS

- Most tolerant of cold temperatures.
 - These annuals will die when temperatures are too high.
- Best suited for locations with lower temperatures.
- Plant six weeks before the first fall frost date in your area, or in early spring, four weeks before the final spring frost date.
- **Hardy annuals include:**
 - Snapdragon
 - Pansy

2



HALF-HARDY ANNUALS

- A happy medium, these annuals are more tolerant to heat and cold.
 - They are still vulnerable to damage from the cold and won't last into the winter.
- Plant two weeks before the final spring frost date.
- **Half-Hardy annuals include:**
 - Annual Baby's Breath
 - Strawflower

3

SEEDS VS. PLANTS

When deciding whether to sow seeds or plant young plants, consider cost and time. Seeds are cost-effective but take longer to grow. Planting established plants is more time-efficient and eliminates risks of planting late in the season.

PLANTING WITH SEEDS



1. Spread slow-release fertilizer in your planting area, using 1 pound for every 100 square feet.
2. Follow the planting instructions on the seed packet, plant seeds at the correct depth and spacing, press them into the soil and water gently.
3. Keep the soil moist for 7 to 10 days for successful germination.

PLANTING YOUNG PLANTS

1. Water the plants in their containers and let the water drain for 5 to 10 minutes before removing them.
2. Untangle any knotted roots and gently break up the root ball.
3. Dig a hole at the same level or slightly deeper than the original pot.
4. Place the plant in the hole, fill with soil, and create a small moat around the stem.
5. Water thoroughly and spread slow-release fertilizer to help your plants grow strong.

