



CLIPPINGS a weekly column from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

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For Immediate Release

A Fun and Easy-to-Grow Flower

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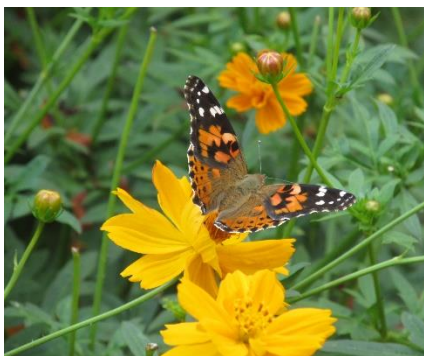
Looking for an easy-to-grow flower with loads of color? Look no further. Cosmic Orange Cosmos are the solution if you like brilliant orange flowers!

This spring, my gardening started out as a prevented plant situation. Unable last fall and this spring to get rototilling done, I scratched out a row with my hoe and planted the cosmos seed. To my surprise, the cosmos did very well.

Cosmic Orange Cosmos was named an All American Selection winner in 2000 and for good reason. It is basically pest- and disease-free and requires no deadheading. Plus, it has vivid orange blooms, is good for cutting, containers and borders, and blooms all summer and into the fall. And, during our week of extremely hot weather, the Cosmic Orange Cosmos were very heat tolerant!



Cosmic Orange Cosmos are sun-loving annuals and in a full-sun garden, they will attain a height of 12-22 inches. With ample moisture this summer, my Cosmic Orange Cosmos were 2-3 feet tall with abundant 2-inch blooms.



But aside from their neon orange color, Cosmic Orange Cosmos have another important quality. This summer, they were covered with Painted Lady butterflies!

If you are looking for other annuals, ISU Extension and Outreach has a great publication, "Annuals," that can be ordered from the ISU store at <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/6449>. This publication includes 106 plant descriptions and 186 color photos. There is a comparison chart for height and color and recommendations for specific uses, such as drought tolerance, fragrance and cut-flower bouquets. At \$5 per copy, I think it is a real bargain!