

Creating a Cut Flower Garden

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Benefits of Cut Flowers

1. Beautiful
2. Nature Connection
3. Creative

Site/Design Considerations

1. Full Sun
2. Well-drained, fertile soils
3. Access to water
4. Protection from wind/animals

Cultural/Maintenance Practices

1. Weed control
2. Irrigation
3. Fertilization
4. Pinching
5. Staking/Support
6. Deadheading

Harvest Tips

1. Morning harvest
2. Best stage of development
3. Immediately in water
4. Cool conditions
5. Floral preservatives?

Resources

Slow Flowers and 50-mile Bouquet by Debra Prinzing (2013 and 2012)

Specialty Cut Flowers by Allen Armitage and Judy Laushman (2008)

Cut Flower Garden and A Year in Flowers by Erin Benzakein (2017 and 2020)

Start to Finish: Growing a Cut Flower Garden by Illinois Ext. (www.extension.illinois.edu/blogs)

Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers (www.ascfg.org)

American-grown Cut flowers (www.americangrownflowers.org)

Plants to Consider for the Cut Flower Garden

Common Name	Genus	Bloom Time	Bloom Colors	Comments
Annuals				
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus</i>	Summer	Yellow, white, red	Pollenless types
Zinnia	<i>Zinnia</i>	Summer	All but blue	Many shapes/sizes
Celosia	<i>Celosia</i>	Summer	Many colors	Dries well
Globe Amaranth	<i>Gomphrena</i>	Summer	Many colors	Dries well
Amaranth	<i>Amaranthus</i>	Summer	Red, pink, yellow	Dries well
Verbena	<i>Verbena</i>	Summer	Blue/lavender	Reseeds/spreads
Floss flower	<i>Ageratum</i>	Summer	Lavender, white, pink	Tall cultivars
Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum</i>	Spring-fall	Many colors	Tall cultivars
Sweet Pea	<i>Lathyrus</i>	Spring	All but blue	Cool season best
Larkspur	<i>Consolida</i>	Summer	Blue, white, pink	Reseeds?
Statice	<i>Limonium</i>	Summer	Purple, pink, yellow	Dries well
Stock	<i>Matthiola</i>	Spring	Pink, white, purple	Cool; fragrant
Lisianthus	<i>Eustoma</i>	Summer	Many colors	Long germination
Bulbs				
Daffodil	<i>Narcissus</i>	Spring	Yellow, white	Force in winter
Tulip	<i>Tulipa</i>	Spring	All but blue	Force in winter
Dahlia	<i>Dahlia</i>	Summer-fall	All but blue	Overwinter?
Gladiolus	<i>Gladiolus</i>	Summer-fall	All but blue	Stagger planting
Lily	<i>Lilium</i>	Summer	All but blue	Hardy hybrids
Calla Lily	<i>Zantedeschia</i>	Summer-fall	Many colors	Overwinter?
Ranunculus	<i>Ranunculus</i>	Summer-fall	Many colors	Overwinter?
Perennials				
Iris	<i>Iris</i>	Spring (fall?)	All colors	Rebloomers
Peony	<i>Paeonia</i>	Spring	Pink, red, white	Harvest in bud
Blazing Star	<i>Liatris</i>	Summer	Lavender, white	Excellent
Coneflower	<i>Echinacea</i>	Summer	Many colors	Excellent
Baby's Breath	<i>Gypsophila</i>	Summer	White and pink	Floppy
Delphinium	<i>Delphinium</i>	Summer (fall)	Blue, pink, white	High maint.
Yarrow	<i>Achillea</i>	Summer	Yellow, white	Dries well
Globe Thistle	<i>Echinops</i>	Summer	Blue, lavender	Spreads
Phlox	<i>Phlox</i>	Summer	Pink, purple, white	Disease resist. cv.
Chrysanthemum	<i>Dendranthema</i>	Fall	Many colors	Overwinter?
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago</i>	Fall	Yellow, gold	excellent
Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum</i>	Fall	Pink, white, lavender	Disease resist. cv.
Helen's Flower	<i>Helenium</i>	Fall	Orange, yellow, red	Sneezeweed
Woody Plants				
Lilac	<i>Syringa</i>	Spring	Lavender, pink, white	Fragrant
Forsythia	<i>Forsythia</i>	Spring	Yellow, gold	Force in winter
Magnolia	<i>Magnolia</i>	Spring	Pink, white, yellow	Force in winter
Roses	<i>Rosa</i>	Summer	All but blue	Excellent
Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea</i>	Summer	White, pink, purple	Dries well
Red-twig dogwood	<i>Cornus</i>	Winter	Red or yellow stems	Winter color