



# Flora ur fantasi

## Plant annual flowers – what to think about

- Annual flowers thrive in sunlight, so plant them where they can soak up as much sun as possible to maximize harvest.
- Consider the arrangement in your flower bed or pallet collar - taller varieties at the back to avoid shading and stealing sunlight from lower varieties. Check the seed packet to get more information about plant and row spacing. The planting plan will also guide you on how to compose a beautiful pallet collar with the best conditions for the plants to grow and thrive.
- Use high-quality, well-fertilized soil when planting annual flowers and continue to provide nutrient-rich water throughout the season.
- Watch out for cold. Annual flowers are generally sensitive to frost, so do not plant them outside too early in the season. Protect them with horticultural fleece or a blanket on chilly days and nights.
- Beware of snails, which also fancy annual flowers. Snails emerge at dusk, especially after rain. Make it a habit to take a daily garden stroll and remove any you spot. You can also sprinkle snail pellets around the flowers as a supplement to manual removal.
- Show plenty of love. Annual flowers need a lot of water, nutrition, and care throughout the season. If you plan to be away, arrange for a flower sitter or invest in an automatic irrigation system.

## Harvest annual flowers – what to think about

- The best time to harvest flowers is in the morning when the stems are filled with water.
- Use sharp knife or secateur to avoid crushing the stems and reducing their ability to take up water and nutrients.
- Use cold water in the vase and consider adding a dash of vinegar and sugar for freshness and nourishment for your cut flowers.
- Strip all the leaves from the bottom half to two-thirds of each stem. As a general rule, any foliage below the water level should be removed to prevent it from rotting in the water.
- Change the water and re-cut the base of the stems every two to four days and remove any dead flowers to keep it fresh longer.

## Specific tips for each seed

### Sunflower

**Lighting conditions:** Plant in a flower bed or a pallet collar in full sun (minimum 6-7h sun/day).

Pre-cultivate the sunflower seeds indoors in April-May if you want early blooming. It can also be directly sown when the soil has warmed up. Prepare the soil by removing all weeds and break up clumps of soil. Add well-fertilized, high-quality soil and put some water on the soil. Direct sow the seed about 1 cm deep with 30 cm spacing and cover it with soil and water gently. Keep the soil moist until the seeds germinate. Plant (if pre-cultivated) the sunflower in well-fertilized, high-quality soil. Support the plant as it grows taller by using plant support sticks. Fertilize continuously during the season to enjoy a long, beautiful bloom. Harvest about 3 months after sowing. You can also use the tasty sunflower seeds for baking and cooking.

### Zinnia

**Lighting conditions:** Plant in a flower bed or, pallet collar or a large pot in full sun (minimum 6-7h sun/day).

Pinch the plant above the second or third pair of leaves (when it is about 10-15 cm high) to produce additional stems and more flowers. Plant the zinnia in well-fertilized, high-quality soil. Support the plant as it grows taller by using plant support sticks. Fertilize continuously during the season to enjoy a long, beautiful bloom. Harvest. The more you pick, the more it blooms. Therefore, pick continuously throughout the season to maximize the harvest.

### Amaranth

**Lighting conditions:** Plant in a flower bed or a pallet collar in full sun (minimum 6-7h sun/day).

Pre-cultivate the amaranth seeds indoors in April-May if you want early blooming. It can also be directly sown when the soil has warmed up. Prepare the soil by removing all weeds and break up clumps of soil. Add well-fertilized, high-quality soil and put some water on the soil.

**Direct sow.** Scatter the seed over the surface and cover it with a thin layer of soil. Keep the soil moist until the seeds germinate.

**Thin out.** Once seedlings are approximately 1 cm tall, thin out to one plant every 30 cm.

**Plant out (if pre-cultivated)** the amaranth in well-fertilized, high-quality soil. Support the plant by using plant support sticks.

Fertilize continuously during the season to enjoy a long, beautiful bloom. Harvest 2-3 months after sowing.

### Dahlia

**Lighting conditions:** Plant in a flower bed, in a pallet collar or a large pot in full sun (minimum 6-7h sun/day) - partial sun (3-5 h sun/day).

Pinch the plant above the second or third pair of leaves (when it is about 10-15 cm high) to produce additional stems and more flowers.

Plant the dahlia in well-fertilized, high-quality soil. Support the plant as it grows taller by using plant support sticks.

Fertilize continuously during the season to enjoy a long, beautiful bloom.

**Harvest.** The plant is very productive - the more you pick, the more it blooms. Therefore, pick continuously throughout the season to maximize the harvest.

**Winter store.** When the first frost comes, you can dig up the dahlia tuber and store it frost-free, cool, dry and dark during the winter and then re-plant it in your garden in the spring.

### Delphinium

**Lighting conditions:** Plant in a flower bed or in a pallet collar in full sun (minimum 6-7h sun/day) - partial sun (3-5 hours of sun/day). This is a perennial plant that will come back every year.

Plant the delphinium in well-fertilized, high-quality soil. Keep the soil evenly moist to avoid powdery mildew.

**Remove thin stems.** When plants are 5 cm high, remove all thin stems and keep 2-3 strong stems. This will help you to grow a healthier and more beautiful flower.

Fertilize continuously during the season to enjoy a long, beautiful bloom.

**Harvest** when 1/4 to 1/3 of flowers on the stem are open. Place immediately in water. Plants bloom again in late summer and early fall if cut back after the first bloom.

This plant is poisonous and should be handled with care. Both seeds and plant are toxic.

# Pre-cultivation with coco pellets

HOW TO SOW  
SEE INFO ABOUT SOWING TIME  
ON SEED PACKAGE



Place the number of pellets you intend to use on a plate, tray, or in a mini greenhouse. Carefully open the cover on top of the pellet so that it is "open" upwards.



Pour lukewarm water on the plate to have the pellets absorb the water from below. Allow the pellets to become completely moistened and swell to their full size.



Sow the seeds according to the instructions on the seed package. Rules of thumb; a) larger seeds – larger distance between the seeds b) the sowing depth is approx. 3 times the size of the seed. Tip! Place the seeds on a light-coloured paper. Write the name and sowing date on the plant label.

THE SEEDS SPROUT  
1-3 WEEKS AFTER SOWING



Cover the seed with a transparent cover (plastic film/plastic bag with holes, glass cloche). Placement on underfloor heating or in a window next to a radiator makes the seeds germinate faster. Water the tray regularly with lukewarm water – the pellets should always be humid, not to wet.



As soon as the seed has germinated and sprouted, it needs a lot of light. Place the seedling in a sunny window, preferably in an east or south-facing window or under a grow light.

TRANSPLANT THE SEEDLING  
1-2 MONTHS AFTER SOWING



When the seedling has about 4-6 leaves, it is time for transplanting. If you have sown several seeds in the same pellet, you can carefully split the pellet in half so that each seedling has more room for growth.

PLANTING IN GARDEN/OUTSIDE



Plant in a larger pot, about 7x7 cm, and fill with fertilized planting soil. Plant at the same depth as before unless otherwise specified. Water with lukewarm water so that the seedling absorbs the water from below.



When the risk of frost is over, you can start to harden off your plants by gradually exposing the delicate seedlings to wind, sun, and rain. Start with 1 hour/day and gradually increase the time outside. Avoid direct sunlight. After a week or so it is ready for life outdoors. See information about row and plant spacing on the seed package.