

# GROWING ANNUAL FLOWERS

## GROWING TIPS

### What are They?

Annuals are non woody plants that complete their life cycle in one season. Annual flowers can be a prime source of color to accent and liven a homes landscape. Most annuals begin blooming within a month of being planted and continue until frost. Choose from a wide range of colors, sizes and varieties. It is possible to plant annuals in sun or shade. They are perfect for beds, borders, rock gardens, window boxes, hanging baskets or as temporary ground covers and fillers.

### Soil Preparation

Prepare an annual bed by digging 8-12" deep and amend with compost, perlite or peat moss to enrich the soil. Rake the bed and smooth and remove any stones, clods or old plant debris before planting. In addition, use Myke Annual and Perennial Transplanter when planting your annuals. The mycorrhizae found in Myke naturally encourage faster establishment into the new site.

### Landscaping with Annuals

Annuals require higher levels of maintenance and water. Plant annuals in accessible areas near water sources. Plant in beds with other annuals or plants with the same requirements. Annuals are most notable for the color they provide. Color themes using related colors such as red and orange, yellow and green, or blue and purple work well. Warm colors bring excitement and appear closer to the viewer. This makes the space appear smaller. Cool colors are also more relaxing and soothe viewers. Using one color in various shades is a popular and attractive theme. Using complimentary colors, those found on opposite sides of the color wheel, is also a pleasing effect. Plant height is another consideration. It is important to place annuals so that their ability to draw attention is not diluted. In containers, plant

the taller plants in the back so all plants are visible, or plant the taller plants in the center when all sides of the container are visible.

### Maintenance

Annual flowers normally require 1-1½" of water a week. Water in newly planted annuals with a mixture of Super-thrive, a concentrated vitamin hormone that encourages fast development of fine feeder roots. Soaker hoses or drip irrigation are usually the best for watering annuals in the landscape. Avoid overhead watering, particularly in the evening. Watering in the morning can reduce foliage diseases.

### Annuals In Containers

Planting annuals in containers will require regular fertilization during the growing season. Every two weeks, alternate between a Rooting and Blooming formula. Superthrive added to the fertilizers will give the plants added vigor. Pinch off faded blooms weekly. Trailing plants can be pruned to keep the plants more compact. Annual flowers have relatively few insect and disease problems.

