

ANNUALS

HUMBER NURSERIES 'GREEN THUMB GUIDE'



Annuals are plants that complete their life cycle in one year. (Usually they live from spring until the first frost). They can be started from seed indoors in early spring or after frost danger has passed, sow them directly in the open ground or buy young plants and transplant them into the garden. They are often referred to as bedding plants and usually show best when planted in groups rather than individually. When planting on a small scale, use a minimum of three plants and try to place each group so that it compliments the plants around it, by either creating a unified flow or bright splashes of colour.

Annuals should be planted so that they compliment the plants around them. For example, use mauve or orchid-coloured Petunias in front of a yellow-flowering Potentilla shrub, low-growing white Alyssum interplanted with blue Forget-me-nots, or Ageratum and yellow Calendula surrounding Red Salvia.

GARDEN PLANNING

Look at the new colours and varieties introduced since your last garden. Find out which plants do best in shade and which ones in sunny areas. Take a mental walk around your garden and ask yourself: "Where is a splash of colour needed?" Remember, annuals bloom from spring until frost.

WATERING

Annuals are thirsty, some more than others. Water thoroughly after planting. Thereafter water whenever the soil begins to dry 5 – 8 cm below the surface. Do this early in the day by soaking the soil around the plant (avoid wetting the foliage as this may induce disease). Check for dryness daily and water as required.

AFTER PLANTING CARE

To promote bushy, vigorous growth in bedding plants and more continuous blooming, pinch out the central buds of tall snapdragons, zinnias and marigolds. Plants which can get spindly, like petunias, should be cut back 8 – 10 cm when they become tall. Fertilize every 3-4 weeks with a balanced food such as 15-30-15 or 20-20-20.

HOW TO PLANT ANNUALS

1. Prepare the flowerbed to a depth of 30 cms. using good soil, composed manure and peat moss, all well mixed.
2. Gently loosen the roots of each plant as you remove it from the 'cell-pack'.
3. Water thoroughly and fertilize each plant with Plant-Prod Root Booster.
4. Keep the bed well watered for the first two weeks until the plants are rooted. Then feed twice a month with a water-soluble fertilizer, such as 20-20-20 or 15-30-15.

Pinching



One of your most important pruning tools costs you nothing. It consists of your thumb and index finger.

Annuals and perennials will become more dense and bushier with new growth after pinching.

ANNUALS AND THEIR USES

WINDOW BOXES & PLANTERS

Asparagus Fern
Snapdragon
Fibrous Begonia
Browallia
Impatiens
Geranium
German Ivy
Draceana Indivisa (spike)
Lobelia
Nasturtium
Petunia
Phlox Drummondii
Marigold
Dusty Miller
Verbena
Vinca Rosea
Vinca Major
Viola
Pansy

EDGING FLOWER BEDS

Ageratum
Alyssum
Dwarf Marigold
Dusty Miller
Lobelia
Nasturtium
Pansy
Verbena
Vinca Rosea

SHADY LOCATIONS

Ageratum
Clarkia
Coleus
Begonia
Impatiens
Lobelia
Mirabilis
Nicotiana
Pansy
Torenia
Viola

VINES

Asparagus Fern
Morning Glory
Nasturtium
Scarlet Runner Bean
German Ivy
Sweet Pea
Thunbergia
Wandering Jew

MEDIUM PLANTS

Snapdragon
Calendula
California Poppy
Coreopsis
Coleus
Celosia
Marigold
Petunia
Salvia farinacea
Salvia splendens
Zinnia

TALL PLANTS

African Marigold
Amaranthus
Castor Bean
Cleome
Canna
Cosmos
Datura
Heliotrope
Kochia
Nicotiana
Scabiosa
Sunflower

FRAGRANCE

Stocks
Carnation
Scented Geranium
Sweet Alyssum

LOW PLANTS

Alyssum
Ageratum
Candy Tuft
French Marigold
Dusty Miller
Lobelia
Nasturtium
Pansy
Viola
Phlox drummondii
Portulaca
Sanvitalia
Verbena

ROCK GARDENS

Lobelia
Portulaca
Alyssum
Verbena
Viola

Ageratum

A compact, mounding growth habit makes them an ideal border plant for window boxes and annual flower beds. Ageratum grows 15-20 cm tall and produces large clusters of fuzzy, long lasting blue or white flowers. Plant in full sun 15-20 cm apart.

Alyssum

Flowers from early spring until late fall, making it one of the most useful border plants. A mass of dainty, fragrant, blue or white flowers are produced on 5 cm plants. Plant in full sun or partial shade, 15-20 cm apart, to create a carpet of colour.

Aster

This member of the daisy family produces large, long lasting, double flowers which are excellent for cutting from July until frost.

Colours include

white, red, pink and blue. Dwarf varieties grow 15-25 cm tall and medium varieties grow 40-45 cm tall. Plant in full sun or light shade, 30-45 cm apart.

Balsam (Lady's Slipper)

Related to impatiens and produces flowers that resemble an open rose in mixed colours of white, salmon, pink, red and purple. Balsam grows 25-40 cm (10-16 in) tall and should be planted in full sun or partial shade.



Begonia, Fibrous

This waxy, dark green or rust-leaved annual grows in a mounding fashion.

Small, delicate flowers are produced in

3-5 cm clusters of red, pink or white.

Begonias grow 15-20 cm tall and perform best if planted in shade. Begonias can be dug up before the first frost and potted for use as a house plant. Tuberous begonias are available as bulbs or in 15 cm pots.

Calendula

Daisy-like yellow or orange flowers, 5-19 cm across and excellent for cutting. Calendula grows 25-30 cm tall. Plant 15-20 cm apart in full sun.

Carnation

Chabaud's Mixed Carnations are one of the best varieties for outdoor gardening.

Fragrant, salmon, white or scarlet double blossoms, 3-8 cm across, are produced on a 30-35 cm plant in mid-summer. Plant in a sunny location and space 30 cm apart to create a mass of colour. Remove all secondary buds to produce single, specimen flowers for cutting.

Coleus/Kong Coleus

This rapidly growing foliage plant can also be used as a house plant. Pinch back the terminal buds to produce a full, multicoloured, accent or bedding plant. 30 – 35 cm tall. Sun or shade.

Celosia

Superb border plant for flowerbeds or planter boxes and makes an excellent cut or dried flower. This evenly shaped, uniform, bushy plant produces feathery, plume-like, bright red or yellow flowers that last up to eight weeks. Grow 15-30 cm tall and should be planted 15-20 cm apart in full sun. Some varieties will grow taller.



Cosmos

Excellent cut flower. Daisy-like blooms in pink, white, yellow, gold, orange or red are produced on plants as tall as 90 cm. Plant in sun or part shade in dry soil and space 30 cm apart.

Dahlia

With large, semi-double flowers, dahlias make excellent background plants and are great for fresh-cut arrangements. This annual grows 35-50 cm tall and produces a variety of brilliantly coloured flowers in late summer. Plant in a sunny location and space 30-45 cm apart.



Dianthus

Compact growth habit makes it an excellent border plant. Single, fragrant, carnation-like flowers in shades of red, pink, mauve or white are produced on 10-20 cm tall plants. Plant in a sunny location and remove faded flowers to encourage rebloom.

Dimorphoteca (African Daisy)

Produces masses of large, 10 cm flowers which are excellent for cutting. White, yellow, salmon or rose coloured flowers are produced on a 30 cm tall plant. Plant in full sun 30 cm apart.

Dracaena Spike

These vase-shaped foliage plants have grass-like spiky leaves. Great center piece in containers or formal flower beds

Dusty Miller

Often used as a border to accent brightly coloured annuals. The 15-20 cm tall, silvery-white fern-like foliage stands out in any planting. Plant in full sun or partial shade and pinch back the terminal bud to encourage bushiness.

Fuchsia



These attractive plants have large glossy leaves and produce exquisite, pendulous, bell-shaped single or double flowers in purple, mauve, pink or red. They are often bi-coloured, with combinations of these

colours or with white centres. Locate in hanging baskets in partial shade and keep consistently moist throughout the growing season. Can be over-wintered indoors and if allowed to grow for a number of years, becomes a fuchsia tree, with a woody stem and dense flower-covered low head.

Gazania

These spectacular daisies, great for large containers, window boxes and garden borders, deserve to be better known. Gazania produces brightly coloured, large flowers which stand on upright stems averaging 30 cm tall. The colours available include orange, scarlet, gold, pink or red, all with brown center. Flowers close up at dusk and on cloudy days. Long leaves form a rosette at the base of the plant. Plant in full sun 30 cm apart.

Godetia

Masses of semi-double flowers, which are showy in the garden or in cut flower arrangements. The cup-like flowers, 5-10 cm across are available in white, pink, red or lilac and the foliage on the 25-30 cm plants is gray-green in colour. Plant in full sun or partial shade 15-30 cm apart.

Gypsophila (Baby's Breath)

This rapid growing annual makes a great filler for cut flower arrangements or a fine-textured contrast to brightly coloured annuals. A plethora of tiny white or pink flowers are produced on a 50-60 cm plant. Plant Baby's Breath in full sun or partial shade in alkaline soil, 20-30 cm apart.

Strawflower

As the name implies, Strawflower makes an excellent, long-lasting cut or dried flower. This 50-60 cm tall annual produces brilliant red, salmon, purple, pink, white or yellow flowers. Plant in full sun, 30 cm apart. Before fully open, cut and hang the flowers upside down in a dark dry spot.



Impatiens

The bright, green, shiny leaves of this famous and popular plant are attractive indoors or outdoors. This 20-25 cm tall annual produces an abundance of purple, salmon, pink, white or red flowers.



Plant in partial or full shade 30 cm apart and keep the soil evenly moist. Excellent in hanging baskets, containers or beds.

Ipomea (Morning Glory)

One of the most attractive vines available for hanging basket or as a vigorous climber.

Grows to 175 cm tall and produces large, showy, funnel-shaped, single flowers in a multitude of colours. Morning Glory performs best when planted in partial shade.

Kochia (Burning Bush)

Noted for attractive green foliage which turns scarlet red in fall. This globe-shaped feathery leaved plant grows rapidly to 60-70 cm tall and can be used as a temporary shrub or hedge. Plant in full sun, keep the soil dry, and space 45 cm apart.

Lavatera

This relative of the hibiscus has attractive flowers and seed pods. This 75 cm tall plant produces trumpet-shaped, 10 cm wide flowers in pink or white. Plant Lavatera in full sun 60 cm apart.

Lisianthus

Highly recommended for cutting and containers. The flowers, approximately 8 cm wide, borne on long, strong upright stems, are available in blue or pink. Thrives under dry conditions. Plant in full sun 15-20 cm apart.

Livingstone Daisy (Ice Plant)

Excellent border or ground cover, 15 cm tall, and produces 1-2 cm wide flowers in pink, red, lavender, yellow, or white. Plant in full sun in dry soil, 15-20 cm apart.

Lobelia

There are two basic types of lobelia, trailing and upright. The trailing variety looks excellent cascading over the edge of a container. Grows 15 cm tall and produces a mass of dainty blue, purple, white or red flowers. Plant in full sun or partial shade, 10-15 cm apart.

Marigold

Marigold varieties come in many colours and heights. Each variety produces a heavy fragrance and the colours range from bright yellow and orange to bronze and reddish-brown. Plant in full sun. Marigold leaves can be used as a substitute for tarragon.

Myosotis (Forget-Me-Not)

A great biennial to plant around the base of shrubs. This well branched, often creeping, and generally hairy plant grows 15-45 cm tall. The small blue or pink flowers occur in attractive clusters. Plant in full sun.

Monkey Flower (Mimulus)

Excellent border plant and does well in both containers and flowerbeds. The large tubular velvety flowers are available in spectacular colours including combinations of yellow, orange and wine. Plant in partial shade, 20 cm apart and keep the soil evenly moist.

Nasturtium

The flowers can be used as a colourful addition to salads. Nasturtiums can be planted in either flower beds or hanging containers. Dwarf varieties are 15-25 cm tall whereas taller varieties can grow to 60 cm tall. The 5 cm wide blossoms are available in white, salmon, yellow, orange, or red and have a strong fragrance. Plant in full sun or partial shade, 30 cm apart. Nasturtiums require well-drained, sandy, dry soil; planting in rich soil produces lush plant growth but fewer flowers

Nemesia

Excellent border plant. White, red, pink, blue, yellow or bronze coloured, 5-10 cm clusters of cup-like flowers are produced on 20 cm plants. Plant in full sun or shade in rich, moist soil 15-20 cm apart.

Nicotiana (Flowering Tobacco)

Creates a mass of colour in flower beds and is also an excellent cut flower. Produces 5 cm, fragrant, star-shaped flowers of various colours. Plant in full sun or partial shade, 30-45 cm apart.



Pansy

Excellent for borders, beds and containers. Flowers should be picked often to encourage continual blooming. This 15-20 cm tall plant produces multi-coloured and solid patterned red, yellow, blue, orange or white flowers. The 5-10 cm flowers have a delicate fragrance. Plant in full sun or partial shade in rich moist soil, 15-20 cm apart.

Petunia

Petunias are one of the most popular annuals because little care is required to produce masses of flowers all summer. Petunias produce 5-10 cm wide, trumpet-shaped flowers in an endless number of colours. The large, showy flowers and the low maintenance requirements make the Grandiflora Petunias the most popular. Some have a natural cascading habit, which is ideal for containers and hanging baskets. The Multiflora Petunias have smaller but greater numbers of flowers. Multiflora petunias are available in more colours and shapes than the Grandifloras, including star-shaped and striped varieties.



Phlox

Excellent plant for a border, bed, rock garden or as cut flowers. Annual phlox grows 20 cm tall and produces clusters of 2-5 cm wide, pink, red, yellow, white or lavender flowers. Plant in full sun or partial shade 15-20 cm apart.

Portulaca (Moss Rose)

This waxy-leaved succulent creates an excellent mass of colour in a flowerbed. Grows 15 cm tall and produces 2 cm wide, rose-like pink, red, salmon, orange, yellow, rose or white flowers. Plant in a hot, dry, sunny location, 15-20 cm apart.

Salpiglossis

This relative of the petunia is excellent as a fresh-cut flower. Grows 75 cm tall and produces gold, red, pink or blue trumpet-like flowers. Plant in sun or partial shade 30 cm apart.

Salvia (Scarlet Sage)

Produces red or purple spike-like flowers, which are very effective when combined with yellow Marigolds and/or Dusty Miller. The blossoms are produced on 5-10 cm stems and the plant grows 30 cm tall. Plant in full sun 10-15 cm apart.



Schizanthus (Butterfly Flower)

Most showy when it can cascade over a wall or from hanging basket. Grows to 30 cm tall and produces large amounts of orchid-like white, pink, salmon, or red flowers, which are displayed well against fern-like foliage. Plant in partial shade or shade in rich moist soil, 30-45 cm apart.

ANNUALS IN CONTAINERS

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Containers: 50 cm across the top and about 30 – 50 cm deep.

Drainage holes are absolutely necessary!

Potting Mix: Potting Soil or Pro-Mix (highly recommended),

Seeds: Your choice of seed packets available from mid-January. This pamphlet lists some of the best flowers for containers.

GETTING STARTED

When to plant – Because container soil warms up quickly, you can plant earlier. Protect against cold and frost in early spring by placing in a sheltered spot or by covering on cold nights.

How to plant – Plant seeds according to the directions on the packet. Pay special attention to depth of planting.

Thinning – Check seed packet for the correct time to thin your plants, then remove the extras. If containers are over-crowded, plants will be spindly and less productive.

Location – Flowers prefer a wide range of conditions from full shade to full sun. Check the seed packet and place your container as directed.

CARING FOR CONTAINER GARDENS

Watering – Check the soil morning and evening for adequate moisture. (Plastic pots hold moisture better than other types).

Fertilizing – use 20-20-20 or 15-30-15 formula every 2 weeks to produce excellent results.

FLOWERING CONTAINER GARDEN

Here are two suggestions for colorful containers of flowers. There are many others suitable for containers so try picking your favorites and mix them up.

For a garden in full sun:

Surround your Geraniums with a carpet of trailing Lobelia. This dense mat of foliage sports glossy flowers that trail over your container.

Try also Draceana, Geranium, Dusty Miller, Fibrous Begonia, Marigold or Trailing Vinca.

Garden in partial shade or which gets only a few hours of sun:

Fern - a wide variety of both hardy and tropical ferns are available for shady spots.

Tuberous Begonia – Gorgeous large flowers in red, orange, pink, salmon or white. Best with only morning sun.

Impatiens – Vibrant colours are superb in shade.

Waxy Ivy – Glossy green and ivory variegated foliage to cascade over the edge of your container.

PROVEN WINNERS FOR POTS AND BASKETS

NAME	COLOUR	USES	COMMENTS
Argyranthemum – Marguerite Daisy	Yellow, white, pink	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Accent plant
Asparagus-sprengeri and plumosus	Fern-like foliage	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Foliage
Alternanthera	Deep Red, Bright Green	Carpet Bedding	Foliage
Bacopa	Snow white and mauve pink	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Trailing
Bidens-Samsara (compact)	Yellow	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters	Trailing
Bidens-ferulifolia	Peters Gold Carpet	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters	Long, trailing
Brachyome	Mauve, Pink, Yellow	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Very heat tolerant
Begonia richmondensis	Mixed	Basket/Pots	Full sun
Centradenia grandiflora	Rose	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Semi-shade, dry
Cosmos	Chocolate/Maroon flowers	Bedding/Pots	Tall, accent or background
Coleus	32 Varieties mixed colours	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Cutting grown
Cuphea – Heather	Purple	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters	Semi-shade, dry
Diascia	Pink, apricot, red	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters	Semi-shade, dry
Dichondra – Silver falls	Silver foliage	Hanging Baskets	Accent plant
Dracaena	Spike plant	Mixed Planters/Pots	Accent plant
Echeveria	Mixed foliage colours	Bedding/Carpet/Pots	Accent plant, dry
Evolvulus	Blue daze	Basket/Mixed Planters	Heat tolerant, sun or shade
Felicia	Blue and White	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters	Semi-shade, dry
Fuchsia	Mixed	Basket/Mixed Planters	Semi-shade, accent
	Sonnegold (yellow)	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Heat tolerant, gray foliage
German Ivy	Green	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Foliage, hanging
Glechoma (Nepeta)	Purple	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Heat tolerant, variegated foliage
Helichrysum bracteum (Strawflower)	Yellow	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Heat tolerant
Helichrysum petiolatum	4 varieties	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Foliage silver
Heliotrope	Blue and white	Bedding/Pots	Fragrant
Hypoestes – Polka Dot Plant	White, red, rose	Accent Plant/Bedding or Basket	Accent plant
Ipomoea – Sweet Potato Vine	Blackie, Tricolour, Marguerite	Basket/Mixed Planters	Gorgeous accent plant
Iresine	Red	Basket/Mixed Planters/Pots	Accent foliage
Ivy – English types	Green	Basket/Mixed Planters/Pots	Heat tolerant, accent, trailing
Lobelia richardii	Light blue	Basket/Mixed Planters/Pots	Cutting grown, trailing
Lobelia Azure	Dark blue	Basket/Mixed Planters/Pots	Cutting grown, trailing
Lysimachia	Golden Globe and variegated	Basket/Mixed Planters/Pots	Yellow, heat resistant
Mandevillea – Alice du Pont	Pink	Climber	Blooms all summer
Mentha – suauiolens	Variegated	Basket/Mixed Planters/Pots	Heat tolerant, trailing, accent
Nemesia – Capensis, Cofett, Innocence	Blue, white	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Heat tolerant
Nierembergia	Blue, white	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Tall sun loving
Osteospermum	Various	Bedding/Containers	
Portulaca – Radianne, Samba	Mixed	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Heat tolerant, dry
Purslane – Duet, Yubi	Mixed	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Heat tolerant, dry
Plumbago	Blue	Basket/Mixed Planters/Pots	Heat tolerant, dry
Plectranthus	6 varieties	Basket/Mixed Planters/Pots	Foliage
Petunia – Wave	Purple, Rose, Pink, Misty Lilac	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Self-cleaning, heat tolerant
Petunia – Surfina	Mixed	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Keep well fertilized
Petunia – Million Bells	Mixed	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Keep well fertilized
Petunia – Suncatcher	Mixed	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Double flower, keep fertilized
Streptocarpella	'Concord Blue'	Basket/Mixed Planters/Pots	Semi-shade
Sanvitalia 'Golden Aztec'	Yellow	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Heat tolerant
Scaevola	3 varieties – Blue	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters	Owner's choice for 2002
Solanum – Potato vine	Variegated and green foliage	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters/Pots	Striking accent plants
Snapdragon	Various colours	Basket/Mixed Planters	Trailing types, cool
Santolina	Silver and green foliage	Carpet Bedding	Silver and green foliage
Spider Plant	Variegated	Basket/Mixed Planters	Variegated foliage
Senecio – Wax Ivy	Variegated	Basket/Mixed Planters	Variegated foliage
Torenia 'Summer Wave'	Blue	Basket/Bedding/Mixed Planters	Thrives in heat and sun
Verbena – Tapien, Temari, Aztec	Mixed	Basket/Mixed Planters/Pots	Various colours, trailing
Vinca Major	Pink, blue	Basket/Mixed Planters	Foliage, trailing

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