

## Hardy Annuals & “Cool Flowers”

Plants that are fall planted for early spring blooms. Often before summer annuals start to bloom.

Start plugs in early August to plant out by late September, about 5-6 weeks before your first frost.

Or order plugs in advance for September delivery and planting.

Some varieties are best direct sown in the field.

Direct sown crops should be planted from mid-September to early October. About 5-6 weeks before your usual first frost date.

HAND WATER your direct sown seeds and transplants often, until they are sprouted and rooted in. As often as several times a day for direct sown seeds. Warm, sunny, windy weather needs more frequent watering. Do not let them dry out and die!

Confirm selected varieties will overwinter in your Zone. In zone 5 and colder, some varieties will do better if planted in very early spring.

Winter protection with row cover, or tunnels may increase quality and production. High tunnel plantings will bloom 2-3 weeks earlier. A tunnel will help protect from deer damage.

### Varieties to Direct Sow:

- Bells of Ireland: Sow outdoors in zones 7b and warmer, or very early spring in colder zones. High tunnel is best for weather protection.
- Larkspur: QIS. Imperial Giant, Cannes
- Centaurea - Bachelor Buttons: Blue Boy, Mix
- Bupleurum: Green Gold, Graffiti
- Nigella: Cramer's Plum, Miss Jekyll
- Orlaya - White Lace Flower

### Varieties to grow from plugs:

- Campanula: Cup and Saucer (biennial type), Champion series. (annual type)
- Delphinium: Magic Fountain, Aurora, Guardian
- Feverfew (Matricaria): Tetra White, Vegmo series
- Foxglove (Digitalis): Foxy, Dalmatian, Camelot, Arctic Fox
- Poppy (Papaver): Champagne Bubbles
- Snapdragon: Chantilly, Madame Butterfly, Opus, Rocket, Maryland, Potomac.
  - All snapdragon groups may be fall planted for spring blooms. The groups will bloom in succession, starting with group 1.
- Sweet William: Tall Double Mix, Electron Mix, Messenger Mix. (biennial type) Sweet and Amazon Series (annual type)
- Rudbeckia hirta: Indian Summer and Prairie Sun. Plants are much taller when planted in the fall.