
HOW TO GROW

Zinnias in Your Garden

Nothing says summertime like beautifully blooming Zinnias. Zinnias come in an incredible array of colors in all shapes, sizes, and many varieties, making them the perfect flower to add to your gardens, containers, and vases.



A QUICK LOOK



Low
Maintenance



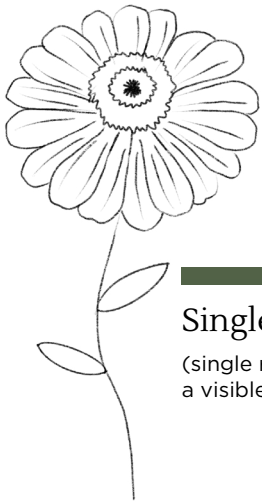
Vivid
Colors



Fast
Growing

A little cutting doesn't scare away these flowers, as a matter of fact, the more you cut, the more flowers will develop and bloom. That's why they're great to try whether you're a beginning gardener, or some with more experience. Their bright and vivid appearance makes for the perfect pop of color in any garden! With over 20 types of Zinnia species, there are various cultivars and hybrids—all coming in different types of shapes and colors.

There's three main types of Zinnias that you might come across: single, semi double, or double. The distinction lies in the number of rows of petals they have and whether or not the center of the flower is visible.



Single-flowered

(single row of petals with a visible center)



Double-flowered

(many rows of petals with no visible center)



Semi Double-flowered

(a combo of the previous two, with many rows of petals and visible center)



Fun Facts



Zinnias Love Hot Weather

These gorgeous flowers can stand the heat and then some. It seems the hotter the summer gets, the more they seem to shine! So, if you're a southerner, these are the flowers to plant.



Pollinators are big fans of Zinnias

If you're looking to attract our buzzing and fluttering friends, consider planting full-sized variations of Zinnias, especially those with single or semi-double blooms!

HOW TO GROW ZINNIAS



Zinnias can be started 4-6 weeks before the last frost, germinating in 3-7 days in the greenhouse.

Start Them in the Greenhouse

Although you can directly sow them outside once the danger of all frost has cleared and the soil is warm, we opt to start ours in our Yoderbilt Greenhouse for several reasons—the obvious being earlier blooms. However, the main reason to start in our greenhouse is to minimize losing our Zinnia patches to the spring rains. We've had our share of spring showers that have washed away hundreds of seeds—more than once. By transplanting an actual plant, they withstand those rains much better. Zinnias can be started 4-6 weeks before the last frost, germinating in 3-7 days in the greenhouse. Make certain you have the area that you will transplant them in is ready to go when it's time to move them out.

Direct Sow

If you opt to direct sow, plant them in good soil about 1/4" in-depth and cover lightly with soil and water well. They are perennial, but they will reseed themselves in certain areas and surprise you with new plants the following year.



We recommend spacing them by the seed packets instructions as this will give them their best, optimal start. As mentioned before, Zinnias love the sun and the heat that comes with it. Planting them full sun areas will give them the tender love and care they need to be happy plants. To ensure you have blooms that last until that first frost, you can successively plant them.

Successive Planting

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Keeping Bugs Away

Zinnias themselves don't pose many problems, but if you happen to have Japanese beetles in your area—beware, they'll love them as much as you do! If you tend to have these critters in your area, plan on about a month-long attack. After which you can cut back their destruction, and in a couple of weeks, your plants tend to come back for the remainder of summer.

PRO-TIP

Like some of us, Japanese beetles are sluggish in the morning! Go out when they're slow with a bucket of soapy water. You can handpick or gently knock them into the bucket to remove them.



Avoiding Mildew

In the late summer and early fall as the nights tend to cool, you can sometimes get powdery mildew if your plants are planted close together, not allowing a lot of airflow. While the effects of mildew can range from mild to severe, we have found that taking action sooner than later makes all the difference in keeping your Zinnias (and the rest of your garden) healthy.

Here's a few tips to consider:

Because the effects of mildew can be mild, removing any infected leaves in the beginning stages can help in preventing the mildew from spreading

Avoid overcrowding your garden, making sure your garden allows for good spacing and air flow to your plants

You'll often find mildew in more humid climates. As you water your Zinnias, you might consider watering them earlier in the day, allowing enough time for the plants to dry before the night time arrives



Natural Solutions

Baking soda has been found to help combat the menacing mildew! Try mixing one tablespoon baking soda and one-half teaspoon of water into a spray bottle (you can also choose to add non-detergent or castile soap). Spraying generously onto plants, you'll want to make sure to do this early on in the day as well to give your plants enough time to dry.

So, plan to plant Zinnias if you haven't already. If you do, explore different varieties. As they've risen in popularity over the past few years, make sure you get your seeds early! Certain types and companies can sell out on their opening launch day. We tend to order certain varieties and colors; however, if you don't want to go to that trouble, just pick up a pack at a local garden center.



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