



Summer Flowers, Herbs & Pollinator Gardening

Easy to grow flowers and herbs that thrive in our low desert heat in Zone 9b:

Flowers:

1. Zinnia *Zinnia elegans*
2. Gregg's Mist Flower *Conoclinium greggi*
3. Milkweed (Butterflyweed) *Asclepias tuberosa*
4. Amaranth *Amaranth cruentus*
5. Gomphrena *Gomphrena globosa*
6. Cosmos *Cosmos sulphureus*
7. Celosia *Celosia cristata*
8. Four O'clocks *Mirabilis jalapa*
9. Marigolds *Tagetes patula*
10. Canna lilies *Canna indica*
11. Gaillardia *Gaillardia pulchella*
12. Lantana *Lantana camara*
13. Vinca Periwinkle *Catharanthus roseus*
14. Portulaca Moss Rose *Portulaca grandiflora*
15. Sunflowers *Helianthus annuus*

Herbs:

1. Basil *Ocimum basilicum*
2. Rosemary *Salvia rosmarinus*
3. Chives *Allium schoenoprasum*
4. Sage *Sage officinalis*
5. Mexican Oregano *Lippia graveolens*

For a year-round planting guide, you can download: [Maricopa County Flower Planting Guide](#)

Benefits of gardening with flowers & herbs:

- Both flowers and herbs attract beneficial predatory insects into the garden, such as ladybugs, praying mantis, and lacewings.
Some can even be used as companion plants for trap cropping and enhancing overall health of plants and the flavor of fruit.
- Tall flowers such as sunflowers can be used as a companion to provide shade for crops planted below.
- Make your own cut flower arrangements
- More biodiversity in your garden

Garden Placement:

- Summer flowers need at least 6 hours of filtered sunlight to bloom.
- If possible, morning sun, afternoon shade is ideal
- Flowers do great in containers if you do not have a lot of space inside your raised bed.
- Amend soil with a nice thick layer of compost. Or, use our raised bed mix if filling containers or beds for the 1st time. Sprinkle worm castings on top of the soil as fertilizer. Top off with a thick layer of mulch to help retain moisture.

Three types of flowers:

- Annuals- live for only one season then die off
- Perennials- regrow every spring year after year and do not need to be replanted
- Biennials- normally takes 2 years to complete its life

Helpful facts:

- Marigolds are the most popular flower used to keep pests like aphids and squash bugs away naturally. The seeds are easy to harvest and store so you shouldn't ever have to buy them again.
- Gaillardia - Native perennial, spreads easily
- Zinnia - Tall, vibrant, heat-loving summer flower, annual, easy to collect seeds and replant. Pinch tops to produce more blooms.
- Four O' Clocks - they get their name because they bloom in the late afternoon. When open, they attract pollinators like hummingbirds.
- Amaranth comes in various colors, is edible and contains both culinary and medicinal benefits. It can be used to lower cholesterol, aid in weight loss, and treat anemia.

Watering Your Flower Garden:

- Drip irrigation supplies - <https://www.dripdepot.com/>
- Choose an easy to program, battery operated timer.
- Water every morning for 20 mins in raised beds or 30 mins for in-ground flower beds
- Keep soil evenly moist, never dry.
- 50% shade cloth will help keep soil temp cooler and increase blooming period.