

Cutting Garden

Licking County Master Gardener Volunteers Learning Center for Gardening



Ever wanted to grow your own cut flowers but did not know where to start? This garden offers a practical blueprint for beginners, showing how a sunny plot, thoughtful plant choices, and consistent care can produce flowers for bouquets throughout the season. A cutting garden can be as simple as a few rows in the ground, a raised bed, or several large containers. Designed with new cut-flower growers, this plot demonstrates the process from site preparation and seed starting to variety selection, maintenance, and harvest.

WHAT GROWS HERE

Ageratum	Cinnamon Basil	Golden Rod
Butterfly Bush	Cosmos	Snapdragons
Black-eyed Susans	Daisies	Sunflowers
Cat Mint	Garden Phlox	Sweet Annie
Celosia	Gomphrena	Zinnia

HOW WE GROW IT

The approximately 30-by-20-foot plot contains five narrow beds arranged at right angles. This layout creates clear paths and keeps flowers easy to reach for planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting. Important lessons from the garden include:

- Plan ahead. Nearly all flowers were started from seed. Some were winter-sown outdoors, while others were started under grow lights in February or in a greenhouse in March. Herbs and native transplants were purchased from a local nursery for use as filler.
- Choose varieties suited for cutting. Cut flowers need strong, usable stems. One double zinnia variety produced stems that were too short, while 'Benary's Giant' zinnias were better suited for cutting.
- Provide full sun and consistent water. Most cut flowers perform best with at least six hours of direct sunlight and regular watering, especially while becoming established.
- Pinch when appropriate. Removing the growing tip from young branching annuals can encourage fuller plants and more usable stems. Because not every flower benefits from pinching, check recommendations for each species and variety.
- Harvest and deadhead regularly. Frequent cutting encourages many annual flowers to keep producing. Remove spent blooms from plants that are not being harvested to reduce seed formation and maintain flowering.
- Fertilize according to need. A water-soluble fertilizer was applied according to label directions. Home gardeners should base fertilizer choices on soil-test results and plant needs to avoid applying unnecessary nutrients.
- Control weeds early. Landscape fabric, mulch, cardboard and hand-weeding were used together. Beds were checked at least twice each week.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

fourseasonsofgardening.org

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For more information, visit cfaes.osu.edu/notice-nondiscrimination.
To request accommodations or information about accessibility, visit cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility.