

Pygmy Sunflower

Helianthus annuus 'Pygmy'

At a Glance

Height: 12 to 16 inches tall

Bloom Colors: Bright yellow petals with brown centers

Bloom Time: Mid-summer to early fall

Days to Maturity: 65-75 days

Best For: Containers, borders, small gardens, pollinator plants

Growing Conditions Quick Reference

Soil Temperature: 60-70F for best germination

Soil Type: Well-drained, moderately fertile soil

Light Requirements: Full sun

Planting Depth: 1/2 inch deep

Seeding Rate: 2-3 seeds every 6 inches, thin to strongest

Plant Spacing: 6-8 inches apart

Moisture Needs: Moderate; water deeply but infrequently

Average Germination Time: 7-10 days

How to Grow

When to Plant: Direct sow after last frost when soil is warm.

Location: Full sun in well-drained soil.

Spacing: Thin seedlings to 6-8 inches apart.

Watering: Moderate; deep water promotes stronger roots.

Fertilizer: Minimal; too much nitrogen causes excessive leaves and fewer blooms.

Tips for Success

Perfect for containers and edging in flower beds.

Plant in succession for continuous blooms.

Protect young seedlings from birds and slugs.

Great for children's gardens and small spaces.

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Fun Fact

Pygmy Sunflowers are a dwarf variety, producing bright cheerful blooms ideal for small gardens and pollinator habitats.

Companion Planting

Pairs well with marigolds, zinnias, and herbs like basil for compact flower displays.

Harvesting and Use

Cut blooms when petals are just opening for small arrangements. Leave some blooms for birds and natural reseeding.

Quick Planting Checklist

- Direct sow after frost
- Thin seedlings to 6-8 inches apart
- Water deeply but infrequently
- Perfect for pots and borders