

# Red Sun Sunflower

*Helianthus annuus 'Red Sun'*

## At a Glance

Height: 5 to 6 feet tall

Bloom Colors: Rich red to burgundy petals

Bloom Time: Mid to late summer

Days to Maturity: 75-90 days

Best For: Cut flowers, pollinator gardens, ornamental borders

## Growing Conditions Quick Reference

Soil Temperature: 60-70F for best germination

Soil Type: Well-drained, moderately fertile soil

Light Requirements: Full sun (6-8+ hours daily)

Planting Depth: 1/2 inch deep

Seeding Rate: 1-2 seeds every 12-18 inches

Plant Spacing: Thin to 12-18 inches apart for strong stems

Moisture Needs: Moderate; avoid overwatering

Average Germination Time: 7-10 days

## How to Grow

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

Location: Full sun in well-drained soil.

Spacing: Thin seedlings to 12-18 inches apart.

Watering: Moderate; deep water but infrequently.

Fertilizer: Minimal needs; too much nitrogen can cause floppy stems.

## Tips for Success

Plant in blocks for better pollination and visual impact.

Protect seedlings from birds and slugs early on.

Stake tall plants in windy areas.

Deadhead spent blooms to encourage more flowers.

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## Fun Fact

Red Sun is a branching sunflower variety, producing multiple blooms in warm, rich shades of red and burgundy on each plant.

## Companion Planting

Pairs well with zinnias, marigolds, and other summer blooms. Can provide light shade for lettuce or other cool-season crops.

## Harvesting and Use

Cut blooms early in the morning when petals just start to open for longest vase life. Leave some seed heads for birds in autumn.

## Quick Planting Checklist

- Direct sow after frost when soil warms
- Thin seedlings to 12-18 inches apart
- Provide full sun and moderate watering
- Stake if needed in windy spots
- Cut blooms early for longest vase life