

Everything You Need To Know About Growing Cut Flowers



Love the look of cut flowers in your house but hate the price tag they come with? Well now is the time to start your own cut flower garden so you can fill your house with fresh blooms all year round for a fraction of the price. Read on to find out how.

Why grow your own flowers?

☐ Save money

Even a small bouquet will set you back at least \$20 and they usually only last about a week. Growing your own cut flowers can be an affordable way to have fresh bouquets more regularly rather than saving it for a special occasion. A packet of seeds or bulbs will only set you back a few dollars and would yield many flowers.

☐ Grow your favourites or hard to find varieties

Depending on the fashion or what is available in your area, you might not be able to get your hands on your favourite flowers. Maybe you want to try growing an unusual colour variation or a certain bloom that holds

special memories for you. When you grow your own, you get to choose the flowers that you love.

□ Fresher flowers

Bought flowers have travelled some distance before they make it to your home. The flowers can never be as fresh as ones you have grown yourself and as a result, they have a shorter vase life.

□ Reduce environmental impact

There is a negative environmental impact associated with the cut flower industry. Growing techniques often use a lot of water, fertilisers and pesticides to get perfect blooms. Many varieties are shipped across the continent to get out-of-season stock. Flowers are delicate and they require refrigerated transport which is energy intensive. Growing your own at home means you can remove the impact of transporting flowers. You can also grow using organic or sustainable methods if you choose to.

□ Pollinators

Not only do you benefit from bringing your home-grown flowers indoors, but you can also enjoy them in the garden. You won't be the only one too! Many cut flower varieties are attractive to pollinators and beneficial insects. They'll thank you for growing your own!

□ Rewarding

It is very rewarding to grow your own flowers. You can watch the plant grow through the season and wait eagerly to see the gorgeous blooms unfold. You can enjoy the flowers in the garden, bringing them indoors, making your own arrangements and even creating bouquets as gifts for family and friends. Growing your own really adds that extra special touch.



What varieties make good cut flowers?

There are so many flowers to choose from but essentially it comes down to two factors for a good cut flower – long vase life and long stems. Some flowers will wilt as soon as they are cut so don't make good flowers to bring indoors. Long stems are important for displaying in a vase.

There are statement flowers that are an obvious choice when growing your own but don't forget the filler! All good arrangements have some smaller and more delicate flowers or foliage to really showcase the statement pieces.

Some of the best and most popular cut flower varieties that you can grow from seed are (from A to Z):

Aquilegia, Aster, Banksia,



Calendula, Carnation, Chrysanthemum,



Dahlia, Delphinium, Dianthus,



Foxglove, Flannel Flower, Gerbera,



Geraldton Wax, Gypsophila, Kangaroo Paw,



Larkspur, Linaria, Lupin,



Larkspur, Linaria, Lupin,



Nigella, Painted Daisy, Pincushion Flower,



Pincushion Hakea, Poppy, Snapdragon,



Statice, Stock, Strawflower,



Sunflower, Sweet Pea and Zinnia!

