

GROWER'S GUIDE COSMOS



DAYONA FARM FOUNDATION



WHIMSICAL BLOOMS



Cosmos flowers are versatile annual plants. They are best known for their delicate petals and whimsical structure. Cosmos bloom in various colors, such as Orange, Pink, Burgundy, White, and Yellow. They are native to Mexico, Central America, and northern South America, are drought tolerant, and have low maintenance. Cosmos attract birds and pollinators and are a great "cutting flower." The more you prune them, the more they bloom.



PLANTING COSMOS



Cosmos are perfect for beginners. They are straightforward to grow. The simplest method to grow cosmos is to sow them directly into garden beds after the last spring frost. Loosen the soil to a depth of 8 inches. Plant the seeds and cover them with 1/4 inch of fine soil. Seedlings tolerate light frosts, but freezing temperatures will kill the plants. Cosmos germinate in one week. They produce blooms in just under three months from your planting date.



LOW MAINTENANCE



Watering

Seedlings need moisture to germinate; mature plants will quickly adapt to dryer conditions and prefer less watering. Fully established plants have only moderate water needs, with sulfur cosmos requiring less water than other varieties. Overwatering can result in plants with fewer blooms. These annuals are drought tolerant, but during hot, dry summer weather, look for wilting as a sign of increased watering.



Weeding

While young plants are getting established, weed around the tiny fern-like seedlings. However, once the cosmos plant is well-established, neighboring weeds won't impact their growth.



COSMO CARE

Cosmos flowers require full sun to bloom. The shade will restrict flowering. Also, it would be best if you deadheaded the old blooms to encourage more blooms. For faster blooms, prune between the main stem and a leaf. The lower you cut in the stem, the longer it takes to grow more flowers.

01

Self-seeding

Cosmo flowers self-seed. Once the flowers have finished blooming, the plant goes to seed. The seeds can drop to the ground and germinate without replanting. Self-seeding can result in new plants growing in undesirable places. If you want to control the location and amount of cosmos in your garden, deadhead blooms before they go to seed.

02

Staking

When planted as a group with the sprinkling method, Cosmos can hold each other upright. If you plant a taller variety of cosmos, plan to protect them from the wind or stake to keep them from breaking in heavy rain or wind.

CUTTING FLOWER



Cosmos have an excellent vase life when harvested at the correct time. To guarantee the cut blooms are long-lasting, pick them when the buds have color and look like they are about to pop. Pollination of the flowers has not occurred when they are harvested at this stage. Blooms will last in a vase at room temperature for 5-7 days in fresh water mixed with floral food. Cosmos pair beautifully in floral arrangements with dahlias, zinnias, giant marigolds, sunflowers, and much more!