

# GROWING BEAUTIFUL FLOWER BEDS

**BE PATIENT:** Our last frost is frequently in early May, so don't let early warm spells persuade you to plant tender annuals out too early. About the 10th of May is generally considered safe in our area. Healthy transplants planted into warm May soil will often pass up those planted too early and nipped by Jack Frost.

**DON'T BUY OVERGROWN PLANTS:** Though they might look prettier in the flat, many types of annuals won't perform nearly as well if they are already tall and blooming when you buy them. Instead, look for stocky plants with healthy looking leaves and as few blooms as possible on most varieties. If you do get some bedding plants that are too tall and spindly, don't hesitate to cut them back severely. This will encourage branching and in a couple of weeks you will have a much nicer plant.

**FOR EARLY SPRING COLOR:** Plant groups of early spring bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, etc. in your flower beds this fall. Plant them 6-7" deep so your spring spading won't damage them. This way you'll get two crops of color from the same space!

**MIX VEGETABLES WITH FLOWERS:** Many vegetable plants are very attractive plants and fit in well to add a touch of green to your flowerbeds. Likewise, a few flowers here and there in the garden make it a much more pleasant and enjoyable place to be.

**IMPROVE YOUR SOIL:** This is a vital step if you would like to have really outstanding flowerbeds. Work organic materials into the top 6-8" of your soil so that the mixture is 30-50% organic. You can use peat moss, compost, composted bark, manure, or a mixture of several of these items. When spading in the organic matter, also add bone meal and blood meal or a good flower fertilizer so it becomes mixed in, too.

**USE ROOT STARTER FERTILIZER:** When you transplant. Many brands are available, just choose one with a fairly high proportion of phosphorus. (That is the middle of the three numbers on the label) Phosphorus is essential in establishing a healthy root system so your plants will get off to a better start and look nicer all summer. Regularly fertilize established flowers with Fertilome Blooming and Rooting Fertilizer.

**APPLY A PRE-EMERGENT HERBICIDE:** At planting time (unless you will be planting seeds). A pre-emergent is a weed killer that works by preventing the weed seeds from sprouting. If applied properly, these products will reduce your weed crop by 90-100%! Some to look for: Treflan, Corn Gluten (organic).

**WATCH OUT FOR MR. BUDWORM:** In recent years, the Tobacco Budworm has become a major pest in flowerbeds. It eats the buds before they open so you have a substantially reduced flower crop and many of the blooms that do open are partially eaten or deformed. Its favorite meals seem to be geraniums and petunias, but it has been seen on many other varieties, as well. The only effective control is a bacteria called Bacillus Thuringensis, which is also known as Bt or Thuricide, and is available in several brands of products. It is perfectly safe for people and pets, but gives Mr. Budworm a severe case of indigestion.



NURSERY • GARDEN CENTER • LANDSCAPING

1410 N 1900 W St, Farr West, UT 84404  
Phone: (801) 782-4149

[www.loveyourgarden-jn.com](http://www.loveyourgarden-jn.com)