



Columbia Nursery

Growing a Cut Flower Garden in Northwest Montana (Zones 3-5)

A cut flower garden brings beauty to your home and fresh bouquets to your table all summer long. With the right plant choices and care, you can grow a productive flower patch in Northwest Montana.

Why Grow a Cut Flower Garden?

- Enjoy fresh bouquets from spring to fall.
- Attract pollinators to your vegetable garden.
- Add beauty and color to your landscape.

When to Plant:

- Start most cut flowers from seed indoors 6-8 weeks before last frost (typically early to mid-June in Zones 3-5).
- Some hardy annuals can be direct seeded once soil is workable.

Choosing a Site:

- Select a sunny spot—most cut flowers need at least 6 hours of full sun.
- Ensure good drainage and access to water.

Preparing the Bed:

- Loosen soil to a depth of 8–10 inches.
- Amend with compost or well-rotted manure.
- Use a balanced fertilizer (10-10-10 or 16-16-16) at planting time.

Planting Guidelines:

- Plant in rows or blocks for easy harvesting.
- Group flowers by height—tall varieties in back, shorter ones in front.
- Stagger plantings for continuous blooms.

Watering & Care:

- Keep soil evenly moist but not soggy.
- Mulch to retain moisture and suppress weeds.
- Deadhead and harvest regularly to encourage more blooms.
- Use flower supports or cages for tall, floppy plants like Dahlias or Snapdragons.



Columbia Nursery

Cut Flower Favorites for Zones 3-5:

Annuals:

- Zinnias
- Snapdragons
- Cosmos
- Sunflowers
- Sweet Peas
- Bachelor Buttons (Cornflowers)
- Larkspur
- Calendula
- Ageratum
- Marigolds

Perennials:

- Shasta Daisy
- Echinacea (Coneflower)
- Black-Eyed Susan (Rudbeckia)
- Peonies
- Phlox
- Yarrow

Bulbs & Tubers:

- Dahlias
- Gladiolus
- Lilies

These flowers are well-suited for Northwest Montana's growing season and provide long-lasting, vase-friendly blooms.

Harvest Tips:

- Cut flowers in the morning or evening when they are well-hydrated.
- Use clean, sharp scissors or pruners.
- Place stems immediately in clean water.

Need Help?

Visit Columbia Nursery for seeds, bulbs, and expert advice on growing a successful cut flower garden in Northwest Montana!