



Grow Your Own Flower Cutting Garden

**UC Master Gardeners
of El Dorado County**
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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program
El Dorado County

AGENDA



- Landscaping vs cut flower gardening
- Flowers and greenery
- Location and soil prep
- Starting seeds/plugs
- Irrigation and amendments
- Supports and harvest
- Managing pests and disease
- Flower arranging
- What else to do with all of those flowers?

Master Gardener Mission:

To extend research based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to the residents of El Dorado County.

https://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Public_Education/



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The difference

Landscaping-

- Focus is on overall general appearance.
- Assess, plan to modify the landscape.
- Landscaping focuses on designing and installing structure and hardscaping.
- May plant shrubs, trees



Cut flower gardening-

- Focus on production of flowers not landscape appearance.
- Careful planning, succession and management of flowering plants.
- Knowledgeable of specific flowering plants, needs and gardening techniques.

Things to Consider for a Cutting Garden

- Select varieties that grow well in your area.
- Start your own seeds or plugs, if possible.
- Choose varieties that are meant for cut flower gardening.
- Sow seeds in succession (Zinnias, Sunflower).

***Consider what makes a good flower
for arrangements.***



- Purpose
- Color
- Texture
- Long strong stem
- Partially open flower
- Vase life
- Scent

Annuals (focal and filler)

Amaranth

Bells of Ireland

Cosmos

Calendula

Celosia

Cornflower

Dara

Gomphrena

Larkspur

Marigold

Nigella

Rudbeckia

Snapdragon

Statice

Strawflower

Sunflower

Sweet Pea

Zinnia

Bachelors Buttons

Love in a Mist

Love in a Puff

Perennials (focal and filler)

Anemone

Butterfly weed

Craspedia (Sun balls)

Gladiola

Echinacea

Dahlia

Hyacinth

Lavender

Narcissus

Rose

Salvia

Tulip

Verbena

Yarrow

Delphinium

Eryngium

Hellebore

Greenery (filler)

Silver Dollar Eucalyptus

Nandina

Conifers

Emerald Bead Cress

Dusty Miller

Basil

Solomon's Seal

Nine bark

Loropetalum

Lemon, Olive and Camellia leaves

Flowering trees (forsythia, cherry, apple, dogwood, etc.)

Sedum

Ivy

Lady's mantle

Poppy seed head

Mahonia

Fern

Potato vine

Spirea

Location, location, location!

USDA Hardiness Zones
El Dorado County-6a, 6b,
7a,7b,8a,8b,9a and 9b
2023



Starting seeds



2023 Plantings							Last frost April 22								
FLOWERS															
Seeds	Name	Succession	Begin seed	Week + -	Seed year	Started	Seeds	Location planted		Climate	Day matur	A or P	Color	NOTES	
Amaranth	Hot bisquits	X	indoors	6 weeks	2023	11-Mar		cutting	garden	full sun	70	A	gold		
Bachelors Buttons	Tall Blend		outdoors	2 weeks	2023	8-Apr		fountain	bed	full sun		A	pastel mix		
Black eyed Susan	Sahara		indoors	7 weeks	2023	4-Mar		cutting	garden	full sun	110	A	red		
Blue Sea Holly	cap		indoors	4 weeks	2023	4-Mar		fire pit		full sun		P	blue		
Blue Glow	Globe Thistle		indoors	4 weeks	2023	4-Mar		fire pit		full sun		P	blue		
Cat Mint	Nepeta		indoors	3 weeks	2023	11-Mar		front bed		f to p sun		P	purple		
Celosia	Coral Reef		indoors	6 weeks	2023	11-Mar		cutting	garden	full sun	100	A	coral		
Dara	Ammi	x	outdoors	2 weeks	2022	18-Mar		deck bed		full sun	80	A	chocolate		
Echinacea	White Swan		indoors	11 weeks	2023	11-Feb		pool bed		part		P	white	no fertilzer	
Gomphrena	Orange		indoors	7 weeks	2022	4-Mar		cutting	garden	full sun		A	orange		
Maverick Geranium	White		indoors	8 weeks	2023	25-Feb		courtyard	be	f to P sun		A	white		
Mexican Sunflower	Torch		indoors	7 weeks	2023	4-Mar		pool bed		full sun		A	orange		
Breadseed Poppy	Hungarian		oudoors	6 weeks	2023	11-Mar		fountain bed		full sun		A	pink		
Statice	Pacific Mix		indoors	8 weeks	2023	25-Feb		cutting	garden	full sun		A	mix		
Sea Holly	Steel Blue		indoors	11 weeks	2023	11-Feb		fire pot		full sun		P	blue	no fertilzer	
Sunflower	Mammoth	x	outdoors	2 weeks	2020	8-Apr		veggie	garden	full sun	100	A	yellow		
Wheat	Utrecht Blue		outdoors	2 weeks	2021	8-Apr		not planted		full sun		A	blue		
Zinnia	Giant Coral		indoors	6 weeks	2021	11-Mar		cutting	garden	full sun		A	coral		
Zinnia	Fireball		indoors	6 weeks	2023	11-Mar		cutting	garden	full sun		A	red		
Zinnia	Zinderella Peach		indoors	6 weeks	2023	11-Mar		cutting	garden	full sun		A	peach		
Zinnia	Candy Mix		indoors	6 weeks	2023	11-Mar		cutting	garden	full sun		A	mix		
Zinnia	Giant Salmon Rose		indoors	6 weeks	2023	11-Mar		cutting	garden	full sun		A	rose		
Zinnia	unknown		indoors	6 weeks	2023	11-Mar		pool bed		full sun		A	mix		
Added new ones															
Hyacinth Bean			outdoors		2023	22-Apr		veggie	garden	full sun		P			
35 various dahlia tubers			outdoors	after frost	2023			dahlia bed		full sun		P			
Extra dahlia tubers			potted up	after frost	2023			greenhouse		full sun		P			

Where to grow?



Soil preparation for a cutting garden

Most local soils are clay based and often lacking in organic matter, nitrogen and possibly calcium.

Mitigate this by:

- Soil testing
- Adding organic matter (compost and cover crops)
- Using an all purpose slow release fertilizer and foliar fertilizer later in the season.
- Adding gypsum (calcium sulfate) and lime (oyster shell or Dolomite) for clay soils.
- Don't work the soil too early.



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3/26/2023

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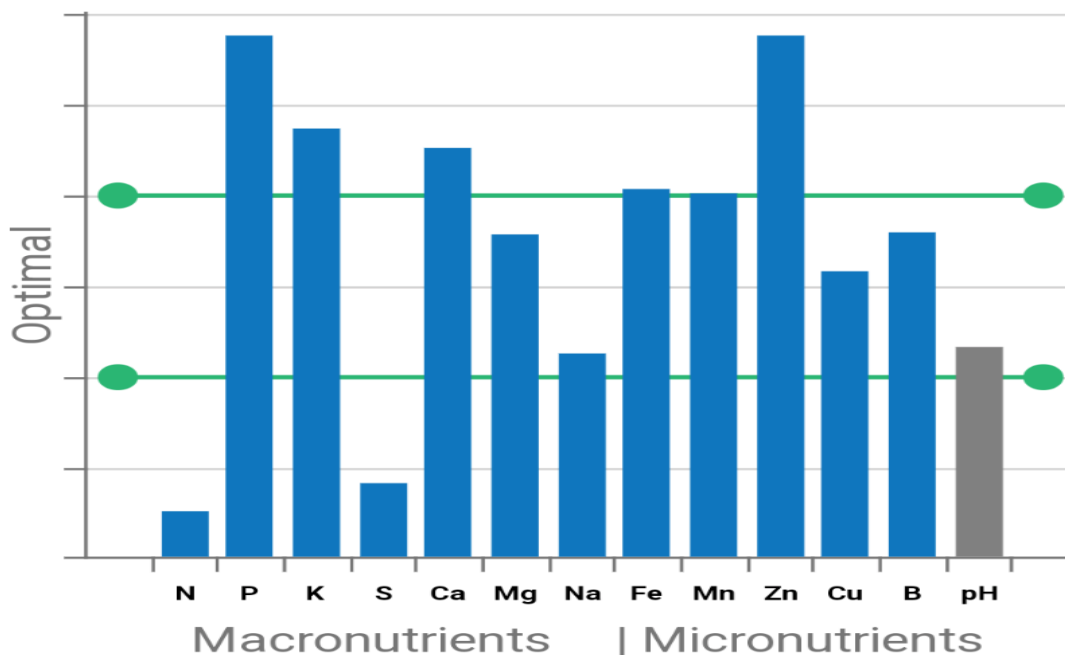


Ornamental

Cutting garden bed

Your Results

Range Nutrient pH



[Learn More](#)

Water, amendments, mulch

Water-

- **Depends on location, flower type, soil, etc.**
- **Drip irrigation most efficient.**
 - **Typically 1” of water per week**

Amendments-

- **Confer with soil test for needed amendments.**
 - **Decomposed manure, fish emulsion and seaweed are good organic choices.**

Mulch-

- **Apply 2”- 4” and keep away from flower stems.**



Managing pests and diseases



Solve your pest problems with UC's best science

What's New


- Green Bulletin: Summer 2023
- Pest Notes: Hiring a Pest Control Company updated, Invasive Shothole Borers, Feral Cats and Botryosphaeria Canker added
- Ag Pest Management: Floriculture and Ornamental Nurseries revised
- Home & Garden Pest Newsletter: Spring 2023
- Agriculture: 2022 Fungicides, Bactericides, Biocontrols, and Natural Products for Deciduous Tree Fruit and Nut, Citrus, Strawberry, and Vine Crops in California (PDF)
- More...

QUICK LINKS

- Newsletters
- Recursos en español
- Online training
- Weather, models, & degree-days

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Home, Garden, Turf & Landscape Pests



Agricultural Pests



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<https://ipm.ucanr.edu/home-and-landscape/master-gardeners/>

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Acknowledgements | Staff-only pages | Subscribe (RSS) | Contact UC IPM

Supports and harvest time



Saving seeds

- Why save seeds?
- Open Pollinated, Hybrid, Heirloom, Pelleted
- Save open pollinated seeds
- Remove seeds from flower, chaff
- Store in air tight container or paper bag in refrigerator or cool area.



A photograph showing tools for flower arranging. On the left is a bouquet of baby's breath flowers tied with a piece of light-colored twine. In the center is a pair of dark-colored snips. To the right is a coil of light-colored chicken wire. The background is plain white.

Tools for flower arranging

*Lazy Susan, chicken wire,
frogs, snips, preservative, etc.*

Designing and making flower arrangements





Dried flower care

- Keep out of direct sunlight
- Do not place in water
- A spray of aerosol craft glue or even hair spray can help fragile flowers from shattering
- Can be used for many craft projects



Help Us Better Serve You!

Our follow-up survey provides us the tools we need to grow and improve the quality of our program.



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