

ANNUAL FIELD GROWN CUT FLOWERS

Resources: Johnny's Selected Seeds: Johnnyseeds.com
Specialty Cut Flowers Book
The Flower Farmer

Varieties: There are lots! So the key is to select a few that go well together in a bouquet, have continued bloom after cutting, are easy to grow to get started, and would be a good rotational crop for your other annuals. Sunflowers and/or cosmos would be good to start with.

Sunflowers: There are special sunflowers selected for cut flowers that don't shed pollen and these come in a variety of colors and sizes. Some with single stalk & some branch. Succession planting or varieties with different bloom times needed to have continued bloom. Full sun, high fertility, spacing at 9-24". Cut or dried. Johnny's has a great selection:

Single Stalk:

Procut series – peach, orange, yellow, bicolor, lemon -

Sunrich series – orange, lemon, gold

Sun series – variations of yellow petals and disks

Branching:

Ikarus – yellow

Strawberry Blond – burgundy-pink w/ yellow tips

Autumn Beauty – yellow, bronze, purple, bicolor

Cosmos: A great cottage garden flower that is easy to grow and will continue to flower all summer if blooms are removed. Full sun, any soil, some wind protection; spacing 9-12". Johnny's has some special cut flower varieties:

Versailles Mix – mix of colors, strong stems

Picotée – pink tipped bicolor

Sea Shells – mix of colors – fluted edges

Other easy cut flower options: Most require average water & soil (the loam would be fine) and succession planting every 2-3 weeks to have continued summer bloom:

Agrostemma (Corn Cockle)

Ammi (False Queen Anne's Lace) – protect from wind, dry soil ok

Centaurea (Bachelor's Buttons) – fresh or dry, edible

Marigolds – some people don't like the strong odor (others love it)

Nigella (Love-in-a-mist) –

Rudbeckia (Black-eyed susan) – perennial grown as annual – continuous bloom

Salvia Coccinea – perennial grown as annual – continuous bloom

Zinnias – should be started indoors and transplanted

Edible flowers: All these would do well in average garden soil (loam) with average water. The petals are quite perishable so would best be packed in clamshells and refrigerated.

Borage

Nasturtium – jewel mix

Marigold – lemon gem

Calendula – déjà vu

Anise hyssop