

Annual Plant Care

Annual plants are one of the most popular ways to add color to your home. Whether you plan to plant your annuals in containers or directly in the ground its important to know how to properly care for them to keep color around your home all season long.

Annual Plants

Before you can care for the plants you are using to add color to your home you need to know what they are. Below you will find a list of the annual plants that we typically carry at Schalow's Nursery.



- Begonias
- Lantana
- Impatiens
- Petunias
- Fuchsia
- Coleus
- Snapdragons
- Salvia
- Dusty miller
- Marigolds
- Zinnias
- Hibiscus
- Pansies
- Geraniums
- Calibrachoa

This is just a list of a few of the annuals that you can typically find in our greenhouse in the spring. Now that you know what's available you can decide what you want to plant and how (in the ground or in pots).

Containers vs. Landscape

Deciding on whether or not you want to plant your annuals directly in your landscape can depend on several factors like the size of the plants you intend to use and the amount of work you want to do when you are planting. If you have decided to plant in the landscape you will need to work up the bed before you plant and possibly amend the soil to keep your plants healthy. Annual plants grow best in a rich, loamy, well-drained soil. Most of the soil in our area is either sandy or clay so you may need to till in compost, peat, or manure to

improve drainage or nutrient retention. You will also probably want to mix in some fertilizer to give your annuals the nutrients they need to stay happy and healthy.

Preparing the soil for annuals in containers might be a bit simpler because instead of having to till up the soil and add amendments all you need to do for a container planting is fill the pot with potting soil. You won't need to spend much time working with potting soil because it has already been blended to hold nutrients and moisture for your plants.

After working up the soil it is time to plant your annuals. We have another available handout where you can find more details on proper planting, but the most important notes are to avoid planting right against the edge of the bed and to make sure your plants aren't too root bound.

After Planting Care

After you've planted your annuals, you should pay close attention to what types are in your planting so you



can properly fertilize them. Some plants like petunias and calibrachos like lots of fertilizer and will need it more often. Others like coleus and grasses that are grown for foliage won't need as much fertilizing.

You should also pay attention to what you planted so you know how often to water. Some annuals prefer to have a moist soil so you may need to water often as the weather gets warmer. Others may prefer a drier soil and will only need water as they start to dry out. Either way it is important to recognize the watering needs of your plants to keep them healthy and flowering.