

# 7 Easy to Grow Annuals for Gorgeous Summer Bouquets



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The following annuals are all easy to grow and can be planted directly in the ground or you can follow the seed packet directions and start them on a sunny window a couple of weeks before your last frost date.

- **Cosmos** – An ethereal but hardy flower, cosmos is our go-to flower when we want something to dance or float above a bouquet. *'Purity'* and *'Double Click Snow Puff'* are our favorite white cosmos. If you're looking for color, there are so many gorgeous varieties to try. *'Rubenza'* and *'Double Click Cranberries'* are on our wishlist.
- **Globe Amaranth** – Profuse is a word that perfectly describes this generous little workhorse of a flower. Globe amaranth (or gomphrena) adds a pop of color and some fun texture to bouquets. We've had good success with the *'QIS'* series.
- **Trailing Amaranth** – We love the beautiful draping habit of trailing amaranth. Just remember to pinch or cut the main stem when it's about a foot high so you get many smaller usable stems instead of one giant, hard to use stalk. We've grown *'Coral Fountain'* with success, but *'Emerald Tassels'* and *'Love-Lies-Bleeding'* look like fun kinds to try as well.
- **Zinnia** – The queen of easy to grow annuals, zinnias are probably the most familiar cut flower in the Midwest. The *'Benary's Giant'* series and the *'Oklahoma'* series are some of our favorites.
- **Basil** – A standard basil like *'Genovese'* as well as *'Mrs. Meyer's Lemon'* basil and a purple kind called *'Amethyst'* will all add lovely textures and scents to your summer bouquets. Young stalks are prone to wilt, but if you wait until the plant has matured a bit and get them into water as soon as you cut them, they'll last for up to a week in a bouquet.
- **Sunflower** – These are the quintessential country flower. There are so many gorgeous varieties available so you aren't stuck with just a generic yellow any more. *'Moulin Rouge'* is a favorite of ours.
- **Nasturtium** – These little jewels have the added bonus of being edible and will add a peppery flavor to salads. *'Jewel Mix'* is one we often grow.

\*Bonus Information\*

Favorite Seed Sources: [www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com) and [www.swallowtailgardenseeds.com](http://www.swallowtailgardenseeds.com)

Keep cutting your annuals and you'll get several months of cut flowers from your garden.

Forage greens from the trees and bushes in your backyard to add structure to your bouquets. Be sure to cut woody stems ½ an inch up the bottom so they can stay hydrated.