

# Everything You Need to Grow Your Flower Garden

Spring's on the way to western Pennsylvania, and you want to plant a flower garden. Where do you start? This quick guide will give you the information you need to plant a garden that your neighbors will envy.

## The soil beneath your feet

The key to a knockout flower garden is soil, and the best soil for flowers is a mixture of sand, silt, and clay. Called loam, this soil holds in the nutrients that plants need and drains well.

If your yard lacks this perfect soil, fear not! Garden soil and mulch are the solution. Garden soil replaces soils with high clay content, and mulch helps to retain precious water. You can get [mulch supply and delivery in Meyersdale, PA](#). They also carry garden soil, top soil, and compost.

## Here comes the sun

Once you have your soil sorted out, the next step is to determine whether your garden gets full or partial sun or mostly shade. Sunlight determines what flowers and other plants will grow best.

### Full sun flowers

- Hibiscus
- Lantana
- Pansy

### Partial sun flowers

- Begonia
- Black-eyed Susan
- Geranium

### Partial or full shade flowers

- Bee balm
- Hydrangea
- Forget-me-not

## How does your garden grow?

You've decided which plants you want in your garden. Now what? It's time to start your plants using seeds or cuttings. Buy seeds from local home and garden stores or from online seed catalogs. Cuttings come from other plants.

## Start from seeds

Start your seeds in winter so your flowers are ready to plant in spring. Get a container with drainage holes. If you are planting several types of seeds, you can buy trays that can hold multiple plants or use egg cartons with holes punched in the bottom of each compartment. Drainage holes are essential to keep the soil from being oversaturated with water.

Pour potting soil into each container about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way up. Check your seed packet to determine how deep to plant the seeds. Next, carefully sprinkle water on top of the seeds. You want the soil moist but not soaking. Cover the container with plastic wrap or a lid to retain moisture and encourage the seeds to germinate. If you're using plastic wrap, poking a few holes in it will allow oxygen to reach the seeds. Remove the plastic wrap or lid once the plants start to germinate. Make sure to put your trays in a warm area in your house out of direct sunlight. Once the seedlings start to appear, move the trays to a sunny spot or use a grow light. When the stems begin to show new leaves, it's time to plant them in your garden.

## Start from stem cuttings

If you just can't wait to start your garden, you can use stem cuttings from other plants. Get them from friends and neighbors or buy them online. Make sure the cuttings come from healthy plants, and during cold weather, keep the cuttings indoors until it's warm enough to plant outside.

To begin, fill a 4- to 6-inch deep container with a soilless mix. Look for a stem with few leaves and a small node; that's where the new growth will begin. Slice through the middle of the node. Using a pencil or something of similar diameter, poke a hole in the potting mix and plant the stem. You can plant more than one stem in the same container but don't let them touch. Give it a little water and place the container in a plastic bag but don't seal the bag. Place the bag in a warm area out of direct sunlight. After 2 or 3 weeks, give the stem a gentle tug. If you feel resistance, the plant has rooted and can now be planted in your garden.

## Getting your hands dirty

You're one step closer to having the perfect flower garden. A week before you plant, mix some manure and compost in with the soil. Dig enough holes for all of your plants. Hole size and depth will depend upon the plant so check the planting instructions for the particular flower. Put each plant in its individual hole and fill in the rest of the space with soil, being careful not to bury the stem. Planting the flowers close together will reduce weeds and produce more flowers.

Putting mulch around the plants will hold in water and cut the amount of water the plants need. If you need mulch brought to you, try [mulch supply and delivery in Meyersdale, PA](#). Your plants will need about 1 to 2 inches of water a week. Weed your garden when necessary. Not only are weeds unsightly, they take up growing space and leach nutrients from the soil.

And that's it! Now relax and enjoy your gorgeous garden.

