

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

How to grow a bouquet garden:

Although all plants and flowers look beautiful in the ground, there are certain ones that don't do well when cut to display in a bouquet. For those gardeners who wish to cut their flowers and display them in bouquets, there are certain plants they should plan for. Some flowers don't last long while in bouquets, and some flowers, such as daylilies, only bloom for one day and don't make for a very long-lasting bouquet, either. However, there are countless flowers to plant which do perform well in bouquets, and gardeners can build a bouquet garden specific to their cutting wishes.

What to plant in a bouquet garden:

Most gardeners may not want to cut flowers out of their perennial beds, because maybe the perennials are paramount to the borders or the picturesque views of the garden. Instead, add an annual bed to your yard so you can walk at your leisure and pick whichever flowers you want to arrange into a bouquet. Since the annuals often need to be cut to allow more blooms to appear up until the first frosts of the season, they can benefit from being grown in a bouquet garden, as well.

There are other characteristics that make flowers great for cutting, too. Generally, you want to plant annuals that have longer stems so you can choose however tall you wish your bouquet to be. If you cut the stems long, this gives extra space to trim the stems down and let them last longer in the bouquets.

Some of the best flowers to plant in a



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bouquet garden include feverfew, ageratum, zinnias, asters, dahlias and others. Some characteristics you want to include in your bouquet garden are flowers that have a long vase life, and you also want to make sure you have plenty of filler flowers. This is where zinnias come in handy, because they vary in size and color and can make each bouquet especially unique.

How to shape the bouquet garden beds:

It is a smart idea to build your bouquet garden in a way so that they are long, narrow rows, which allows you to easily reach all flowers in the garden. This also allows you to build paths through your bouquet garden and create an oasis in your yard.

Tips to keep in mind:

Depending on how large your bouquet garden is, you may want to grow it completely from seed so that you don't overspend on young plants. Planting from



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seed also gives you more options with the type of flowers you hope to grow in your bouquet garden. Amend the soil with an all-purpose fertilizer at the time of planting, and be sure to keep bamboo stakes handy for those flowers that grow especially tall and need something to lean on. Be sure to pick your flowers as often as possible because the more they are harvested, the more they will produce.



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