

From Seed to Sprout

A Beginner's Guide To Planning A Cut Flower Garden

From Shiplap and Shells



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome!

Do you dream of growing a garden bursting with colorful flowers?

I was blessed to turn my dreams into reality when we bought our 104-year-old beach cottage on the Puget Sound.

What started as a simple desire to create a beautiful and inviting front yard blossomed into a full-blown passion.

Now, as a self-taught hobby gardener living in the Pacific Northwest with more than 11 years of experience, I'm thrilled to share with you everything that I've learned about growing a cut flower garden.

In this e-book, you'll learn the secrets to starting seeds at home and creating your own cut flower garden haven with ease. No fancy tools or years of experience needed!



From tips for choosing the right location for your garden, creating a plan and designing your layout, to which varieties of seeds to purchase, this comprehensive guide covers all the basics you need to successfully plan and prepare for your own stunning garden.

So, grab your gardening gloves and get ready to create the beautiful flower garden of your dreams.

- Kim

What is a Cut Flower Garden?

What is a cut flower garden? Before I began my gardening journey, I asked this same question.

Simply put, cut flower gardens are meant to be enjoyed!

Unlike a traditional landscaped garden, cut flower gardens are filled with beautiful blooms to harvest for seasonal bouquets and floral arrangements.

Before I grew a separate [cut flower garden](#), I stressed over picking flowers from our yard and ruining our landscaped beds.

But not anymore! Gardening is hard work, so why not enjoy your flowers more by bringing them indoors?

Here are some benefits of growing a cut flower garden.

Benefits of a Cut Garden

- ✓ UNLIMITED BOUQUETS
- ✓ PROVIDES HABITATS FOR POLLINATORS
- ✓ INCREASES CURB APPEAL



Step 1

Choose a Location

Growing a successful cut flower garden requires careful planning and execution.

The planning phase is so important for gardening efficiency...and your sanity!

Trust me when I say that your results will be much more positive if you invest time designing and planning your gardening space from the beginning.

Here are four things to consider when choosing a location for your cut flower garden.

Important Considerations

- ✓ HOURS OF SUNLIGHT
- ✓ HEALTH OF THE SOIL
- ✓ SPACE CONSTRAINTS
- ✓ YOUR LEVEL OF EXPERTISE

Visit [Shiplap and Shells](#) to see more tips for growing a cut flower garden.



Tips For Choosing A Location



SUNLIGHT IS KEY

- Most flowers that I grow in my cutting garden need *at least* six hours of sun a day.
- When planning a garden bed, evaluate your location for adequate sunlight to help ensure a thriving cut garden.
- Choose plants that require a similar amount of sunlight, with some variety for interest.



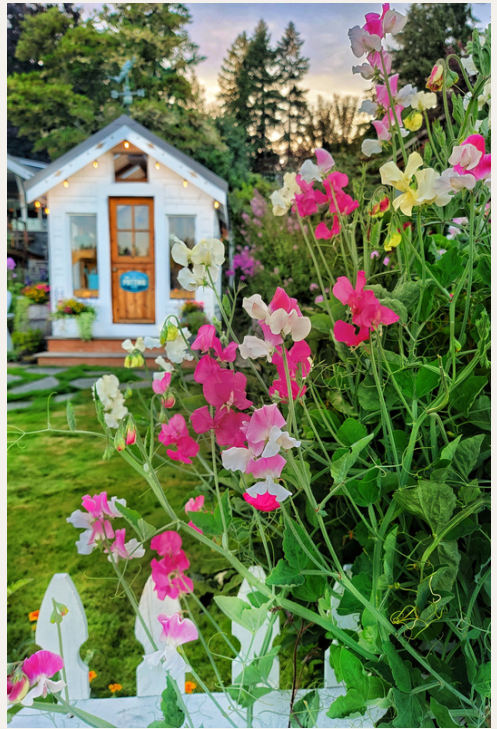
TEST YOUR SOIL

- Choose an area with well-drained and healthy soil that is free from any large root systems.
- Before planting, perform a **soil test**. This will give you a better understanding of how your soil will perform and what amendments may need to be added like fish compost in the spring and **mulched leaves** in the fall.



MEASURE THE SPACE

- For beginners, simplicity is key. Consider a rectangular or square-shaped garden bed, which is easier to manage.
- Avoid overcrowding to prevent competition among plants for vital resources like water and nutrients.



Step 2

Create a Plan

Choosing where to plant your cut flower seedlings isn't just about aesthetics.

Creating a beautiful and thriving cut flower garden prioritizes purposeful planting.

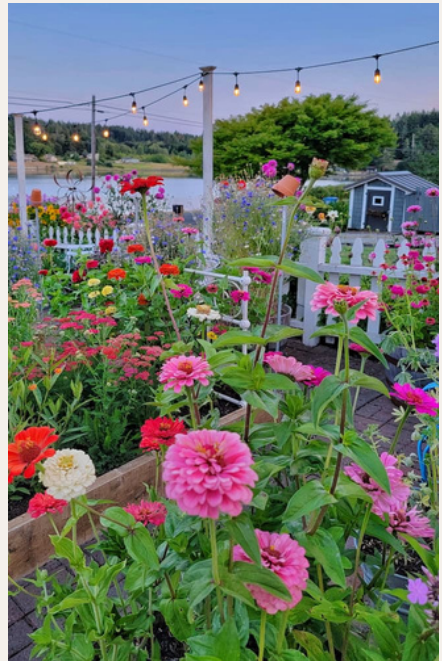
To ensure continuous blooms, I consider these factors when choosing how to organize the plantings within each garden.



Helpful Planning Tips

- ✓ CHOOSE A COLOR SCHEME FOR YOUR GARDEN BED
- ✓ CONSIDER BLOOM TIME FOR EACH FLOWER
- ✓ KEEP MATURE HEIGHT AND WIDTH OF PLANTS IN MIND
- ✓ PLANT FLOWERS TOGETHER THAT REQUIRE STAKING OR NETTING

Visit [Shiplap and Shells](#) to see more tips for growing a cut flower garden.



Step 3

Calculate the Space

Calculating your garden space is important in deciding how many flower seed varieties you can grow.

Do not shop for seeds before knowing how much garden space you have to work with.

Think about the number and type of plants when estimating how much room they will take up in your cut garden.



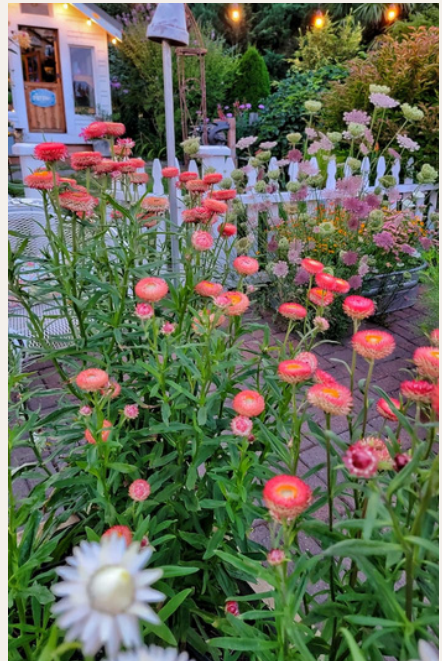
Helpful Planning Tips

- ✓ ALLOW FOR 6-8 INCHES OF SPACE AROUND EACH SEED
- ✓ PLAN FOR 12-15 INCHES OF SPACE BETWEEN EACH ROW

Gardening Essentials



[Click here to shop my favorite gardening tools and supplies.](#)



Step 4

Design the Layout

Creating a cut flower haven isn't just about planting pretty flowers!

A strategic layout paves the way for a flourishing, manageable garden.

Use these tips to design a layout that maximizes your space, minimizes your workload, and keeps your garden bursting with beautiful blooms.



Define Your Space

Clearly define the boundaries of your flower garden using edging, stones or fencing.

Consider the Landscape

Take into account the existing landscape features of your garden, such as trees, shrubs, or architectural elements like fences and walls. These elements can serve as backdrops or focal points for your flower beds.



Visit [Shiplap and Shells](#) to see more tips for growing a cut flower garden.



Group Plantings

Group flowers with similar water and sunlight requirements together. This makes it easier to care for your garden.



Create a Path

Design your garden layout with paths and access aisles. These not only make it easier to reach and care for your flowers but also add visual interest.

You can use materials like gravel, stone, or wood chips to define these pathways.



Add Focal Points

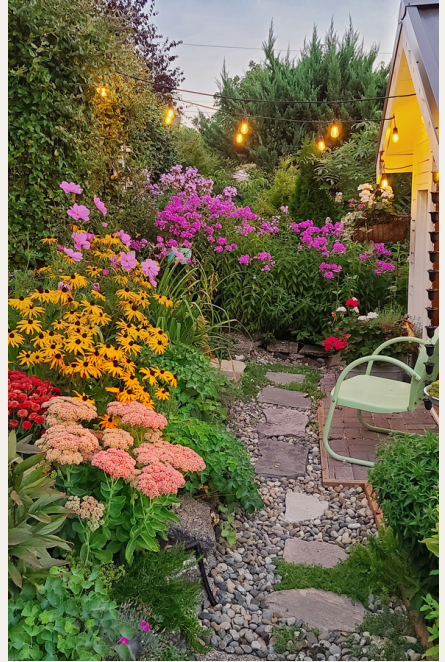
Add focal points to your garden, such as a decorative trellis, a birdbath, or a seating area.

These elements can serve as eye-catching features and create a sense of balance and harmony in your garden design.

Tips from my Garden:



Defining your garden area helps prevent grass and weeds from encroaching on your flower beds.





Think Seasonally

Plan for year-round interest by selecting flowers that bloom at different times throughout the seasons.

This ensures that your garden remains appealing and colorful throughout the year.



Strike a Balance

Consider the color palette and texture of your flower varieties. Mixing complementary colors and varying textures can create a visually stunning garden.


Think about the height of your plants as well, with taller ones placed strategically to create depth and visual interest.



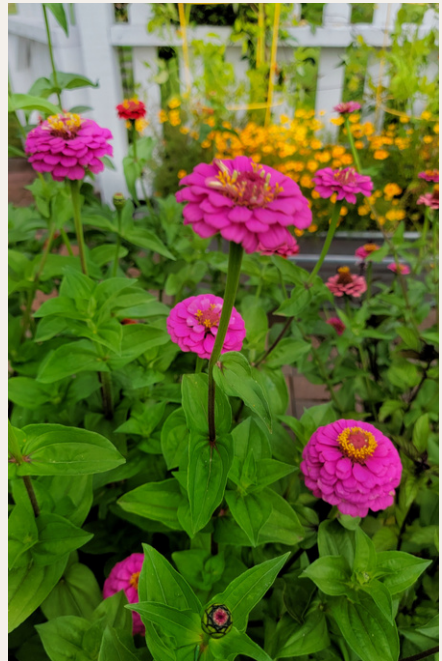
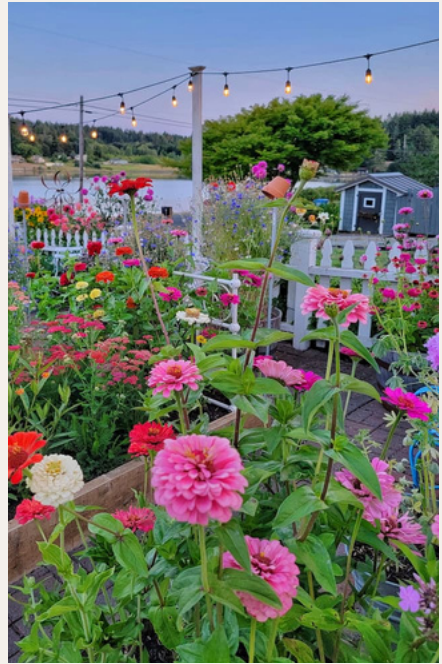
Sketch a Design

Before planting, sketch out your garden design on paper to help visualize how the layout will look. Then make adjustments as needed.

Gardening Essentials



[Click here to shop my favorite gardening tools and supplies.](#)



Step 5

Pick Your Seeds

A wide variety of [annuals and perennials](#) make excellent cut flowers, so it's important to select blooms that will work best for your climate and preferences.

Consider the size, shape, color, and scent of each bloom when selecting varieties for cutting. It's also helpful to look at how long each flower lasts after being cut from its stem and if they [attract beneficial insects](#) or birds to your garden.

Once you've chosen your favorite varieties of flowers for cutting, you can start preparing your soil and planting.



Tips from my Garden:



If you've had a garden in the past, look back in your [garden journal](#) to see [what worked](#) and [what opportunities](#) there were.

Visit [Shiplap and Shells](#) to see more tips for growing a cut flower garden.

The Best Flowers For Beginners

If this is your first time starting a cut flower garden from seed, you may be intimidated by the thought of the entire process.

But I'm here to make it easier for you!

These are some of my favorite easy-to-grow flowers that are perfect for the beginning gardener.



ZINNIAS

[How to grow Zinnias from seed](#)



COSMOS

[How to grow Cosmos from seed](#)



SUNFLOWERS

[How to support tall flowers](#)



SNAPDRAGONS

[How to sow Snapdragon seeds](#)

More Favorites

- STRAWFLOWERS

[How to grow Strawflowers from seed](#)

- SWEET PEAS

[Guide to growing healthy Sweet Peas](#)



My Gardening Must-Haves

W

hen growing a cut flower garden from seed, it's

important to have the the right environment and the right supplies to grow healthy seedlings.

Here are some of my go-to gardening tools and supplies for seed starting.

- [Seed Starting Mix](#)
- [Vermiculite](#)
- [Plastic Seedling Pots](#)
- [Seedling Tray](#)
- [Peat Pots](#)
- [Growing Trays](#)
- [Humidity Dome](#)
- [Heat Mat](#)
- [Grow Lights](#)
- [Garden Plant Tags](#)
- [Gardening Journal](#)
- [Garden Gloves](#)
- [Garden Trowel](#)

 Looking for more?

[Click here](#) to visit my Amazon storefront and see a curated collection of all my gardening favorites!



CONCLUSION

"A garden is not a place, it's a journey"

As this book wraps up, I want to express my gratitude for the chance to share my love of gardening with you.

Whether it's guiding you to the perfect garden spot, or helping you plan, design, or choose your seeds, I hope that this e-book has given you the confidence and motivation to get your yard ready for a beautiful cut flower garden

Remember, that a garden is not a place, it's a journey. As you navigate through each season, nurturing and tending to your flowers, the joy comes from witnessing the beautiful changes that unfold.

Happy planting!

- Kim

p.s. If you want to connect with fellow gardening enthusiasts, consider joining my [Gardening Tips and Tricks Group](#) on Facebook. It's a space where we can share gardening ideas, tips, and inspire each other to cultivate beautiful gardens together.



Let's stay connected!



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