

Beautiful  
Sustainable &  
Abundant  
Cutting Gardens



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A Live Webinar with Jennie Love



*Love is a Good Thing*  
  
FLORAL DESIGN & DELIVERY  
www.loveisagoodthing.com



# The Basics

## What exactly is a Cutting Garden?

A cutting garden is different than having flower beds around your home to beautify your landscape. Cutting gardens are purposeful and focused on growing blooms and foliage that you'll remove (cut) to use in making bouquets for inside your home. So they ironically aren't the prettiest gardens sometimes. When choosing plants for your cutting garden, you want to look for ones that are taller (24"+) and that will produce many flowers. This is contrast to "bedding plants" that typically fill garden centers each spring.

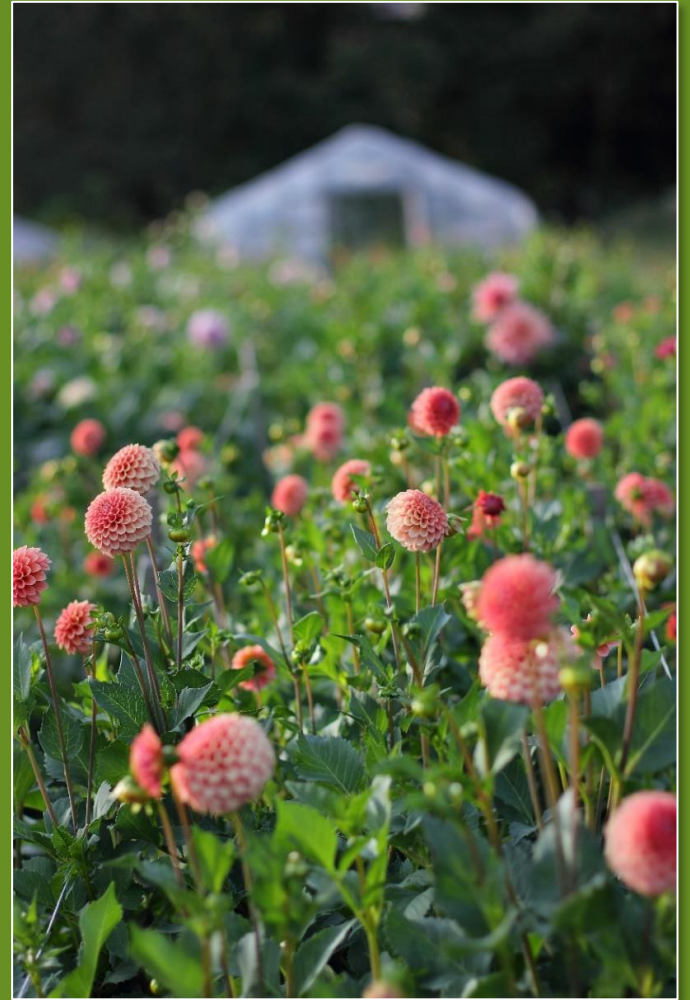






# Benefits of Cut Flowers in the Garden

- 🌸 Increase biodiversity
- 🌸 Attract pollinators to your veggies
- 🌸 Create habitat for wildlife
- 🌸 Build soil health
- 🌸 Beautify your home
- 🌸 Reduce stress & boost immunity
- 🌸 Inspire creativity
- 🌸 Bring joy to friends & family



*Love 'n Fresh Flowers*

# Site Selection

## ☼ Light

- ☼ Full sun ideal, but...
- ☼ Shade is great too!

## ☼ Water access

- ☼ Easy and close
- ☼ Irrigation is a must!

## ☼ Soil

- ☼ Loamy is best
- ☼ Well-drained is a must!
- ☼ pH of 6.5-6.8 for most
- ☼ Balanced fertility with focus on calcium and phosphorus over nitrogen
- ☼ Lots of organic matter (5-8%)

## ☼ Protected sites or plan to plant wind breaks







# A Note on Soil & Sustainability

Did you know that a single teaspoon of soil contains more life than there are people on this entire planet? The soil is ALIVE! It is a self-contained biome of billions of micro life forms humans haven't even begun to unravel and understand. What we do know is that that life in the soil is critical to our own ability to thrive and sustain humanity on Earth. Since soil is alive, that means it can also die. As global soil health drastically declines, climate change inversely increases. The way you treat the soil in your own garden, no matter how big or small, is one of the best ways you can help in a very real way with climate change by sequestering carbon and fostering biodiversity and balance.

Some resources for learning more about soil life and its critical role in sustaining human life:

- 🌸 *Kiss the Ground* documentary
- 🌸 Ken Burns: *The Dust Bowl* documentary
- 🌸 *The Regenerative Grower's Guide to Garden Amendments* by Nigel Palmer
- 🌸 No-Till Flowers Podcast and on Instagram @notillflowers



# Soil-First Flower Growing Mantras

- ❁ Never have bare exposed soil in your garden; always cover it and keep it planted
- ❁ Fungi, bacteria, and even weeds are not enemies but allies in the garden
- ❁ Get a soil test (make sure to get the organic matter test too)
- ❁ Only use organic inputs (both fertilizers and soil amendments)
- ❁ Avoid tilling or disturbing the soil
- ❁ Be careful with purchased compost
- ❁ You can make several homemade inputs yourself
- ❁ Prioritize boosting soil life (biology) over “fertility”
- ❁ Do not remove the leaves from your garden/yard!!!



# Garden Layout

- ❁ Straight rows in standardized lengths for efficiency.
- ❁ Rows 3' wide for ease of harvest.
- ❁ Narrow aisles recommended for intensive production: 18" – 24" wide.
- ❁ No-till permanent beds best. Raised beds if drainage is poor.
- ❁ Tight spacing for flowers: 6" x 6" is good for most flowering annuals.



# Plant Selection

ANNUALS	PERENNIALS
Quick to bloom	Take time to mature
Inexpensive; easy from seed	Investment; hard from seed
Great for beginners; small spaces	Unusual blooms/foilage; fun for floral design
Can be succession planted	Very important for shade spots
Need planted every year and require more care	Can be divided and last many years
“Cut and come again”	Usually bloom only a week or two each season

\* Plant native varieties whenever possible!



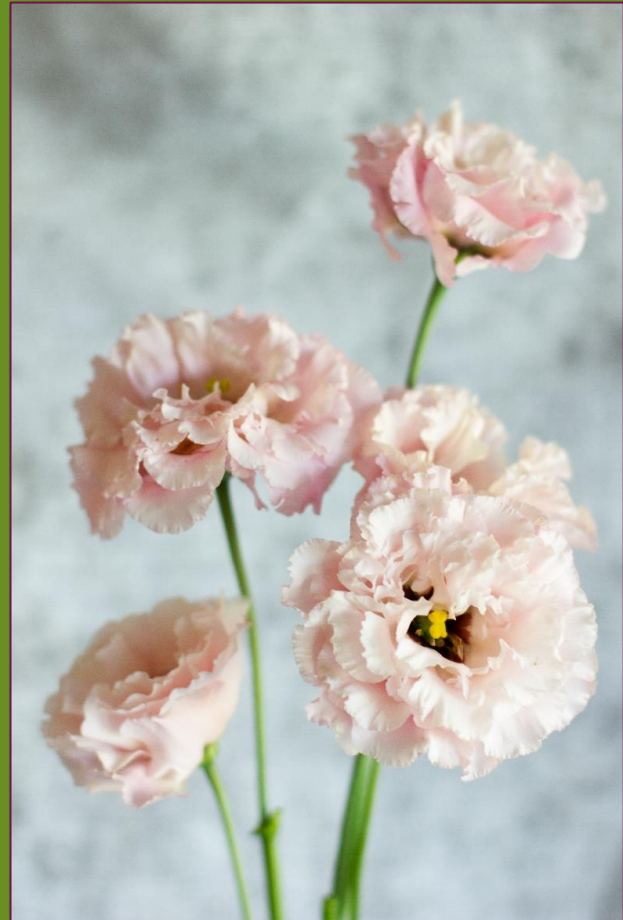
# Beginner Annuals

- ✿ Zinnia 'Benary's Giant' & 'Oklahoma'
- ✿ Cosmos 'Double Click'
- ✿ Celosia 'Flamingo'
- ✿ Nigella 'Albion Black'
- ✿ Larkspur 'QIS'
- ✿ Dianthus 'Amazon'
- ✿ Ageratum 'Blue Horizon'
- ✿ Daucus 'Dara'
- ✿ Yarrow 'Colorado'
- ✿ Feverfew 'Balls Ultra Double'
- ✿ Helianthus 'Procut'
- ✿ Snapdragon 'Rocket'
- ✿ Strawflower 'Silvery Rose'
- ✿ Scabiosa 'QIS'
- ✿ Agrostemma 'Ocean Pearls'



# Advanced Annuals

- ✿ Lisianthus
- ✿ Dahlias
- ✿ Specialty Tulips
- ✿ Ranunculus\*
- ✿ Anemones\*
- ✿ Icelandic Poppies\*
- ✿ Campanula\*
- ✿ Stock\*
- ✿ Sweet Peas\*



\* These need protecting from cold in Zone 7 or colder.



# Proven Perennials

- ✿ Baptisia
- ✿ Hellebores
- ✿ Veronica
- ✿ Peonies
- ✿ Caryopteris
- ✿ Phlox
- ✿ Narcissus
- ✿ Astilbe
- ✿ Spirea
- ✿ Hydrangeas
- ✿ Viburnum
- ✿ Autumn anemones
- ✿ Allium
- ✿ Eryngium
- ✿ Foxglove



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# Don't Forget Foliage!

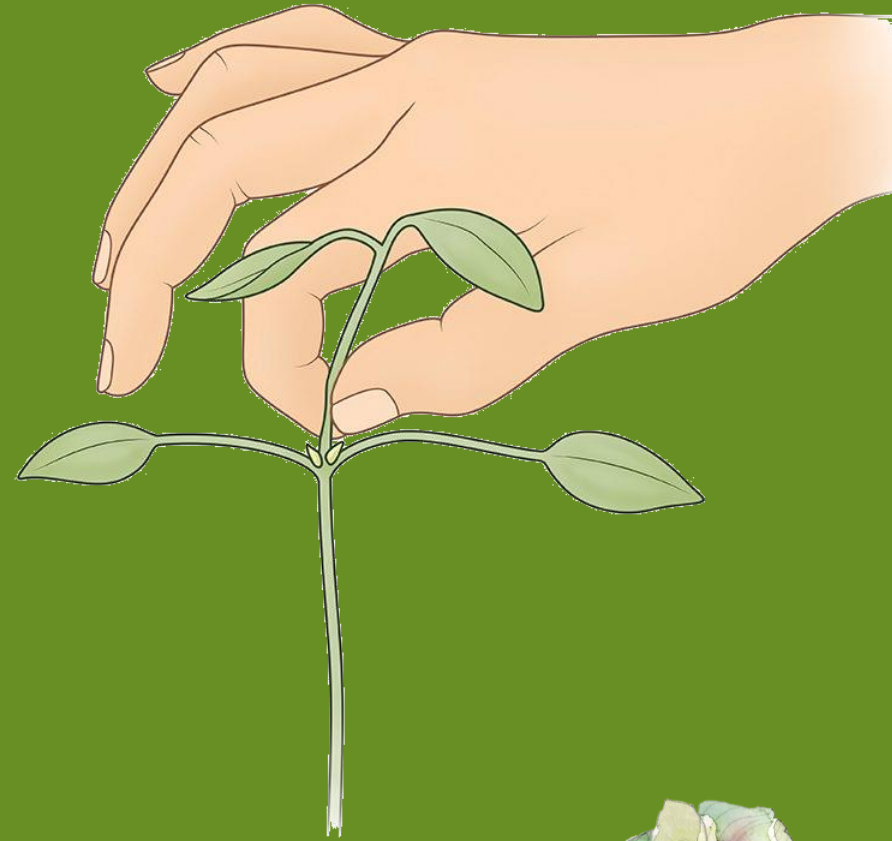
- ✿ Dusty miller
- ✿ Baptisia
- ✿ Mountain mint
- ✿ Rosemary
- ✿ Snowberry
- ✿ Ninebark
- ✿ Smokebush
- ✿ Spirea
- ✿ Eucalyptus
- ✿ Forsythia
- ✿ Bupleurum
- ✿ Basil
- ✿ Scented geranium
- ✿ Solomon Seal



Love in Fresh Flowers

# “Pinch” to Produce More!

- ❁ Incredibly important to producing a lot of flowers in a small space.
- ❁ Most annuals can be pinched, which forces them to branch into multiple stems instead of just one.\*
- ❁ Pinch when plants have about three sets of leaves; remove the top two sets so one set of healthy leaves is left.
- ❁ Tough love feels scary but it works!



# Succession Planting

- ❁ Annuals fizzle out over a long season
- ❁ Plant several batches to get fresh blooms into fall
- ❁ Flowers to use for succession planting – sow 2-3 times about 3 weeks apart:

- ❁ Zinnia
- ❁ Cosmos
- ❁ Queen Anne's Lace
- ❁ Ageratum
- ❁ Celosia
- ❁ Sunflowers
- ❁ Scabiosa
- ❁ Flowering Dill
- ❁ Snapdragons
- ❁ Dianthus
- ❁ Feverfew
- ❁ Amaranth
- ❁ Gomphrena



# Cutting & Care Tips

## ✿ Cutting/Harvesting

- ✿ Early morning or late evening best
- ✿ Avoid rain
- ✿ Cut directly into a bucket of water
- ✿ Move full buckets into the shade or cooler immediately
- ✿ Keep your scissors clean and sharpened!

## ✿ Cut Flower Care

- ✿ Store in cool dark space
- ✿ Temp for storing varies by season between 34F – 40F
- ✿ Allow freshly harvested flowers to rest and hydrate overnight
- ✿ Keep away from vegetables and fruit
- ✿ Keep water clean!
- ✿ Keep vases clean!
- ✿ Keep buckets clean!





# Sources for Seeds & Plants

- 🌸 Renee's Garden for seeds ([www.reneesgarden.com](http://www.reneesgarden.com))
- 🌸 Johnny's Selected Seeds for seeds ([www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com))
- 🌸 Harris Seeds for seeds and plants ([www.harriseseeds.com](http://www.harriseseeds.com))
- 🌸 Netherland Bulb Company for bulbs ([www.netherlandbulb.com](http://www.netherlandbulb.com))
- 🌸 Dutch Grown for bulbs ([www.dutchgrown.com](http://www.dutchgrown.com))
- 🌸 Groff's Plant Farm for perennials (search on Facebook for them)
- 🌸 Swan Island for dahlia tubers ([www.dahlias.com](http://www.dahlias.com))
- 🌸 Love 'n Fresh Flowers for cut flower plant starts ([www.lovenfreshflowers.com](http://www.lovenfreshflowers.com))



# Other Resources

- ❁ **Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers** ([www.ascfg.org](http://www.ascfg.org))
- ❁ *The Flower Farmer* by Lynn Byczynski
- ❁ Bare Mountain Flower Farm YouTube Chanel
- ❁ *Specialty Cut Flowers* by Judy Laushman
- ❁ *Cool Flowers* by Lisa Zeigler
- ❁ Online courses through the Gardeners Workshop
- ❁ In-person workshops at Love 'n Fresh Flowers (April 24<sup>th</sup> gardening class)



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