



## The best flowers to plant in the spring

Once you are sure freezing-cold nights are behind you, it's time to grab a spade and start beautifying your gardens. Here are our favorite flowers to plant in the spring.

### 1. Pansies

When spring rolls around, you will start seeing huge trays of multi-colored pansies in your local garden centers, and these blooms are a great choice for novice gardeners, as they are quite forgiving in their care. Pansies are annual flowers — meaning they need to be replanted every year — that thrive in full sunlight, but they are tolerant of cold temperatures, as well. Plus, they come in a lovely range of colors, including yellow, orange, red, purple, white, and more.

### 2. Marigolds

These bright yellow and orange blooms are a cheery addition to any garden. Marigolds are an annual that is quite easy to grow from seed — they germinate quickly and bloom within a few months — and they'll keep flowering all season long.

### 3. Petunias

Petunias are another popular spring flower thanks to their long blooming season, and while most people will treat them as annuals, those in warmer climates may be able to have them come back the following year. Petunias come in shades of pink, purple, red, white, and blue, and they are easiest to grow as transplants, frequently being used in hanging baskets or as garden borders.



#### **4. Zinnias**

You can attract lots of butterflies to your garden by planting zinnias, which feature bold, colorful blooms on a single stem — perfect if you are hoping to make floral arrangements for your table. Zinnias are annuals that come in a wide range of colors and feature rows upon rows of petals, and they grow best from seed, typically sprouting in less than a week.

#### **5. Sunflowers**

Who doesn't love a bold, brilliant sunflower? When planted in the spring, sunflowers will typically bloom in mid- to late-summer. Just be sure to give them ample room to grow and a location that gets several hours of direct sunlight per day.

#### **6. Sweet pea**

Sweet peas are trickier to grow than other spring flowers, but your efforts will be worth it, as these climbing annuals have a lovely appearance and even nicer fragrance. You'll want to plant seeds as soon as the soil is dry enough to work with, as sweet peas take longer to germinate, and once they start growing, be sure to give them a tall support to climb up.

#### **7. Gladiolus**

You can add some variety to your garden with gladiolus flowers, which grow in tall spikes that make a lovely addition to summer bouquets. Gladiolus corms (which are similar to bulbs) can be planted in the spring, and you'll have blooms in around two months. Plus, these gorgeous flowers are perennials, so they'll come back year after year!