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# Introduction

With just a little bit of care and preparation, any flower garden can be a vibrantly colored environment. Flowers can be selected for specific blooming seasons, colors and shapes. Both annual and Perennial flower gardens can be planted depending on climate and specific needs.

Care and Preparation

When caring for your flower garden you want to feed your plants properly, control pests and weeds. Good soil is a must to successful gardening, landscaping, and healthy flowers. You have to balance the soil structure with nutrients and regulate the pH to cover your plants' needs. And above all, remember that many flower gardens fail because they just don't get enough of your attention.

Table 1: Flowers

| Flower | Type | Soil |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Chrysanthemum | perennial | well drained |
| Gardenia | perennial | acidic |
| Gerbera | annual | sandy, well-drained |
| Iris | perennial | slightly acidic |
| Lilac | perennial | alkaline |
| Salvia | perennial | average |
| Snowdrop | perennial | humus-rich (rich in ) |

Pruning

**Pruning** is the process of removing certain above-ground elements from a plant; in landscaping this process usually involves removal of diseased, non-productive, or otherwise unwanted portions from a plant. In nature, certain meteorological conditions such as wind, snow or seawater mist can conduct a when for natural pruning process. The purpose of anthropomorphic pruning is to shape the plant by controlling or directing plant growth, to maintain the health of the plant, or to increase the yield or quality of flowers and fruits.

In general the smaller the wound (smaller the branch that is cut) the less harm to the tree. It is therefore typically better to formative prune the tree when juvenile than try to cut off large branches on a mature tree.

Follow these simple steps:

1. Begin by cutting out all the dead branches.
2. Remove all tangled or crossed over branches. This allows air to circulate and reduces bug and fungi infestation.
3. Take your time! Work comfortably and do not make shortcuts when cutting stems. Use good quality, sharp tools.
4. Clean up the area. Burn all pest infested branches.

Garden Preparation

An appreciation of the conditions under which bulbs grow in nature is of considerable help in understanding their needs in cultivation, but is by no means all-sufficient. When plants are grown away from their native homes-and perhaps are accommodated in pots indoors-they may respond to quite different soils, temperatures, moisture conditions, etc., than those to which they are subjected in the wild.

1. Handle bulbs carefully. Any scarred or punctured bulb is more susceptible to decay or infestation.
2. Make sure that the **soil** is the *proper* one. This might be hard to achieve, but generally an earth midway between sand and clay and containing a generous measure of organic matter is what most plants want.
3. All plants need **watering**, but you should also provide good drainage. An overabundance of water around bulbs during the dormant period is particularly harmful.
4. Plants respond to fertile soil, but **fertilizers** must not be used carelessly. Improper dosage can do more harm than good.
5. When dealing with **insects** and **diseases**, proper diagnosis of the trouble is of primary importance.

# Flowers by Season

Flowers and seasons are intimately bound to each other. Most of the flowers are season-specific.

The various climatic changes that occur in cyclic pattern are termed as 'Seasons'. There are four general seasons occurring on Earth - Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

Flowers and seasons are intimately bound to each other. Most of the flowers are season-specific. However, some flowers are found throughout the year, not particularly affected by changing seasons.

Autumn Flowers

Autumn is the season of the primary harvest. Autumn falls during September - November in the Northern hemisphere, and during March - June in the Southern hemisphere. Crops are harvested during Autumn. Leaves change color are at their beautiful best.

Some of the flowers blooming in autumn are: Acashia, Allium, Alstromeria, Amaranthus, Anemone, Baby's Breath, Bittersweet, Carnation, China berry, Chrysanthemum, Cockscomb, Cosmos, Echinops, Freesia, Gerbera Daisy, Gladiolus, Hypericum, Iris, Juniper, Kangaroo paw, Kalancheo, Liatrus, Lily, Asiatic, Lily, Gloriosa, Misty Blue, Orchid, Pepper berry, Protea, Queen Ann's Lace, Quince, Rover, Roses, Rowen berry, Salvia, Solidago, Statice, Star of Bethlehem, Sunflower, Yarrow, Zinnia.

### Salvia

*From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.*

**Salvia** is the largest Genus of plants in the mint family, **Lamiaceae**, with approximately 900 species of shrubs, herbaceous perennials, and annuals. It is one of three genera commonly referred to as sage. When used without modifiers, sage generally refers to **Salvia officinalis** ("common sage"); however, it can be used with modifiers to refer to any member of the genus. The ornamental species are commonly referred to by their scientific name **Salvia**. The genus is distributed throughout the world, with the center of diversity and origin appearing to be Central and South Western Asia, while nearly 500 species are native to Mexico and Central and South America.



The name is derived from the Latin *salvere* ("to save"), referring to the long-believed healing properties of salvia. The Latin was corrupted to '*sauja*', to the French '*sauge*', and to the old English '*sawge*', and eventually became the modern day '*sage*'. Pliny the Elder was the first to use the Latin name salvia.

###### Species

**Salvia** species include annual, biennial, or perennial herbs, along with woody based sub-shrubs. The stems are typically angled like other members in **Lamiaceae**[[1]](#footnote-1). The flowers are produced in spikes, racemes, or panicles, and generally produce a showy display with flower colors ranging from blue to red, with white and yellow less common. The calyx is normally tubular or bell shaped, without bearded throats, and divided into two parts or lips, the upper lip entire or three-toothed, the lower two-cleft. The corollas are often claw shaped and are two-lipped with the upper lip entire or notched and spreading. The lower lip typically has three lobes with the middle lobe longest. The stamens are reduced to two short structures with anthers two-celled, the upper cell fertile, and the lower imperfect. The flower styles are two-cleft. The fruits are smooth nutlets and many species have a mucilaginous coating.

###### Characteristics

The defining characteristic of the genus **Salvia** is the unusual Pollination mechanism, which consists of two stamens (instead of the typical four found in other members of the tribe **Mentheae**) and the way the two stamens are connected to form a lever. When a pollinator enters the flower for nectar, the lever activates causing the stamens to move and the pollen to be deposited on the pollinator. When the pollinator withdraws from the flower, the lever returns the stamens to their original position. As the pollinator enters another flower of the same species, the stigma is placed in a general location that corresponds to where the pollen was deposited on the pollinator's body. It is believed that this is a key factor in the speciation of this large group of diverse plants. However, it now appears that somewhat different versions of this lever mechanism have evolved in the tribe Mentheae, and that **Salvia** is not monophyletic.

# Glossary

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Genus | A low-level taxonomic rank used in the classification of living and fossil organisms. Other well-known taxonomic ranks are domain, kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, and species, with genus fitting between family and species. The scientific name of a genus may be called the generic name: it is always capitalized. |
| Pollination | Pollination is the process by which pollen is transferred in plants, thereby enabling fertilisation and sexual reproduction. Pollination is a necessary step in the reproduction of flowering plants, resulting in the production of offsprings that are genetically diverse. |
| Sepal | A sepal (from Latin *separatus* "separate" + *petalum* "petal") is a part of the flower of flowering plants. Sepals in a "typical" flower are green and lie under the more conspicuous petals. As a collective unit the sepals are called the calyx, and the collection of petals is called the corolla. Together, these two structures are known as the perianth of the flower. The petals and sepals are usually differentiated into colorful petals and green sepals. The term tepal is usually applied when the petals and sepals are not differentiated and look similar or the petals are absent and the sepals are colorful. When the flower is in bud, the sepals enclose and protect the more delicate floral parts within. Morphologically they are modified leaves. |
| Rhizome | A rhizome is a characteristically horizontal stem of a plant that is usually found underground, often sending out roots and shoots from its nodes. Some plants have rhizomes that grow above ground or that lie at the soil surface, including some Iris species, and ferns, whose spreading stems are rhizomes. Rhizomes may also be referred to as creeping rootstalks, or rootstocks. |
| Bulb | A bulb is an underground vertical shoot that has modified leaves (or thickened leaf bases) that are used as food storage organs by a dormant plant. |
| Cultivar | A cultivar is a cultivated plant that has been selected and given a unique name because of its decorative or useful characteristics; it is usually distinct from similar plants and when propagated it retains those characteristics. The word cultivar is generally regarded as a portmanteau of "**cultivated**" and "**variety**", but could also be derived from "**cultigen**" "**variety**". |
| Perennial | A perennial plant or perennial is a plant that lives for more than two years. When used by gardeners or horticulturists, this term applies specifically to perennial herbaceous plants. Scientifically, woody plants like shrubs and trees are also perennial in their habit. |
| Panicle | A panicle is a compound raceme, a loose, much-branched indeterminate inflorescence with pedicellate flowers (and fruit) attached along the secondary branches (in other words, a branched cluster of flowers in which the branches are racemes). |

# Copyright

Legal-related information.

Most of the information was taken from [Wikipedia](http://www.wikipedia.com/), the free encyclopedia.

1. Family of flowering plants commonly known as the mint or deadnettle or sage family. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)