

**HOW TO PLAN A CUTTING GARDEN IN NEW YORK CITY**

By Liz Christy

One of the joys of gardening is being able to cut flowers for your apartment. Just as satisfying for community gardeners is having enough flowers to give away to others – shut-ins, senior citizen centers, churches and other houses of worship – in your neighborhood; or your group may wish to sell them as a fund-raising activity.

Be sure that you plan your cutting garden for approximate plant selection and for convenience. It is wise to have your cutting flower area in an accessible place where you can move about easily with a container and cutting tool. Flowers most suitable for the cutting garden are those that have a long growing season and a stem of adequate length.

Of course, if you have a bulb bed, tulips and daffodils make excellent cut flowers; be certain that you cut only the flower stalk – not the leaves; the leaves are essential for next year’s growth.

The best time to cut flowers is in the early morning. Be sure to cut the stems sharply on the diagonal; to get a clean cut, of course, your pruning shears or knife should be very sharp. Bring a broad-based container – preferably plastic – partially filled with warm water. Remove leave from the lower part of the stems and put them immediately in the container.

A recommended way of preserving flowers is to submerge them in warm water for 30 minutes and then place them in vases containing the following solution: one quart of water, 2 tablespoons of fresh lemon juice, 1 tablespoon of sugar and ½ tablespoon of household bleach.

ANNUALS	PERENNIALS
Arctosis (A. grandis)	Pink Yarrow (Achillea millefolium rose)
Browallia (B. speciosa) *	*Japanese Anemone (A. hupehensis japonica)
Pot Marigold (Calendula offic.)	Aster
Cornflower (Centaurea cyanus)	Shasta Daisy (Chrysanthemum maximum)
Calliopsis (Coreopsis tinctoria)	Chrysanthemums spp.
Cosmos (C. bipinnatus)	Painted Daisy (Chrysanthemum coccineum)
Rocket Larkspur (Delphinium ajacis)	Cone Flower (Rudbeckia)
Chinese Pink (Dianthus chinensis)	Scarlet Sage (Salvia splendens)
Gaillardia (G. lorenziana)	Spike Speedwell (Veronica spicata "Icicle")
Candytuft (Iberis umbellate)	Tickseed (Coreopsis grandiflora)
Limonium (Sea-lavender)	Delphinium
Drummond Phlox (Phlox drummondii)	Sweet William (Dianthus barbatus)
Mignonette (Reseda odorata) *	Baby’s Breath (Gypsophila paniculate)
Salpiglossis (S. sinuate)	Peony (Paeonia) *
Scabiosa (S. atropurpurea)	
Marigold (Tagetes erecta and Tagetes-patula)	
Nasturtium (Tropaeolum majus)	
Verbena (V. x hybrida)	
Pansy (Viola tricolor) *	
Zinnia (Z. elegans)	

\* prefers some shade

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