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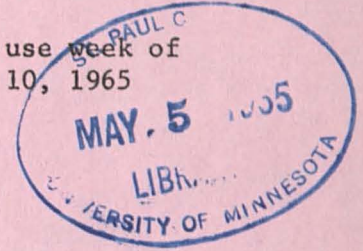
Yard 'n' Garden



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DIRECT FLOWER SEEDING

Flower seeds such as zinnia, bachelor button, marigold, cleome, snapdragon, stock and sweet alyssum are most commonly seeded directly into the garden. The goal is to get these flowers to bloom as early as possible without the risk of frost.

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Sweet peas are usually the first seeds to be planted out of doors in spring. The seeds may be planted as soon as the soil is workable. It isn't necessary to wait for the soil to warm up.

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Often there is a place in the garden where the soil warms up early so it can be worked. In such a place seeds can be sown in a small area about 5 by 5 feet. Cover the area with a black plastic until the seeds have germinated. Later they can be transplanted to their permanent location in the garden.

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Another suggestion for direct seeding is to outline the planting areas for the various annuals with string. Then sow the seed thinly within the planting space. If you wonder how you can tell flowers from weeds, planting two or three flower seeds together will help identify them as they come out of the soil. Growing samples of seeds in small pots is also helpful.

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Covering the seeded area with a black plastic helps to warm the soil and speed germination. The plastic should be removed as soon as the seeds are germinated. Be prepared to cover plants in the event of an unseasonable frost.

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