

# HOT WEATHER COLOR BRILLIANT BEDDING PLANTS THAT BEAT THE HEAT!

Have you ever experienced the joy of springtime flower beds filled with brilliant hues only to see the colors wilt and fade in the hot summer sun? Well, rejoice. Some bedding plants actually thrive in the heat. If you choose the proper plants and give them a bit of tender loving care, you can enjoy a vivid, multicolored garden all summer long.

## GETTING STARTED

First, determine the site for your flower bed. Then select the heat-tolerant plants that will give you the colors and the look you want throughout the summer. You may choose to start your bedding plants from seed, or you may purchase plants at our nursery. If you have any questions about which plants have the characteristics you desire, just ask our Certified Nursery Professionals. We'll be glad to help you get your project underway.

## PLANTING

The soil of your planting bed should strike a balance between being well-drained and moisture-retentive. Perma-Gro Mulch can address both these needs. Spread a three to four inch layer of the material over the soil, till it in deeply – at least six inches – then rake smooth.

Place each plant in a hole about twice the size of its root-ball and backfill with a mixture of Perma-Gro Mulch and native soil. Place the plants in an attractive arrangement in which their colors, shapes and sizes will be complementary. Avoid both crowding your plants and spacing them too far apart. Pinch back tall, spindly plants to two or three sets of leaves to encourage bushier plants. Water plants in plastic containers several hours before transplanting to facilitate removing the root-ball from the pot.

## FERTILIZING

Immediately after planting, water in thoroughly with Perma-Gro Root Stimulator to minimize transplant shock and promote a healthy, vigorous root system. Then fertilize regularly according to package instructions with Perma-Gro Super Bloom to maintain vigorous plants with lots of beautiful flowers all summer long.

## WATERING

After planting and fertilizing, proper watering is crucial. Most people water too often yet too little. Wait until the soil is dry to a depth of one to two inches, and then soak to a depth of about six inches. Avoid the use of automatic sprinklers, especially of new plants. When you hand-water, you can take account of moisture differences that arise because of drainage patterns in your garden. Plants of different sizes also have different watering needs. To minimize pest infestation, avoid getting water on the leaves. Especially early in the season, water only when it's clearly needed, to encourage the early formation of an extensive root system. This will give your plants the water-gathering network they need to survive the hot summer.

## CARE

Mulching can help your plants bask in the summer sun without suffering. A few inches of mulch will keep the weeds down, keep soil temperatures at a more even level and keep the soil from drying out. In addition, organic mulches break down over time, releasing their nutrients for your plants' use. "Deadheading" – the removal of dead or dying blooms – will usually generate more blooms, especially on plants that would otherwise form viable seeds (except periwinkle; deadheading will merely stunt it). Remove flowers as soon as they are past their prime. This goes for annuals and perennials alike.

## RECOMMENDED VARIETIES

Lots of bedding plants, both perennial and annual, thrive on a full day's sun in the summer. Colors and growth shape vary considerably, even within species, so check the seed packet or consult our Certified Nursery Professionals for a variety that will fit your needs.

VARIETY	COLORS	COMMENTS
Begonias (P)	White, pink, red	Bronze leaf tolerate more sun
Black-Eyed Susan (A)	Yellow, bronze, variegated	Drought tolerant
Daylily (P)	Cream, pink, yellow, red, orange, bronze	Needs minimal care
Geraniums (P)	White, pink, red, violet	Place in semi-shade during hot weather
Lisianthus (P)	Blue, pink, white, multicolor	Likes well-drained soil
Marigolds (A)	Gold, rust, yellow, orange, red	Well-adapted to heat
Purple Coneflower (P)	Purple	Drought tolerant
Periwinkle (Vinca) (A)	White, pink, lavender	Love heat
Portulaca (Moss Rose) (A)	Mixed colors	Drought tolerant; lover heat
Zinnia (A)	White, pink, yellow, red	Keep foliage dry

(P) = Perennial (A) = Annual



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