

Fall Seed Planting For Spring Color

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Height & Width</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Cornflower or Bachelor Button <i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	2-3' X 1'	White, periwinkle blue, blue, pink, and magenta.	Full sun or part shade.	Easy from seed. Long bloom period.
Larkspurs, <i>Consolida ambigua</i>	3-5' X 1'	White, pink, rose, lavender, purple, blue, and bi-color. Single or double flowers.	Sun to part shade	Lovely. Good dried flowers. Center petals of the single flowers look like a little bunny.
Plains Coreopsis <i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>	1-3' X 2'	Yellow w/ maroon or brown eye.	Full sun or part shade.	Does well in a wet, poorly drained site.
Queen Anne's Lace <i>Daucus carota</i>	2-3' X 2-3'	Broad umbels of small white flowers	Full sun or part shade.	Easy from seed.
California poppy <i>Eschscholzia californicus</i>	1-2' X 1-2'	Brilliant orange, yellow, cream, rose. Single or double flowers. Good for dried flowers.	Full sun or a little bit of shade.	One of the best. Easy. Drought & heat tolerant. Months of color.
Gaillardia <i>Gaillardia sp.</i>	1-2' X 1-2'	Red, yellow, and orange	Best in full sun	Excellent for easy culture
Corn or Shirley poppy <i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	2-3' X 1'	White, pink, red, orange, scarlet, salmon and bi-color.	Full sun or part shade.	Beautiful and easy as are many other <i>Papaver species</i> .
Bluebonnets <i>Lupinus texensis</i>	1-2' X 1-2'	Blue, pink, white, lavender, maroon, bi-colors.	Full sun	Nick or damage seed coat and soak for 12-24 hours before planting for better germination.

Planting Flower Seeds

Planting Dates: Plant in September, October or early November. September is the ideal time.

Site: Plant seeds in full sun with well drained soil.

Soil Preparation: If the soil is hard and unamended you'll need to work several inches of organic matter in the soil. If the soil has been amended in the past, lightly cultivate the soil surface with a heavy rake or hand tool.

Seed Treatment: Some seeds need to be put in the freezer, soaked over night or scarification (scarring the seed coat) to promote better germination.

Sowing Seeds in Mulched Beds: If the planting site is covered in mulch, rake back or remove sections of mulch to plant in. Another alternative to removing the mulch is to push openings about 3-4 inches in diameter every ten inches in the mulch and plant in these spots.

Seeding Depth: Tiny seeds can be surface sown, like old fashion poppy seeds. Some seeds need light to germinate like larkspur and lettuce, others need darkness like parsley. Mixing tiny seeds with sand will give you a better distribution and less crowding. If you don't have instructions on planting depth, plant seeds 3-4 times their diameter.

Light Mulch: After planting, you can sprinkle an ever so thin layer of grass clippings or loose, finely shredded paper over the seeded area. This will help keep soil moist and shaded for better seed sprouting.

Press The Seed: After planting, seeds should be pressed into the soil to create a good seed-to-soil contact. The area can be lightly walked on, firmed with the palm of your hand or patted with the back of a shovel. This enhance and speed up germination.

Watering: Water well after planting with a soft spray or sprinkle to avoid dislodging the seeds. Then water on an as need basis to get the seed up.

Thin Seedlings: After emergence and plants have their first pair of true leaves, start thinning plants. Unthinned, crowded plants give disappointing results. Thin early and repeat as needed.

Mulch: Plants go through the winter as a small plant. If very cold, prolonged weather is predicted, cover plants in a loose layer of mulch. When temperatures moderate, the mulch can be pulled off the top of the plants.