

Cut Flower Gardening

Class will begin soon!



Weber Basin Water
Conservancy District



Plan for the space you have.





- Pair down your wish list to fit your space!
- Make sure to give yourself space to work and move.



- Growing closer together means:
 - More blooms
 - Less weeds
 - Encourages upright growth



- 6" x 6"
 - Best for crops with upright form or single, non-branching stems
 - celosia, sunflowers



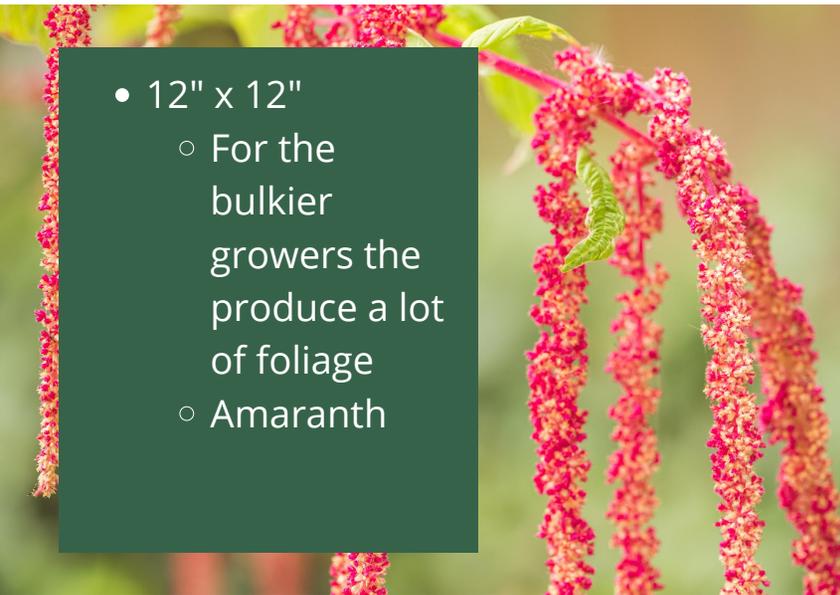
- 9" x 9"

- Most annual cut flowers
- Dahlias, Poppies, bachelor buttons



- 12" x 12"

- For the bulkier growers the produce a lot of foliage
- Amaranth



Sun Exposure

- Most want at least 6 hours of FULL sun to produce ample amounts of blooms.



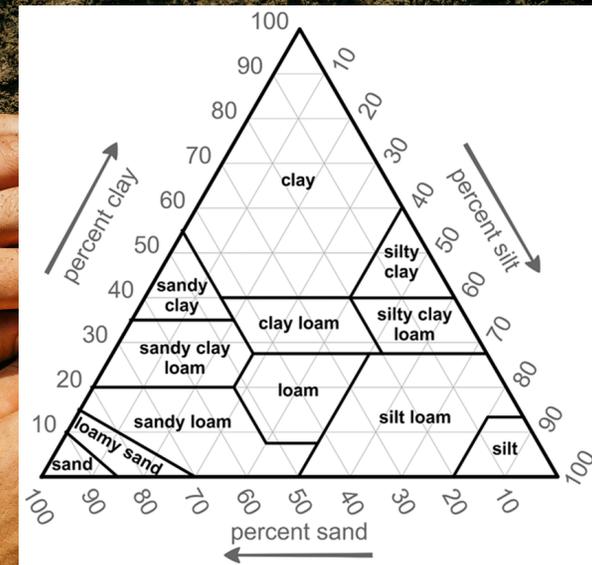
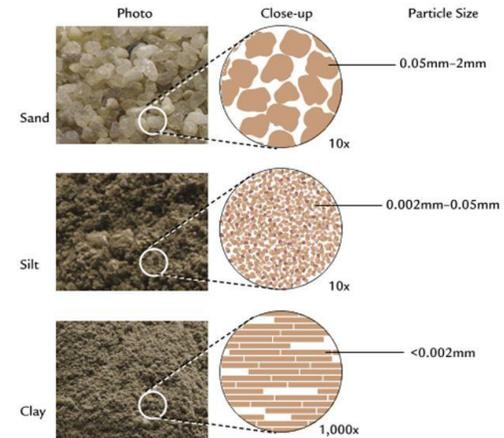
Consider Your Soil

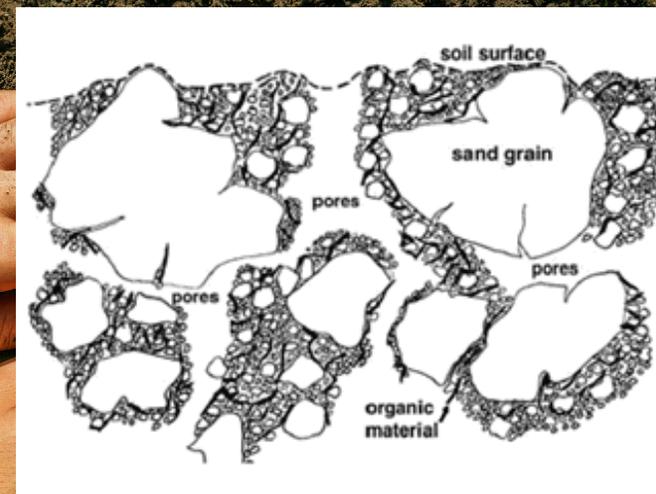
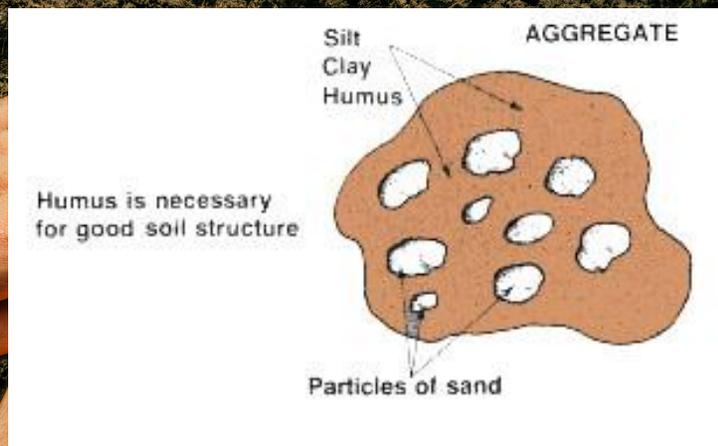
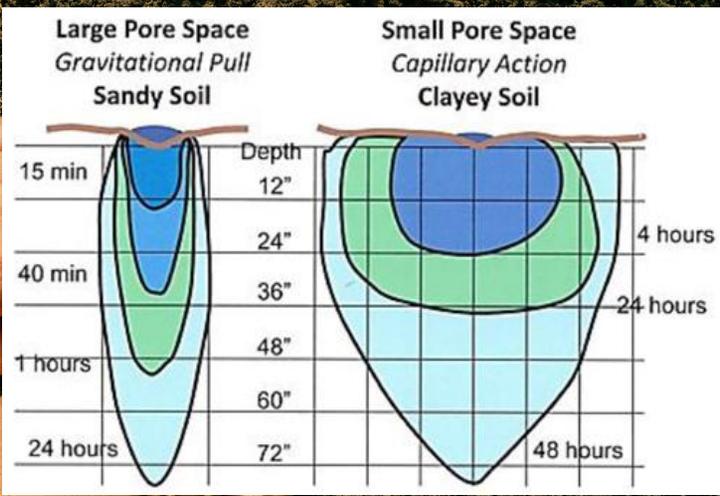


Texture vs Structure

Sand, Clay, Loam
vs.
"Tilth"

Sand, Silt, and Clay







- Add 2" of compost to soil if possible BEFORE planting
- Work into the top 8"-12"
- Send a sample to usual.usu.edu for \$30



- Try adding top soil to containers for extra water-retention power!

Water Well



- Keep water "evenly moist" for annuals and many perennials
- HYDROZONE
- Water trees and shrubs deeply and infrequently



- New baby plants can be kept moist by overhead irrigation



- Consider using drip for older/established plants
- Overhead watering can damage blooms



Stay on top of the weeds!





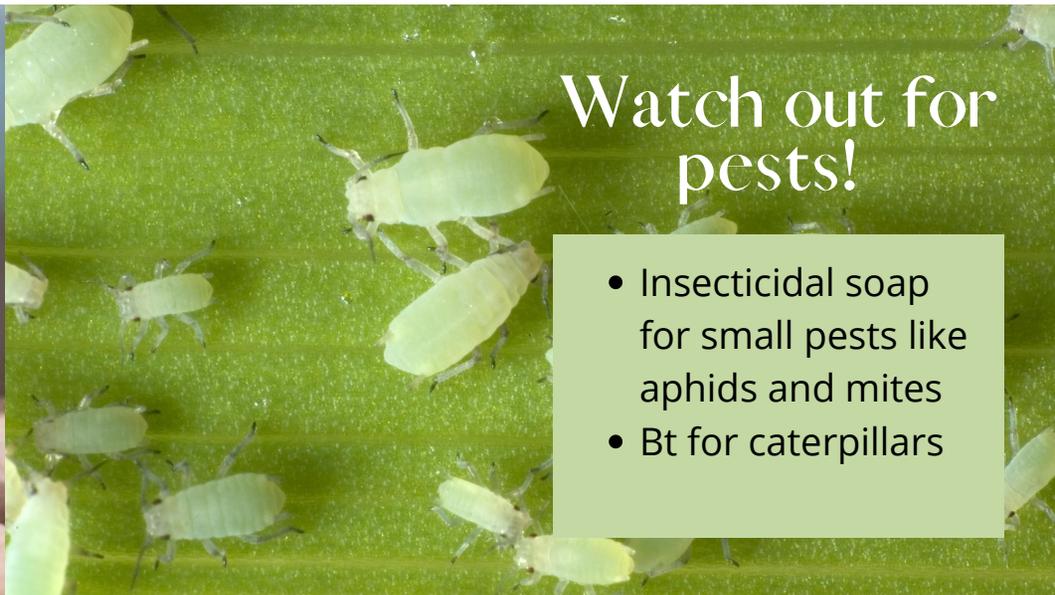
Feeding



- Add frequent fertilizer for fast-growing annuals
- Most perennials are happy with one or two applications per year
- Trees and shrubs need one per year.



- Adding organic matter annually will SIGNIFICANTLY cut down on the need to fertilize as much or as often



Watch out for pests!

- Insecticidal soap for small pests like aphids and mites
- Bt for caterpillars



Try growing from seed



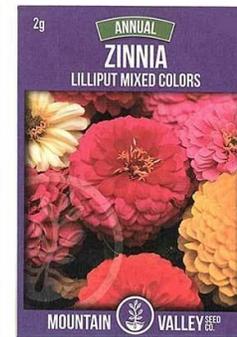
- Get a jump on the growing season
- More varieties available in seed than through the nurseries
- Beware of damping off



- Sterilize containers that are being re-used
- Select a seedling specific potting soil
- Make sure to buy from a reputable source



- You'll probably need supplemental light



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- Count back from the last frost date to determine when to plant



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- Consider doing successive plantings





Caring for Cut Flowers

- Make sure everything is sanitized
- Harvest during the coolest hours of the day
- Pick blossoms at right stage
- Place in cool, clean water



- Let the stems rest
- Add floral preservative
- Re-cut stems
- Change water if it gets murky, even if the flowers look fine



Annuals



Sweet Peas

- Plant in late winter/early spring
- Soak seeds before planting
- Require some kind of trellising support
- LOVE water



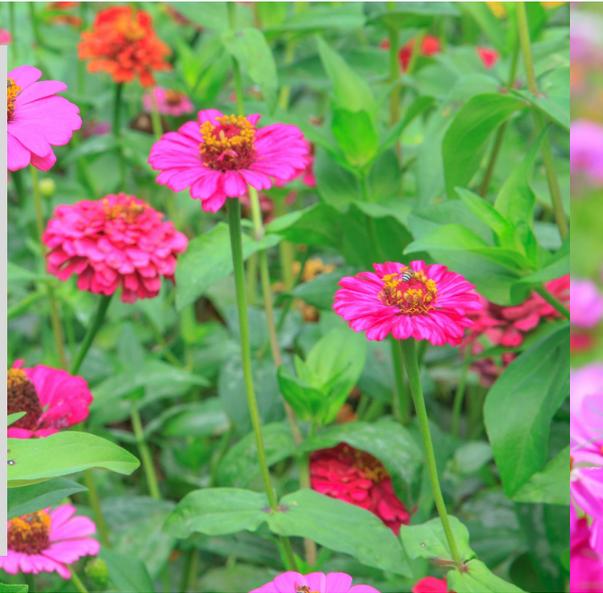
Snapdragons

- Can be planted out a month before last frost
- Pinching encourages blooms
- Harvest when bottom 2-3 are open



Zinnias

- Very heat tolerant
- Pinch back when 18 inches tall
- SUPER easy to grow
- Shake the plant to know when to harvest



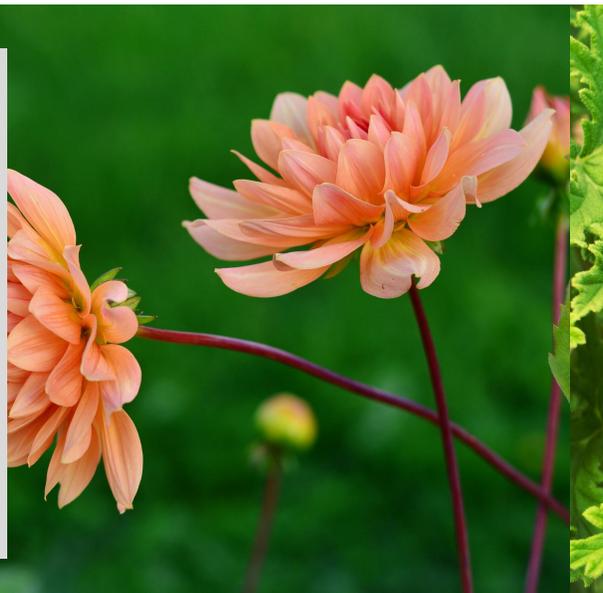
Cosmos

- The more you harvest the more they bloom
- Super vigorous
- Don't last particularly long in a vase



Dahlias

- Extremely cold sensitive!
- Don't water tubers until they sprout
- Put down slug bait
- Pick when almost fully open



Herbs

- Consider using herbs for fragrant greenery in bouquets
- Mint, Basil, Geranium



Biennials



Foxglove

- Blossoms die after they've been pollinated
- Poisonous
- Needs to be in shade in our area



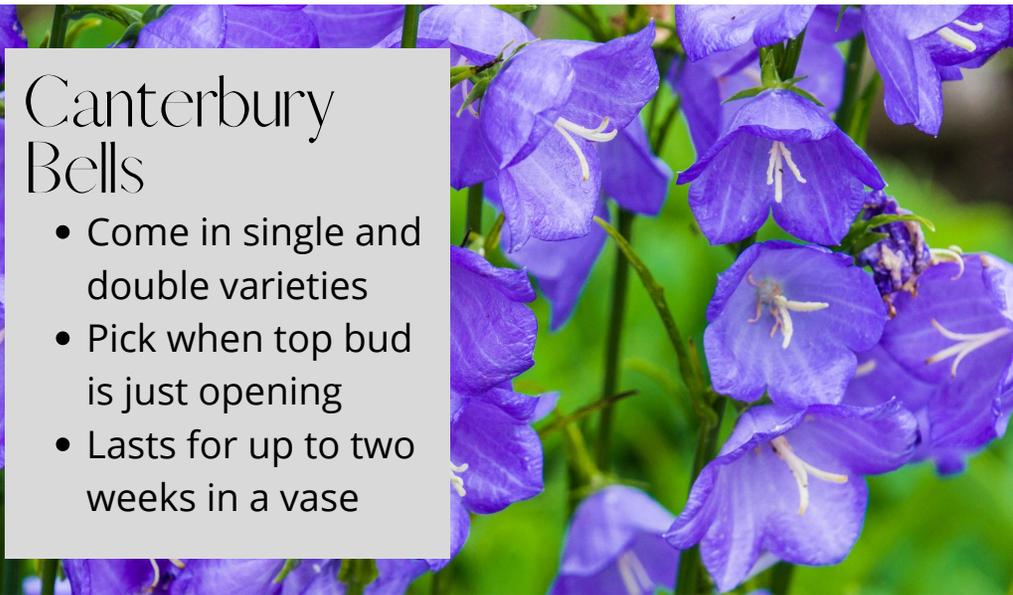
Sweet William

- Extremely long vase life
- Harvest when just a few flowers are open on the head
- Nice fragrance



Canterbury Bells

- Come in single and double varieties
- Pick when top bud is just opening
- Lasts for up to two weeks in a vase



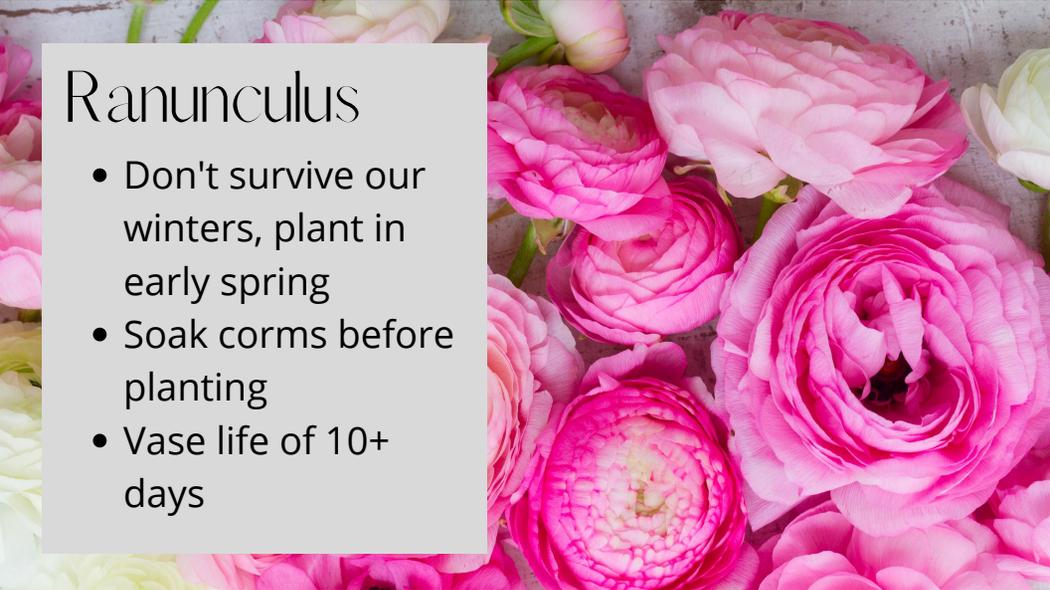


Bulbs, Tubers, and Corms



Daffodils

- More diverse than you're probably thinking
- Dig and divide in the early summer
- Mostly pest free
- Early bloomers



Ranunculus

- Don't survive our winters, plant in early spring
- Soak corms before planting
- Vase life of 10+ days



Anemone

- Many of the most brilliant varieties are not hardy and need additional winter protection
- Grow from corms
- Long vase life

Leucojum

- Condition stems before using
- Small early spring blooms
- harvest when 2/3 of flowers have bloomed



Tulips

- SO MANY VARIETIES
- Home grown lasts 10+ days in a vase
- Stems continue to elongate during the first few days



Perennials

Peonies

- Extremely long living plant if cared for properly
- Best to wait 2-3 years before harvesting
- Double flowers often need staking



Lilies

- Technically a bulb
- Extremely long lasting in vases
- Watch out for pollen which will stain!



Hops

- Vines are great!
- Interesting seed heads
- Try Clematis and other vines



Delphinium

- True blue!
- Can grow up to six feet tall
- Last for about a week



Black-Eyed Susans

- Summer to frost blossoms
- Harvest when blooms are just beginning to open
- 10+ day vase life



Chrysanthemum

- Most grown for flowers aren't hardy, but some are!
- Fall blooms that last up to 2 weeks
- Cut down to 6" in summer



Echinacea

- Extremely drought tolerant
- Late summer blooms
- Lasts up to 2 weeks in a vase



Ornamental Grasses

- Add movement and texture
- Divide every 4-6 years
- Easy peasy to grow
- So many options



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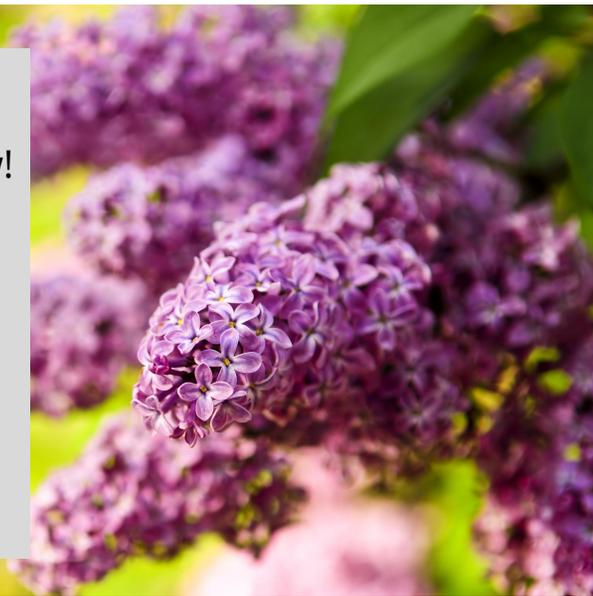


Shrubs



Lilacs

- Super easy to grow!
- Drought tolerant
- Smell wonderful!
- Set the following year's buds during the summer
- Cut up the stem to rehydrate



Viburnum

- White flowers are followed by brilliant red fruit
- Use leaves as greenery
- Nice alternative to hydrangeas



Ninebark

- Cute flowers for spring arrangements
- Interesting seed pods for summer and fall
- Leaves last 10 days



Roses

- Try growing from bare root
- Wait until early spring to prune
- Look for varieties with disease and pest resistance
- Last a few days



Trees



Crabapple

- Prune branches from the tree before they open
- Be careful, these are thirsty!
- Use small apples in fall arrangements



Beech

- Grow for long lasting foliage
- New leaves last 7 days, mature leaves last 14



Hawthorn

- White, pink, or red flowers are followed by red berries
- Be careful of the thorns!



Flowering Cherry

- Similar to Crabapples
- Double blooming varieties are brilliant!

