



Planting Annuals in San Antonio: How To Guide

1. Prepare planting site before purchasing annuals so that your annuals don't dry out while you are building your garden.

-A site with 50% organic material mixed with native soil is best for planting annuals.

-You can get a good bed mix by preparing planting site for annuals by adding 3" to 4" of organic compost into the existing soil and mixing it down to a depth of at least 12".

-Raising planting sites 4" to 6" is also recommended to help with the necessary drainage annuals need.)

-Mix granular, organic fertilizer throughout the soil according to the rate listed on the label of the bag for the size of your planting site.

-Nitrogen:Phosphate:Potassium ratios should be listed on all fertilizer bags, look for 1:1:1, or 1:2:1 on the bag for annual beds.

2. Water annuals planting site thoroughly a day or two before you plan to plant your annuals.

-Once you buy transplants, do not let them dry out prior to planting annuals.

3. Dig holes slightly wider than the rootball of your transplant.

-The top of the soil line of your transplant should be level (or slightly higher) with the soil around the top of the hole.

-Burying annuals too deep causes root rot and death to your plant.

4. Space planting holes according to label suggestions, or keep in mind the general rule of offering a distance of half the mature height of plant between holes (though closer spacing fills in beds quicker).

5. Plant annuals by removing transplants from containers by gently squeezing sides of pots to loosen the plant.

-Gently turn pot upside down while supporting the plant stem between two fingers and cupping the top of the soil with your hand; allow the plant to slide out of the pot, tapping on the bottom of the pot if necessary to help with removal.

-Place plants into holes at depth as indicated in step 3.

-Fill in any open areas around the plant with soil and carefully firm the soil (but do not pack it tightly) around the plant.

6. Water in your transplants with some water-soluble fertilizer immediately after planting and then water the entire planting site as well.

-Water annuals around their roots, avoiding overhead watering that gets foliage wet.

-New plantings need water more frequently until they are established.

-You will need to check on your garden daily.

-The top 2" to 3" of soil should be moist. Stick your finger down into soil to test for moisture. If dry, water. If moist, don't.

-Once annuals have had time to get established, the general rule is to water them about as often as you water turf (There are exceptions to this rule...know the needs of the plants you are buying).

7. Fertilize annuals 1-2 times during growing season with a slow-release granular fertilizer and every 3 to 6 weeks with a water-soluble fertilizer.

For more info on planting annuals, see:

<https://www.rainbowgardens.biz/news-events/annuals-fall-planting-flowers-san-antonio/>

<https://www.rainbowgardens.biz/garden-tips/annuals-choosing-planting-maintaining-seasonal-gardening/>

<https://www.rainbowgardens.biz/garden-tips/color-annuals-perennials-flowers-spring-blooms/>