

2017 is the year of the Zinnia



JUST BECAUSE..

Zinnias are a really beautiful addition to the garden.

They have masses of fabulous flowers in opulent, vibrant colours.

The flowers are rich sources of nectar attracting a range of pollinating insects, but especially butterflies that sup from their open flowers.

They are easy to grow from seed, or you can buy ready grown plants from the garden centre or nursery in early summer ready to plant out into your garden. Great for pots and containers Zinnias add a really zingy dimension to summer displays.

The plants flower for weeks on end and the flowers can be cut and brought indoors for exotic arrangements or simply single flower vase compositions.

Plant some Zinnias in your garden for stunning summer colour, butterflies galore and beautiful cut flowers for your home.

While in the A-Z of flowers Zinnias might be last in the queue and the seed catalogues, these fabulous plants should be your number one choice this summer. Zinnias have been chosen to be the flower of 2017 for good reasons.

The exotic looking Zinnia flowers add a rich and vibrant colour palette to not just beds and borders, but to containers and planters too. The flowers add a fabulous colour burst to the garden and are a magnet for butterflies bringing your summer garden alive with movement and grace.

The plants are mostly annuals that grow, flower and set seed in the same season and are easy to grow from seed. Seedlings quickly develop into strong sturdy plants with an abundance of flower stems perfect for cutting.

There's a variety of flower types from the single open, daisy-like flowers to the fuller dahlia and cactus types and all come in rich shades of pink, magenta, red, orange and yellows. There are bi-colours, virtually stripy flowers and even shades of green – no wonder they make fantastic cut flowers.

SUN LOVERS

Zinnias are part of the daisy family and originate from South America where they thrive in full sun. They are best planted into rich, well-drained soil.

There's a huge variety of plant types, the larger flowered Zinnia elegans are perfect for cut flowers, the open flowers of Zinnia marylandica types are perfect for pollinators, and the smaller hybrids are better suited to window boxes and pots and containers.

HOME AND GARDEN

Grow Zinnias to add a real tang to your planters and for on trend cut flowers for your home. Give plants to friends for birthdays and lunch parties and decorate your outdoor space with window boxes and containers filled with Zinnia plants.

For great value grow from seed, one packet will provide dozens of healthy plants with fresh green foliage and a range of fabulous flower colours.

Popular with pollinators, the open centered flowers provide essential pollen and nectar for butterflies and bees, but make wonderful cut flowers too.

Perfect for posies or for creating larger, dramatic arrangements, the flowers of this flamboyant garden plant can be cut and cut again for weeks of colour to decorate your home.



YEAR OF THE
zinnia



GLORIOUS COLORS

Step by Step

How to grow from seed

Zinnias are best sown direct into the ground where you want them to grow. They don't like the cold and are not hardy, so don't sow them too early. For cut flowers grow them in short rows, or if you want to plant them into pots and containers sow into deep modules where the roots can develop before planting out when the risk of frost has passed.

- 1 Rake the soil to a crumbly fine tilth, or fill deep modules with a quality seed compost.
- 2 For a row of plants make three planting holes in the soil surface about 5 cm apart, and sow one seed to each hole, repeat every 30cm along the row. For modules sow two seeds per module.
- 3 Cover over with compost, keep warm and allow to germinate.
- 4 Thin the plants by removing the weakest from each sowing station or module, leaving the strongest plant to mature.
- 5 Plant out module-sown plants when the second set of leaves has formed and after the last frost.
- 6 Stake your plants to support them during growth and keep them well watered and fed throughout the summer.
- 7 Feed with a high potash feed for flowering plants.



Cut flowers

If you love having bunches of flowers in the home, Zinnias are truly a great plant to grow. The taller varieties generally have longer flower stems, but even the compact types are good for posies.

Grow them from seed and plant them out all over the garden to pick the flowers all summer long, or if you have more space grow rows of Zinnias for a constant supply of cut flowers.

The more you pick the flowers and remove any dead flowers, the more flowers your plants will produce.

If you allow the plants to set seed then they will stop making new flowers and start to die back. Mix the zingy coloured cut Zinnia flowers with the lime green flowers of alchemilla mollis (lady's mantle) and feathery garden foliage to help to fill the arrangement with texture and soft hues of green, to create a charming bouquet, perfect for the lunch table or an impromptu gift for a friend.

If you only have one or two plants cut the individual flowers and place one stem in a narrow vase or a small bottle or test tube filled with water.

Coloured glass vases also look beautiful with the bright shades of the Zinnia flowers.

But the great thing about these plants and flowers is that they put on a fabulous display right through late summer when many other garden plants are starting to fade away.



Zinnia growing tips

Zinnias are easy to grow from seed, but they do need a little TLC to ensure great results.

If you are new to growing plants from seed, or a little nervous, you may prefer to buy ready grown plants from the nursery or garden centre.

Sow them in late spring where they are to flower. They don't like being transplanted and are best sown in situ (where they will grow). If you grow them in large modules or pots, or buy pot grown plants, take care planting them out and try hard not to disturb the roots.

Zinnias love the sun and do best in a hot but humid summer.

Pick the flowers as they start to open, this will encourage more to form on the plants. If you are growing them for their presence in the garden or in containers, remove every spent bloom as it fades to keep your plants flowering for weeks on end.

