

# Container Annuals



## Water Do's and Don't's

- **Don't Water on a Schedule**

Water your containers based on need instead of on a set schedule. Plants that get a small amount of water daily tend to have shallower roots and wilt more readily if they miss their scheduled drink.

- **Do Check Plants Often**

Check your plants by sticking your finger into the soil about 2". Check your plants at least once a day. In the heat of the summer, you may need to check twice a day. Check each container individually. If the soil feels wet, let the container drain and check again later. If the soil feels dry, the plant needs water.

- **Do Water Thoroughly**

Water until water pours out the bottom of the pot through the drainage hole. This will help evenly soak the whole root system. A 10" – 12" container can easily need up to a gallon of water.

- **Don't Let Your Plants Sit in Water**

This can cause root rot and other problems

## Fertilizing



Container plants need more fertilizer than their counterparts in the garden. Flower production takes lots of energy and annuals in containers can't get any nutrients from the ground soil. Follow this feeding schedule all season long to promote blooming.

**Each Week:** Fertilize with a water-soluble bloom booster. This kind of fertilizer is immediately available to plants and helps produce larger blooms. We recommend **Colorado's Choice Magic**, an excellent bloom booster that also contains mycorrhizae to improve root performance.

**On the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month:** Fertilize with a slow-release, organic fertilizer. We recommend **Espoma's Flower-tone**. **Flower-tone** is an organic plant food with slow-release nitrogen that helps promote bigger blooms and root health. It also contains beneficial microorganisms that promote root growth.



## Deadheading

"Deadheading" is the removal of the spent flower blooms. This encourages the plant to put out more blossoms. When the flowers are done blooming, just before they form seed heads, pinch or cut off the spent flowers just below the blossoms. Some annuals, like Supertunias, are self-cleaning and don't require deadheading.

## Pruning

In summer, when plants become leggy, trim back some of the longer branches just enough to bring the plant back in line with the bottom of the pot or basket. Remove any dead material. At most, cut back 20% of the branches or 1 in five shoots.

