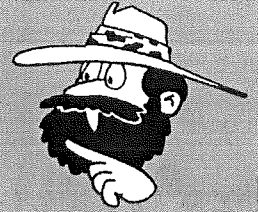


Bedding Plant Planting Guide



Bedding plants can provide some of your most enjoyable gardening. the quick growth, sudden masses of color and the ability to “redecorate” your yard each season is almost irresistible! For maximum success, satisfaction and otherwise consistent good results there are a few important steps you should take.

Preparation



Probably the most ignored part of planting bedding plants is soil preparation. In our area, almost all soils need organic material added to make a nice loose, rich soil that lets small plants flourish.

Most soils should require **Master's Paydirt** or **Paydirt with Soil N Rich** at the rate of one bag to 50 square feet. Dig this into the soil to a depth of 4"-6".

This adds fertilizer (manure) and additional organic material to improve the soil texture and encourage microbial activity in the soil. The microbial action is what breaks down organic materials and fertilizers in the soil and makes them available to the plants.

For soils that need extra help (especially heavy clay), a good way to prepare the soil is to add **Master's Gold Rush** (a mix of fir bark and 15% chicken manure) to the soil at a rate of two-three bags per 50 square feet. This adds more organic material to the soil and about the same amount of manure as **Paydirt**.



Plant Choice

Remember that some plants like the sun and some like shade. Although some are marked one way or the other, some will still do well when the lines are blurred. Our large selection of bedding plants and experienced sales people make it easy to find something to grow in almost any area.

Determining Plant Amounts

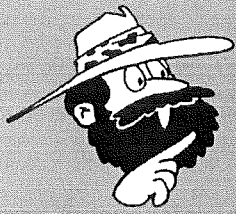
Spacing (Inches)	Coverage (Per 48ct. Flat)
6"	12 Sq. Ft.
8"	21 Sq. Ft.
9"	27 Sq. Ft.
12"	48 Sq. Ft.
18"	108 Sq. Ft.

Add 1 bag of Paydirt or 3 bags of Gold Rush per 50 sq. ft.

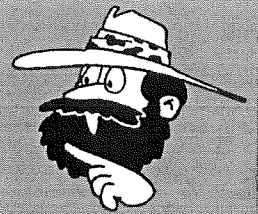
Planting

Buy your plants as close to the planting date as possible to give them optimal care before planting.

When you are ready to plant, be sure
Continued on back...



Bedding Plant Planting Guide



Continued

the plants are moist and the soil they will be planted in is moist as well. If the soil is dry, it pulls water out of the small root ball and kills the tiny hair roots that feed the plants.

Place the plants out on the soil where you want them (no more than a dozen or so out of their pots at a time). Digging the hole in the loose soil is easy. Use a board to kneel on to disperse your weight more evenly and avoid compacting loose soil while planting. Make sure to blend in **Master Start** starter fertilizer below the root ball as directed on the package.

Place the plant in the hole, being sure the soil of the root ball is even or slightly above the level of the surrounding soil. Firm the soil around the root ball to be sure the soil is in good contact with the root ball.



After Planting

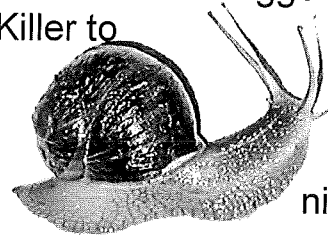
The first watering is also especially important. Water thoroughly right after planting to a depth of 12" or more. This often means 30-45 minutes or more. By watering this heavily, you ensure good contact between the root ball and surrounding soil to allow water to move into the root ball.

This also fills the soil with water so it stays moist. We find that often you do not need to water for several days after

planting, but checking the root zone for moisture every day for the first week or so is a good idea.

Bug Watch

Don't forget the slugs, snails and earwigs that love new plants. We recommend Sluggo Plus or Cory's Insect Killer to protect new plantings immediately after planting. Slugs and snails never take the night off!



Mulching

Mulching permanent plantings of most ground cover with 1"-2" of **Master Nursery Gold Rush** helps in controlling weeds and keeping the roots cooler to encourage better growth.

Later Care

Because bedding plants are heavy feeders, it is important to start feeding within two-four weeks after planting with **Master Nursery Rose and Flower Food**. This ensures the fast start that is so necessary to get strong, healthy, beautiful plants.

Watering will depend on weather and soil type. In general, summer watering should be two-three times a week (for 20-30 minutes, depending on the sprinkler system), and every week to two weeks in fall and spring. Windy days often mean more frequent watering, and rainy weather may call for no additional water unless under house eaves.