

Caring for your Plants

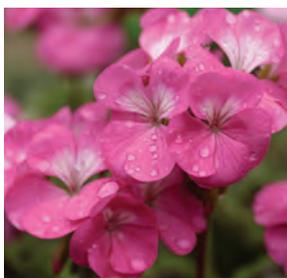
- If you want to keep bedding plants with large flowers such as Geraniums flowering over a long period, pick off any dead blooms to encourage new flower buds.
- Feed every one or two weeks with liquid fertiliser.
- Keep the area between the plants free of all weeds as they will starve the plants of nutrients and water and may smother the plants.
- If bedding plants become infected with greenfly they should be sprayed with insecticide, preferably on a windless evening.
- Slugs and snails can be controlled with one of many remedies available in our shop.

Plants for Winter Display

There are many plants that can be planted which will look good throughout autumn and winter and provide colour throughout the duller days.

Come and visit us in the autumn and see for yourself. Why not try the following varieties:

- **Ornamental cabbage**
- **Pansy**
- **Polyanthus**
- **Primula**
- **Viola**
- **Wallflowers**



More Bedding Plants

- **Ageratum** (Floss flower)
- **Aster**
- **Antirrhinum** (Snapdragon)
- **Bedding Dahlia**
- **Impatiens** (Busy Lizzie)
- **Mesembryanthemum** (Livingstone daisy)
- **Petunia**
- **Salvia**
- **Verbena**



If you require any further information, please ask our outdoor plant advisors who will be very happy to help.

Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm
Sunday: 9.30am – 4pm

Chessington Garden Centre

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Chessington

Bedding Plants



Care & Advice Sheet

No. 26

Inspiration for your Home & Garden

For instant colour all year round, flowering bedding plants are the answer. They are useful for filling in gaps between plants and shrubs that aren't fully grown, for growing in containers or for planting up a whole bed for immediate effect. Although they are short lived (lasting one season only) they grow fast and provide excellent value for money.

Preparation

- Make sure the area where you want to plant is free of weeds. Fork over or hoe the area thoroughly. If filling the gaps between other plants, be sure not to disturb or damage them.
- Add a little garden compost or other organic material, available from our Garden Centre and watch them flourish.
- If you are growing your plants in flower pots, containers, hanging baskets and wall-mounted pots, these should be filled with potting compost mixed with water-retentive gel and slow-release fertiliser pellets.



Which Plants to Buy

Decide what colour schemes and plant combinations you want. You will need to consider the area you want to fill. Think about whether you want to create instant effective patches of vibrant colour, or a whole bed. You also need to consider how big the plants will grow and arrange your pattern accordingly.

Summer Colour

Here is a selection which should normally be planted when the danger of frost has passed, usually from end of May:

Fuchsia: Flowers July–early October. White, pink, red, purple, includes bush, trailing and upright types. (30–60cm).

Begonia semperflorens: Flowers June–October. Red, white and pink flowers in profusion. (15–25cm).

Marigold: Flowers June–October. Yellow and orange flowers. (25–40cm).

Lobelia: Flowers all summer. Blue, red, white, mauve, includes trailing and upright types. (15cm).

Petunia: Flowers all summer. Large trumpet shaped flowers in a wide range of colours. Good in dry areas. (25–50cm).

Geranium: Flowers all summer. Easy to grow and drought tolerant and available in upright or trailing types.

Nicotiana (Tobacco plant): Flowers June–October. Pink, white, yellow, red and green. Fragrant. (25–60cm).

How to Plant

- If possible start planting when it's not too hot or in the evening.
- Plant in large drifts or clumps to create impressive splashes of colour. Planting in straight lines is best avoided, it doesn't show off the flowers to their best advantage.
- After planting, sprinkle a general fertiliser or bonemeal lightly around the plants and water again thoroughly.

