Intro to Flower Farming with Flourish Flower Farm

Plant Spacing for 4’ Wide Beds

➔ 6” spacing = 7 rows/bed
  • Planted tightly to encourage stem length
➔ 9” spacing = 5 rows/bed
  • most commonly used on our farm
➔ 12” spacing = 4 rows/bed
  • Bulky/branching plants like bells of ireland, dianthus, sunflowers + celosia
➔ 18” spacing = 2-3 rows/bed
  • Good for vines and dahlias

Cut & Come Again Varieties

● Basil
● Zinnia
● Cosmos
● Poppies
● Gomphrena
● Queen Annes Lace
● Snapdragons
● Bachelor buttons

One Hit Wonder Varieties

● Bupleurum
● Sunflowers
● Dill
● Stock
● Celosia
● Tulips

Helpful Tools

● Drip Irrigation
● Landscape fabric + sod staples
● Buckets
● Bouquet sleeves + rubber bands
● Clippers
● Flower food
● Butter knife
● Garden stakes
● Tenax netting

Favorite Sources for Seeds, Bulbs + Plugs

● Geo Seed
● Johnny’s Selected Seed
● Renee’s Garden
● Fred C Gloeckner & Co
● Farmer Bailey
● Candler Feed & Seed
● Dutch Grown

Vase Life + Stage of Harvest

❏ Clean buckets + vases
❏ Clean, sharp clippers
❏ Harvest during the coolest part of the day
❏ Harvest at the proper stage
❏ Remove bottom leaves to minimize bacteria
❏ Store in a cooler away from fruit + veggies
❏ Let “rest” before arranging to hydrate
❏ Use flower food
❏ Sales outlet determines your stage of harvest
❏ Multi-petaled flower: harvest when ⅓ of the flowers are open on a stem
❏ Single bloom: passes the wiggle test or when the flower is 50% open
❏ Cracking bud stage
❏ Take notes + run vase life tests in your home with various stages of harvest

Resources

● Flower Farm Blogs
● Books (see Flourish blog post)
● Growing for Market publication
● ASCFG membership
● Floral design workshops

Created for the Organic Growers School Spring Conference 2019 by Niki Irving | www.flourishflowerfarm.com