

## THE RIGHT TO BE(E)



### How to plant

Before starting to plant a flower we need some important information.  
Which are the essential elements for a plant life cycle?

**Sun light, water, soil, air.**

They help to realize the photosynthesis which convert the light energy captured from the sun into chemical energy that can be used to fuel the organism's activities. Without these crucial elements it will be impossible for a plant to live and we need to provide them with these elements for the whole duration of their life cycle.

Let's start planting flowers to attract the bees and to have a beautiful garden!

#### 1) **Purchase a potted flower**

Before purchasing a plant pay attention to it, to make sure it doesn't have pests and that it is healthy and vigorous. How can you notice it? If you see a yellow color at the leaves, if it is wilted, if you see white small dots spread all over the plant, just pass to the next specimen. Read carefully the label of the plant which describes the type of the climate zone it can survive.

#### 2) **Purchase seeds**

of the type of flower you want to grow up.

#### 3) **Work the soil**

Work the soil to a depth of at least 30-50 cm all around the planting area. If the soil is too hard or dry, you can amend it with peat moss, commercially bagged soil, and/or compost to improve the texture. Pay attention that the soil may be: too fine and it cannot hold water, or it can be heavy clay that holds too much water and can smother the roots. The perfect soil that you want for the flower must be crumbly and soft and that can be packed tightly around the root ball.

If you are planting seeds be careful of the soil: press the soil and after pressing, you need to level the surface, break all cube, move away stones or coarse material, which would create serious problems for seed germination. The surface must be like a billiard table. Only at this point you can plant: remember that the smaller seeds must stay nearer the surface, the bigger ones go deeper.

#### 4) **Dig a hole**

The hole must be twice as large as the diameter of the flower's pot. Take very carefully the plant from the plot. If the plant is root bound (the roots are tightly

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wrapped around the root ball), take a sharp garden knife and slit the side of the root ball from top to bottom on at least four sides, also slicing off the bottom of the root ball if it, too, is tangled with roots. Place the plant in the center of the hole. If the roots are loose, spread the roots gently under and around the plant.

### 5) Spread a layer of loose dirt

Spread a layer of loose dirt around the base of the root ball. With your garden hose or bucket, add enough water to cover the dirt. Add another layer of dirt to the hole and more water to cover. Repeat until enough soil has been added to the hole to completely cover the root ball. The soil may be soft and muddy. Let it sit for a bit until the water drains down, and then press down all around the edge of the root ball until the plant is tightly held in the hole.

### 6) Water

Water the flowers periodically every 3-4 days but it depends on season and of the type of the flowers. For example the ones that have large leaves evaporate faster than the ones with narrow leaves. Also if you find that the soil is becoming dry, don't over water because it can drown the roots.

*For the seeds:* Water gently, otherwise you risk undermining the seeds, and then cover with a sheet of paper: the darkness favors germination. Often inspect the soil - it must never dry out completely. As soon as the fresh and tender shoots will pop out, you can remove the paper and permanently keep the plants in the light and the sun (except for the plants that prefer the shade).

Always water with fresh water and, if possible, add a few drops of lemon juice, which, with its acid pH, counteract the excessive alkalinity of tap water.

## Practical tips:

### *Garlic*

The garlic is always a good natural pesticide. Soak and crush 7 cloves of garlic in a liter of water (also add 3/4 drops of alcohol), filtered and sprayed on the plants and be careful to avoid the flowers. The garlic will act against the insects.

### *Cleaning of plants*

is an operation to be done with a constant frequency. The plants need air to breathe. So look inside the vegetation, remove damaged, weak, deadwood, remove faded flowers, dried leaves, sick and ruined etc. Remove faded flowers, dried leaves, sick and ruined.

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All to be done now is to take a plant to follow the steps and to wait for the beautiful flowers to grow up and for the bees that will be attracted from them. Send to us photos of your planted flower. Enjoy!

### *Reference :*

Luka Sardella & Janira

<http://www.lucasardellaejanira.it/dettaglio-post-rubrica.php?id=18&page=1&m=&y=&k=G&r=>

[www.wikihow.com](http://www.wikihow.com)

### **More useful links:**

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/basics/techniques/organic\\_meadow1.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/basics/techniques/organic_meadow1.shtml)

[http://www.americanmeadows.com/wildflower-seed-planting-](http://www.americanmeadows.com/wildflower-seed-planting-instructions)

[instructionshttp://nature.berkeley.edu/urbanbeegardens/general\\_guidelines.html](http://nature.berkeley.edu/urbanbeegardens/general_guidelines.html)

### **How to make seed bombs:**

<http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-Make-a-Seed-Bomb/>

<http://www.guerrillagardening.org/ggseedbombs.html>

<http://www.treehugger.com/lawn-garden/how-to-make-seed-bombs-and-not-get-in-trouble-doing-it.html>