

# PREPARATION and PLANTING of FLOWER BEDS

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A simple system for the preparation of a flower bed should be taken in these steps:

1. Edge the bed perfectly, since the edge is used to guide marking tools.

2. Fertilize with a 5-15-5 or 6-12-4 and roto thoroughly.

3. Toss soil away from the edge and rake the bed level.

4. Allow a weeks time to settle out or roll lightly.

5. Acquire a pair of calipers 3½ to 5 ft. long, for marking plants in the row. Make a T-shaped marker similar to a wooden toothed rake, width should be 4 ft. with holes bored for removable wooden teeth in multiples of 6-8-10-12-15-18-24 inches apart. With this simple device 2 to 7 rows can be marked quickly at one time. Keep the thought in mind that one of the outer teeth follows along the perfect edge. Mark entire bed before planting. Don't be bashful, step right into the bed between rows and set plants in the rows and on the mark in the row. A typical layout would be like this;

8 inches from the edge plant one row of Ageratum Riverside 8 inches apart in the row.

12 inches from the Ageratum plant one row of Dusty Miller 12 inches apart in the row.

15 inches from the Dusty Miller plant Petunia Pink Magic 15 inches apart in the row. All other rows 15 x 15.

Let's try another one;

12 inches from the edge plant one row of Basil Black Opal 12 inches apart in the row.

15 inches from the Basil plant one row of Pennisetum Ruppelianum 15 inches apart in the row.

18 inches from the Pennisetum plant one row of President Cannas 18 inches apart in the row. All other Canna rows 24 inches apart and plants 24 inches apart in the row.

Now, with the entire bed marked and plants setting on mark, step into the bed and tap plants from pots and plant as marked. If plants are in peat pots be sure peat pots are moist before planting.

After planting entire bed, hand water using water wand or breaker, gently flood entire bed. After a few days cultivate the entire bed and continue to do so after every good rain or heavy watering.

Annuals for good color all summer and favorites with me are—for low borders—Ageratum, Sweet Alyssum, Allermantheras, Lobelias, Salvia Tricolor. For tall borders—Basil Black Opal, Pennisetum, Ruppellianem, Golden Bedder and Firefly Coleus, Acalyha McFeana, Dusty Miller.

Principle plants—Petunias Red Salvias, Geraniums, Celosias, Cannas, Verbenas.

1. A good window box planting would be the following plants;

Back row 12 inches apart Red Geraniums, in front of Geraniums and alternately, White Petunias. Alternate with white Petunias a good dark blue or purple Petunia. Front row Vinca Vines 12 inches apart or Sprengerii, 12 inches apart.

2. Plants for shady locations; Impatiens, Begonias, Torenia, Red Salvia, Violas, Pansies, Fuchias.

Fall cleanup is simple and rapid. Remove and store Canna Rhizomes, then chop up entire bed with a hammer knife and roto refuse into the bed. Since the edge tends to creep in during summer growth, check measurements, correct again to size by perfect edging and you are all set for spring.

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