



# Instant flower beds and borders

**G**ROWING beautiful flowers at home used to require the services of a professional gardener or plenty of your own elbow grease. But, technology's rapid advance has not neglected gardening.

Started annuals and perennials in pop-out packs are readily available at any garden center. Modern slow-release fertilizers, weed preventers and economical, easy-to-use power tools now make garden preparation and maintenance a cinch.

So, if you've been putting off flower gardening for lack of time or energy, reconsider. Here are some tips for getting started this spring.

**START WITH PERENNIALS:** Once established, they come up year after year and include many tall growers that form an excellent permanent backdrop for beds and borders. Try mixing varieties that bloom at dif-

ferent times for all-season color.

Good choices for spring bloom are Dutch irises, lupines and peonies; for summer, delphiniums, foxglove (digitals), old-fashioned hollyhocks and fragrant phlox; for fall, monkshood and full-sized chrysanthemums. All of these are sunshine lovers.

**FILL IN WITH ANNUALS:** In front of your perennial backdrop or in front of foundation plantings and evergreen borders, along walks and driveways, etc., plant started annuals. Popular mid-height choices are geraniums, petunias, marigolds and zinnias, all sun lovers, and available in a rainbow of colors.

For a low-growing border, try blue ageratum and pink or white sweet alyssum.

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