

Color is probably the single most powerful garden design factor. Annuals and perennials are the fastest, least expensive, most satisfying way to achieve quantities of garden color.

What Plant to Plant where? The value of design principles as they apply to color in the garden is a highly personal subject, and the garden is a forgiving place. Even mistakes can have merit. As a gardener, you should have the opportunity to discover for yourself what rules apply to your own garden and tastes. Colors can be divided into warm and cool colors. Colors yellow to red, are considered the warm colors. From green to violet are considered cool colors. Three major points to note on the use of cool and warm colors.

1) If you have a warm color house, by planting cool colors it will seem cooler and more inviting. This works in opposite to brighten up a house.

2) Remember cool colors tend to recede, and warm colors tend to advance. This means cool colors are good for close-up viewing and warm colors are good for dramatic displays. Using too many warm colors around cool color flowers can over power the cool colors thus losing the effectiveness of the cool color. However, placement of one slightly warmer (light yellow) color in a bed of cool colors (i.e. blues) can accentuate the cool colored plants.

3) Texture is another way to add interest. Use plants with upright or colorful foliage with “regular” or clumping plants to keep the eye moving or to catch the eye for emphasis. Use flowers that spike with drooping or groundcover type flowers.

In the garden you have four choices for color combinations.

1) **Monochromatic:** The use of the various tints and shades of pure colors. An example would be using red with various tints of pink, and a deep shade of red.

2) **Analogous:** This is the use of closely related colors. An example would be blue with blue/green and blue violet.

3) **Complimentary:** This is the use of complete opposites. This generally is a powerful combination. An example is red and green, orange and blue, yellow and violet, and so on.

4) **Polychromatic:** This is the carnival-like effect in the garden. The random coupling of any and every color. Which is correct for you is best decided by you.

When deciding on what plant, note how tall, how wide, what color, and what season. Most starter plants look about the same size when purchased. You would not want to plant tall growing plants in front of shorter ones. You also want to space the plants correctly to avoid overcrowding.

Prepare Soil: Mix [Rockledge Gardens Planting Mix](#) with existing soil. If planting in containers use a [light-weight soil](#) such as **Ferti-Lome’s Ultimate Potting Mix** or **Happy Frog**.

Fertilization: Use [Espoma Flower-Tone](#) every month or [Dynamite Fertilizer](#) every four months. For an extra push use **Neptune’s Harvest Liquid Fish & Seaweed** or **Maxicrop Liquid Seaweed** every two weeks. Do not use weed ‘n feeds near your plants!

Watering: Water area before planting. Immediately after planting, protect plants from excess rain and wind. Water plants in pots after transplanting. Never plant deeper than the original soil level. Watering is essential every 2-3 days for one month, but allow a day or two in between to allow oxygen access to the roots.

Problems: The most critical time is when the new plants are first planted. Don’t overwater. Most pest problems can be controlled easily if detected in early stages. For most pests, use [Spinosad](#), [Natural Pyrethrins](#), [Neem](#) or [All Season Oil](#).

Annuals last for one season - Perennials return again and again.

Plant	A/P	Sun	Water	Salt Tol.	Height	Season	Colors
Ageratum	P	Sun/Shade	Med/hi	Low	12"-24"	all	Purple, white
Alyssum	P	Sun/Part	Med/lo	Med	<12"	all	White, purple
Aster	A	Sun/Part	Med	Low	<12"	all	Pink, red, white
Blue Daze	P	Sun/Shade	Med	Hi	12"-24"	all	Blue
Browallia	A	Sun	Med	Low	12"-24"	hot	Purple
Canna Lily	P	Sun/Part	Med/hi	Hi	>24"	all	Many
Carnation	A	Sun	Med	Low	<12"	Cool	Many
Celosia	A	Sun	low	med	<12"	hot	many
Coleus	P	Sun/Shade	Med	Med	12"-24"	all	Foliage, many
Coreopsis	P	Sun	Low	V. hi	<12"	hot	yellow
Cosmos	A	sun	lo/med	med	<12"	all	many
Crossandra	P	shade/part	med	low	12"-24"	all	apricot/salmon
Dahlberg Daisy	P	sun/part	lo/med	med	<12"	hot	yellow
Dahlia	p	sun/shade	med	low	<24"	all	many
Delphinium	a	sun/part	med	low	<24"	cool	Blue, pink
Dianthus	p	sun	low	hi	<12"	all	pink
Dusty miller	p	sun/part	lo/med	med	12"-24"	all	silver
Flowering Cabbage	a	sun/part	low	med	<12"	all	White, purple
Gaillardia	p	sun	low	V. hi	<12"	all	Red, orange, yellow
Gazania Daisy	p	sun	low	V. hi	<12"	all	Yellow, reds
Geranium	p	sun/part	med	V. hi	<12"	all	many
Gerbera Daisy	P	Sun/Part	lo/med	med	<24"	all	many
Gloriosa Daisy	P	Sun	lo/med	hi	12"-24"	all	Yellow, red, gold
Gomphrena	P	sun	low	med	<24"	all	many
Heather	P	sun/shade	med	hi	12"-24"	all	Lavender, white
Impatiens	p	shade	med/hi	V. hi	12"-24"	hot	many
Ivy Geranium	P	sun/part	med	V. hi	cascading	cool/all	many
Lantana	p	sun	low	V. hi	Low to 24"	all/hot	many
Lobelia	a	sun/part	med	med	<12"	cool	Blue, white
Marigolds	a	sun/part	low/med	med	<12"	all	Yellow, gold, orange
New Guinea Impatiens	p	sun/shade	med/hi	V. hi	<24"	all	Red, white, purple

Ornamental Pepper	P	sun	med	med	<24"	all	Reds, purple
Pansy, Viola	a	sun/shade	med	low/med	<12"	cool	many
Pentas	p	sun/part	med	hi	<12"	all	many
Petunia	a	sun	low/med	hi	<12"	cool	many
Phlox	a	sun/part	med	low/med	<12"	cool	many
Portulaca	p	sun	low	V. hi	<6"	all	many
Purslane	p	sun	low	V. hi	<6"	all	many
Salvia	p	sun/part	med	hi	12"-24"	all	many
Snapdragon	a	sun/part	med	med	varies	cool	many
Spider Flower/Cleome	a	sun/part	med	med	>24"	hot	Pink, white
Statice	a	sun/part	low	??	12"-24"	cool	many
Stock	a	sun	med/hi	??	<24"	cool	White, purple
Stokes Aster	p	sun/part	med	hi	12"-24"	all	lavender
Strawflower	a	sun	med	hi	12"-24"	hot	many
Torenia	p	sun/shade	med	low	12"-24"	hot	Purple, pink, white
Verbena	a/p	sun	low/med	hi	<6"	all/hot	many
Vinca	p	sun/part	low/med	V. hi	12"-24"	all	White, pink, purple
Wax begonia	p	sun/shade	med	med	<12"	cool/all	Red, white, pink
Zinna	a	sun	med	med/hi	<24"	hot	many