



Sowing Flower Seeds

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I love to support my local nurseries, but I just can't see spending three bucks for a pack of 6 zinnia seedlings when I can get a hundred seeds for the same price.

I find that so many flowers started by direct seeding in the garden grow so much better than those transplanted from the nursery.

No transplant shock I guess, and growing in those tiny 6 pack containers can't be easy on them.

I plant my zinnias, cosmos, nicotiana, salvia (I especially love 'Lady in Red'), calendula, nigella and sunflowers all from seed planted right into the garden.

Plus, tucking a few seeds here and there in the perennial borders adds a little punch of color that lasts clear through to the end of the season. And I never feel guilty about cutting them for arrangements – it seems I always have plenty of them to spare!

I'm trying a few new things from seed this year, including blue shrimp plant (*Cerinthe major*), *Gomphrena* 'Fire Works', and *Silene electra*. Now if I can keep the rabbits and slugs from eating all the seedlings, I'll be all set.

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