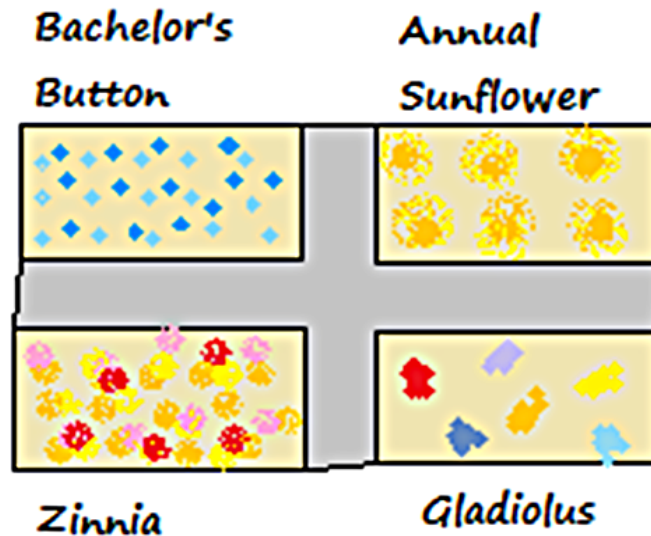


Annual Cut Flower Raised Bed Garden Plan

Plan by Susan Patterson



Flower Bed Construction

Construction Tools and Materials

- Measuring tape
- Stakes and string
- Landscape fabric
- Landscape pins
- 1-by-12-foot lumber, 8 8-foot pieces and 4 4-foot pieces
- Circular saw
- Drill
- 48 2-inch wood screws
- Pea gravel
- Rake

Construction Steps

- 1 Measure out and mark an 18 x 10 foot rectangle in a flat sunny location. Mark the rectangle using stakes and string for a straight edge. This will be your guide for installing the garden.
- 2 Cover the marked area with landscape fabric and pin it down with landscape pins. This will help protect weeds from growing in the garden. Remove the stakes and string from around the border.
- 3 Cut the lumber needed to make the raised beds for the garden. You will need eight 8-foot long pieces, and four 4-foot long pieces of 1-by-12-foot lumber.

- 4 Arrange two of the short boards and two of the long boards on a flat surface to form a rectangle. The boards should be standing on their sides, with the ends overlapping each other. Screw the frame together using three 2-inch wood screws at each corner. Make three more of these raised beds.
- 5 Place a raised bed in each corner of the garden, leaving a 2-foot walkway between each one. Adjust the beds until they line up perfectly.
- 6 Spread a layer of pea gravel in between all of the raised beds. This will serve as your walkway between the beds.

Planting Instructions

Planting Tools and Materials

- Drainage gravel
- Shovel
- Planting soil
- Bachelors button seeds
- Sunflower seeds
- Zinnia seeds
- Gladiolus bulbs
- Water source
- Fertilizer

Planting Steps

- 1 Spread a 2 inch layer of drainage gravel in the bottom of each bed. This will help water drain from the bed and prevent over saturation or "wet feet."
- 2 Fill the planting beds the rest of the way with planting soil. Smooth the soil out to prepare it for planting.
- 3 Plant bachelor button seeds in the first bed. Plant each seed 4 inches apart and 1 inch below the soil surface.
- 4 Plant sunflower seeds in the next bed. Plant them 1 inch deep and 6 inches apart.
- 5 Plant zinnia seeds in the next bed. Plant seeds $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep and 4 inches apart.
- 6 Plant gladiolus bulbs in the last bed. Plant each bulb point-side up, 4 inches deep and 6 inches apart.
- 7 Water, weed, and fertilize the garden as needed for prolific blooms.