

Succession sowing

for a continuous flush of hardy annual flowers

Hardy annuals can first be sown in September/October, then successional sown in Spring for continuous harvests.

There are a few schools of thought, one of which is to sow hardy annuals once in September and once in Spring when the soil has warmed up - then move onto half-hardy annuals. This can work well.

But, our drought in 2025 was sobering, and hardy annuals flowered and went over very, very quickly - sometimes within 2 weeks. Lots of growers are considering doing more succession sowings to avoid any gaps in 2026. So with that said, below is a list of common hardy annuals for cut flowers and their succession timings to hopefully ensure a more continuous harvest throughout the cooler months.

For each of the varieties below, do one sowing in Sept/Oct, and then begin with the following timings in March. Keep sowing HA seeds until mid-June.

EVERY 2-3 WEEKS:

Ammi majus
Ammi visnaga
Bupleurum griffithii
Clary sage
Corncockle
Cornflowers
Daucus carota
Gypsophila
Larkspur
Matthiola
Mignonette
Nasturtium
Nigella
Orlaya grandiflora
Penny cress (and other cresses)
Sunflower (Helianthus)

EVERY 3-4 WEEKS:

Antirrhinum (snapdragon)
Calendula
California poppy
Chinese forget-me-not
Malope trifida
Pansy
Sweet pea

SPECIAL CASES:

Icelandic poppy - sow in Sept/Oct, Dec/Jan and March
Bells of Ireland - sow in Sept/Oct, March and April.

SUCCESSION SOWING NOT NECESSARY:

Briza maxima

