



June 2011

Vesco-Eko News Letter

Add some colours to you're winter garden.

You don't have to settle for a bleak, bare and colourless space in your winter garden.

You can fill the gaps with winter flower bedding plants. You can plant these annuals during April and May to guarantee great colour in your garden from winter into spring.

When choosing a plant, make sure to find out the height of the plant when they reach maturity. You can create a layered effect in the border by planting the taller plants at the back and then the medium plants in the middle and the shorter plants in front.

Choose from the following:

Taller green plants

- Foxgloves (digitalis)

Medium height plants

- Poppies

Lower growing plants

- Pansies
- Fairy primula
- Lobelia

You can plant the following for winter colour:

Sunny Areas:

- Alyssum, calendula, candytuft, cornflower, dianthus, Bokbaai vygie, Iceland poppy, lavatera, snapdragon, stock, sweet pea, viola, sweet William, nemesia, pansy, petunia.

For lightly shaded areas:

- Pansy, fairy primula, English daisy, forget-me-not, primrose.

The following tips will help you to grow your annuals successfully:

I. Soil preparation

Before planting, add liberal quantities of compost to poor sandy soil (2 x 30dm bags per 4m<sup>2</sup> areas). To improve loam, add 1 bag (30dm) to 4m<sup>2</sup>. Sprinkle one handful of planting fertilizer per 1 x m<sup>2</sup> before digging over the flowerbed. Remove any grass, weeds, stone and other debris and level with a rake.

II. Transplant the bedding plants

It is better to transplant in the morning or later in the day, not in the heat of the day. Water the plants and the soil thoroughly. Carefully remove each tiny plant. Be careful not to damage the roots. Do not pull the plants up by the stem, rather push gently from below. Place the plant in a hole in the prepared bed. Be sure to plant it to the same depth as it was in the tray. After planting, water well with a fine sprinkler.

III. Water requirements

Water newly planted plants daily until they are established. Once they have settled in, you can water more deeply, but not so often. This will encourage deep root growth.

IV. Fertilize

Bedding plants require fertilizer every 2 weeks. The winter flower annuals benefit from foliar fertilizer (foliar fertilizing refers to spraying fertilizer onto the foliage of plants) Use Multi-feed or Nitrosol mixed with water.

V. Deadhead

Remove spent blooms to encourage more flowers throughout flowering time.