

How to Grow Coreopsis



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The Coreopsis is a member of the aster family, related to the sunflower. This plant grows into tall bushes of yellow-orange flowers. Established plants do well in dry climates to moderately moist climates, but they do suffer in extreme drought or extremely soggy conditions.

- 1. Sow the seeds once the ground begins to thaw.** Coreopsis flowers can be sown directly in the plant bed during early to mid spring, after the frost has cleared but before the weather gets hot.
- 2. Pick a sunny spot in your garden.** Coreopsis flowers are native to areas with prairies and dry plains, and as a result, the plant thrives in warm, sunny locations. A south-facing spot that receives full sun often works best, but an east- or west-facing spot that receives at least partial sun will work, as well.
- 3. Turn the soil.** Use a garden fork or tiller to dig up and loosen the soil in your plant bed. The soil in the plant bed should be turned about 12 to 15 inches (31 to 38 cm) deep.
- 4. Amend the soil with compost.** Mix 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 cm) of organic compost into the garden soil using a trowel or shovel. The compost enriches the quality of the soil, making it nutritional enough for new flowers to grow in.
- 5. Improve the soil's ability to drain.** These plants do not do well if the roots are water-logged, and good draining soil is essential. If your soil is dense and heavy, you may want to mix in 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 cm) of garden sand or peat moss, or vermiculite along with the compost.





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6. **Sprinkle the seeds over the soil.** Do so sparingly, preventing the flowers from growing too closely together to avoid crowding them out.
 7. **Cover the seeds with a light coating of soil.** The soil you use to cover the seeds should be sandy, or otherwise loose. The seeds should not be planted too deep, but a covering of soil is necessary to protect them against the elements and against birds and other prey.
 8. **Keep the soil moist.** Water the area with a watering can or garden hose every day, except for rainy days, until the seeds germinate and seedlings start to form. This should only take one or two weeks. Do not allow the soil to dry out during this time.
 9. **Space the plants about 12 inches (31 cm) apart.** By early summer, the plants should have several sets of leaves. At this point, it is best to space them apart by at least 12 inches (31 cm) to prevent the roots from tangling and competing for resources. You can thin the plants out by either snipping the stem off at soil level or by gently yanking weaker plants out of the ground.
- To yank out a weaker seedling, insert a garden trowel about 5 to 6 inches (13 to 15 cm) into the ground, at a distance of about 2 to 3 inches (5 to 8 cm) away from the visible stem. Gradually ease the trowel toward the plant until the tip is about even with the center of the stem. Then, slowly and carefully lift the plant out roots out. This method works best when you can guarantee that you will not harm the roots of nearby plants or if you plan to transplant the removed flowers to another location.

