

fall cutting garden



Nothing dresses up a home like fresh flowers, and growing them yourself is an added bonus. This small raised-bed cutting garden, edged with low picket fencing, will provide cut flowers for many weeks and can be tailored to your color preferences. Here we've chosen a fall palette, for a full-sun position in Zones 4 to 8. Average, fertile soil, amended with compost

or other organic material, is fine; good drainage is a must. If you live where drought is a recurring fact of life, soaker hose lines can be installed up and down the rows. A light application of 20-20-20 fertilizer will help the annuals get off to a good start. Avoid high-nitrogen fertilizer, which promotes leaf rather than flower production. At the end of the season, inter-plant tulips, daffodils, and other bulbs for a spring crop. 🐾

key to plan

- 1. Fountain grass** (*Pennisetum setaceum* 'Rubrum') 1 plant in a 15-inch container; 3' tall; 24" across; dark purple grassy foliage; arching, bold purplish flower spikes. Tender perennial.
- 2. Helen's flower** (*Helenium autumnale* 'Kugelsonne') 2 single plants; 3' to 4' tall and 2' across; abundant butter yellow daisy flowers. Cut back by half in midsummer. Perennial.
- 3. Helen's flower** (*Helenium autumnale* 'Moerheim Beauty') 2 single plants; 3' to 4' tall and 2' across; brownish red daisy flowers with black centers. Perennial.
- 4. Dahlia** (*Dahlia pinnata* Redskin Mix) 12 plants spaced 12" apart in 4 groups of 3; 18" tall and 12" across; green-bronze leaves; double flowers 3" across in reds, pinks, yellows, and white. Seal cut stems with a match for longer vase life. Lift after first frost in cold-winter climates. Tender perennial.
- 5. Goldenrod** (*Solidago* 'Crown of Rays') 6 plants set 18" apart in 2 groups of 3; 2' tall

- and 18" across; large heads of tiny, bright yellow flowers. Perennial.
- 6. Garden zinnia** (*Zinnia* Thumbelina Hybrids) 10 plants set 6" apart in 2 groups of 5; 6" to 10" tall and 6" across; abundant 1 1/2" flowers in a wide range of mixed hues. Annual.
- 7. Garden zinnia** (*Zinnia* Dreamland Hybrids) 10 plants set 9" apart in 2 groups of 5; 12" tall and 12" across; 3" to 4" double flowers in a range of colors. Annual.
- 8. Love-in-a-mist** (*Nigella damascena*) 10 plants set 6" apart in 2 groups of 5; 12" tall and 6" across; grown for their decorative inflated seedheads for fall. Annual.
- 9. Aster** (*Aster novae-angliae* 'Purple Dome') 6 plants set 18" apart in 2 groups of 3; 18" tall and 18" across; forms rounded domes covered with 1 1/2" brilliant purple daisies. Perennial.
- 10. Rabbit-tail grass** (*Lagurus ovatus*) 10 plants spaced 9" apart in 2 groups of 5; 1' to 2' tall and to 12" across; dense oval flowerheads, soft to the touch, on stiff wiry stems. Annual.

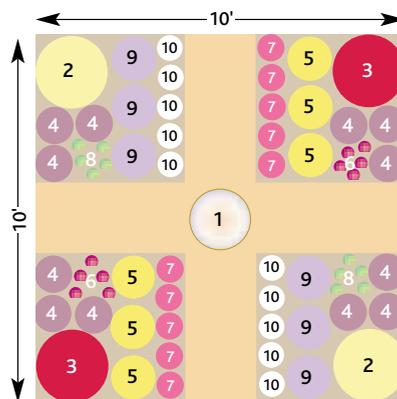


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