

A Beautiful Garden In No Time!

A garden full of flowers and vegetables might seem like a fun idea in the spring, but by the dog days of summer, some gardeners wish they hadn't made the commitment. They're either too busy to tend their gardens or they would prefer to spend sunny days relaxing, not pulling up weeds. Here are some timesaving shortcuts....

EASY GARDEN PLANTS

Most gardeners grow the flowers they consider the most beautiful and the vegetables they consider the tastiest. But if you want your garden to be easy, also figure in how much effort particular plants require. Some of the lowest maintenance garden plants:

Easy annuals. Time-conscious gardeners often plant perennials reasoning that once the plants are in the ground, they'll come back every year on their own. Better: Well-chosen annuals. Easy-to-grow annuals include begonias, impatiens, marigold and petunias. While perennials bloom for only a month or so each season, these annuals can bloom all summer, a better payoff per hour spent gardening. Purchase your annuals as plants rather than as seeds for faster results.

Tomatoes. Tomatoes are easy to grow – just select a variety that is resistant to the diseases and insects common in your area. Call your local agricultural extension office, and ask which tomatoes it recommends. (The extension office should be listed in the county sections of your phone book's government blue pages. If you can't find it, call the county offices or type "county extension" and your county's name into the Google search engine.)

Knock Out Roses. Roses are famously difficult to grow, but Conard Pyle's Knock Out Roses (www.knockoutroses.com) are as easy as possible. They're resistant to the diseases and insects that make most roses challenging. Downside: They're not fragrant.



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