



Flower Farming School Online

With Dave Dowling

Planning & Planting for the *Flower Holidays*

Dave Dowling

All cut flowers have a “crop time” which is the time from planting to harvest. Knowing this info allows a grower to start plants and schedule a harvest for a particular flower holiday date. Most seed producers have “Culture Sheets” with detailed growing info for specific cut flower crops. A Google search for “Snapdragon Culture Sheet” (or Stock, Sunflower, etc.) brings up several results.

The main holidays that use cut flowers are:

- **Valentine’s Day** - Always February 14
 - (Heated Greenhouse)
- **Easter** - Varies from March 22 to April 25
 - (Heated Greenhouse or Tunnel)
- **Mother’s Day** - Varies from May 8 to May 14
 - (Heated Greenhouse, Tunnel, or Field)
- **Thanksgiving** - Varies from November 22 to November 28
 - (Heated Greenhouse, Tunnel, or Field)
- **Christmas** - Always December 25
 - (Heated Greenhouse or Field)

Crop Location: **GH** = Greenhouse **T** = Tunnel **F** = Field

Start dates are for 2020/2021 holiday dates. Adjust each year for actual holiday date.

Plant dates are approximate and are for zone 6/7

Adjust planting schedule for your zone and results. Take notes each year and adapt as needed.

This list is not intended to be a complete list of everything that can be grown for the Flower Holidays. Start with these varieties and experiment with other flowers as time, space, and experience allow.

Valentine’s Day

Stock GH Sow October 20

Snaps GH Sow Group 1 variety October 20

Callas GH Plant December 15th

Lilies GH Plant Oriental varieties October 10th LA varieties November 1st

Tulips GH Plant 5C bulbs December 20th, Plant 9C bulbs October 15th, provide cooling until December 30th

Ranunculus GH Plant October 1st

Anemones GH Plant October 1

Bells of Ireland GH Direct sow October 14th

Pussy Willow F Cut when ready, store in cooler. Cut and force in greenhouse, then store in cooler.

Easter

Stock GH Sow December 20th

Snaps GH Sow Group 2 variety December 20th

Calla GH Plant Feb 15th

Lily GH Plant Oriental varieties December 10th LA varieties January 1st

Tulips GH Plant 9-degree bulbs Nov 1st, provide cooling until March 1st T (for early Easter) Plant in October, close tunnel in late February. F (for late Easter) Plant in October

Ranunculus GH Plant in December T Plant in October

Easter continued

Anemones GH Plant in December T Plant in October

Freesia GH Plant January 15th

Bells of Ireland GH Direct sow December 16th

Hyacinth GH/T Plant in crates in October, store cold, move to cool greenhouse or tunnel four weeks before Easter

Mother's Day

Peonies T Build tunnel over existing plants. Close tunnel in mid-March to force early flowering.

Stock GH Sow January 20th

Snaps GH Sow Group 2-3 January 20th T Plant Group 2-3 October F Plant Group 2-3 October

Calla GH Plant March 15th T Plant March 15th

Lily GH Plant Oriental varieties January 10th LA varieties February 1st Tulips F Plant in October

Ranunculus GH Plant in early February T Plant in October

Anemones GH T Plant in early February T Plant in October

Freesia GH Plant in early February

Sunflower GH Sow March 5th

Bells of Ireland GH Direct sow January 15th T Sow Jan 15th, transplant Feb 20th

Biennial Dianthus / Sweet William T F Sow plugs in early August, transplant to tunnel and field by late September.

Larkspur T Direct sow October to early February.

Tulips F Planted in October

Dutch Iris T Plant in October

Thanksgiving

Sunflower GH Sown September 15th T Sow September 15th *Use night interruption lighting.*

Lily GH Plant Oriental varieties August 1st. Plant LA varieties September 1st. LA Royal Sunset

Eucalyptus T Existing plants

Flowering Cabbage GH Sow June 30th T Sow June 30th F Sow June 30th

Calla GH Plant September 25th

Snaps GH Sow Group 2-3 August 1st

Stock GH Sow August 15th`

Heirloom Mums GH Plant in June, Pinch back first week of July. *(Shield from night interruption lighting)*

Celosia GH Sow plume and crested August 1st *Use night interruption lighting*

Dusty Miller T Plant in the spring for harvest all season and into the fall

Sticks F Harvest willows, dogwood, and golden Ilex for fall

Gourds F Grow fancy gourds in summer

Christmas

Lily GH Plant Oriental September 1st, Plant LA Lilies September 21st

Snaps GH Sow group 1 September 1st

Stock GH Sow September 1st

Poinsettia GH Plant rooted cuttings in late June

Amaryllis GH Plant in mid-October for cut flowers or potted plants

Paperwhites GH Plant in November for cut flowers or potted plants

Ranunculus GH Plant in early October

Anemones GH Plant in early October

Greens F Harvest assorted evergreen branches for wreaths and bouquets

Sticks F Harvest willows, dogwood, and red ilex for Christmas

Used dried flowers from summer harvest to decorate wreathes and urns