

Cuts of Color- Rita Anders, Weimar, TX

My Top Ten Producers – Tip Sheet

Fall/Winter/Spring grown Karma Dahlias

1.318 cost with shipping per plant, 4 tray minimum. Purchase through Gloeckner.

Varieties I like are Naomi, Fiesta, Irene, Maarten Zwan, Prospero, Lagoon, Ventura.

Order plugs in March/April for delivery in August, very important timing issue!

Transplant into greenhouse first couple of weeks in September, flowering in November.

Space 12" apart and support with netting. They get really tall and heavy.

Fertilize with fish emulsion every 2-3 weeks.

Cut into plain water and put in cooler, grow using lights for 14 hour days. Heat greenhouse just to keep plants from freezing.

If you grow them over winter, there are way fewer bugs to deal with and in Texas they won't survive our summers.

Sweet Peas

Sow seed Nov 1. Transplant early into beds, vertical netting, start picking in February. Grow in a greenhouse kept from freezing with minimal heat.

100 seeds for 11.00 most varieties, seed sources, Gloeckner and GeoSeed.

I scratch my seeds with sandpaper and soak overnight to help germination.

The experts say they don't like to transplant but I do it when plants are about 3" and they do just fine.

Winter Sunshine , Spring Sunshine, Mammoth and Elegance are varieties I grow.

I harvest into silver solution for two hours to hold blooms.

Ranunculus

I order in April from Gloeckner, .375 cents each, grow in unheated greenhouses.

La Belles are the variety I normally grow but trialing Biancheri this year. I order by the colors I want.

I have them shipped to me on October 1, do the chilling requirements and plant out Nov 1 and start harvesting in February through March, just depends on how warm it gets to how long harvest lasts.

When I harvest, I put rubber bands around bunches so they don't slide down into buckets and bend.

Anemone

I like the Jerusalem and Carmel varieties. Grow just like ranunculus.

Pick when the little leaf collar is ½" below flower. Bunch with rubberbands to stop them from sliding and bending in bucket.

Water the Ranunculus and Anemone only on days it's sunny to cut down on disease problems. For me anemone are a lot easier to grow than ranunculus. Watch out for APHIDS.

Snapdragons

Chantilly, Rockets and Madame Butterfly are my favorite varieties. For me they bloom in this order also.

I order all my plugs to come in October 1 and transplant into unheated greenhouse beds Nov. I also plant some outside beds and cover with agribon when it gets below freezing.

The Chantilly snaps will start blooming in February followed by the others so it's like succession planting.

I harvest into silver solution for 2 hours and switch to plain water.

Larkspur

I direct seed out into garden beds in November and seed is cheap. I weed a little, water if needed and harvest in April.

Tip: put seed in a Ziploc bag in the fridge with a little water for two weeks, then pat dry with paper towel and seed using an Earthway seeder into prepared garden beds.

Purple and white sell the best for me.

I harvest into silver solution and switch to plain water.

Sunflowers

Favorite varieties are Vincent Choice, Vincent Fresh, ProCuts, and Superior Sunset.

I start my first few plantings as transplants and once we are frost free, I direct seed. Then in July I have to start some again as transplants because the birds and mice eat my seeds if I direct seed them and then in September till October 10th or so I direct seed again.

Last year and this year, I started 2 seeds in 4" cups and grew them in the greenhouse with the dahlias and got great bouquet sunflowers in March by just growing in the cups and never transplanted.

MICE love sunflower seed so have a cat love traps and protect those seeds.

I harvest every day during growing season into plain water and then place in clean water with chlorine tablets.

Lisianthus

I order transplants from Gloeckner to come in on March 1, transplant into some larger packs until my beds are available, .318 a plant. Usually all planted out into beds around April 1. I don't overwinter plants.

Favorite varieties are ABC 1-3 Purple, ABC 2-3 Blue Rim, ABC 2-3 Green, Echo Blue, Pink, and Pure White, Mariachi Carmine and Misty Blue.

I harvest plants and clean leaves off OUTSIDE of greenhouse to cut down on disease problems.

Zinnias

My workhorse. Benary Giants my favorite, grow all my own in 50 cell tray packs, Have done 100 size transplants but plants do so much better if you put out a better, bigger transplant.

I order my seed by color not mix so I can plant color specific for the seasons.

Gomphrena

Favorite varieties are the Qis colors and all colors sell well. White for wedding work, don't like the light purple and the white fades fast too and looks bad. I like all the bright colors. Love adding to bouquets and we sell tons of straight bunches, 12 stems for 5.00, wholesale price.

Celosia

Favorites: Kurume, Plume Mix, Hiryu No 2, Toreador, Chief, Flamingo Feather, Cramer's Burgundy, Cramers Hi-Z