

Renfrow's Flower Gardening Almanac Matthews, NC Zone 7b/8a

	Plant		Cultivate & Maintain		Harvest
New Year's Day	Directly Outdoors Very last chance to get fall-planted bulbs in the ground (daffodils, tulips, anemones, ranunculus, alliums, etc)	Start Indoors/in pots Start slow-growing seeds like eucalyptus, lisianthus (if you're feeling brave & patient), perennial herbs	Rest, daydream about the upcoming year of flowers, buy your seeds for the summer season & stock up on seed-starting supplies like trays, markers, soil, fertilizer		You might get lucky and have your earliest planted anemones shoot up their first bloom or two if the winter is mild. It's more likely camellia 'sasanqua' bushes, a few early daffodils, snowdrops, or other landscaping bulbs like crocuses may bloom. This is really a great time of year to explore textures of greenery or other natural elements like moss, pine cones,
Valentine's Day	Last chance to sow cool-season direct-sown flowers like larkspur, bupleurum, bachelor buttons, etc	Start seeds indoors for perennials like yarrow, rudbeckia, feverfew, echinacea; foxglove & dianthus varieties that flower in the first year (typically noted as FYF in seed catalogs) and annuals that don't mind some cool weather but aren't direct-seeded in fall - statice, calendula, stock, snapdragons, scabiosa	Fertilize & inspect anemone and ranunculus plants for aphids, treat if found; prune your perennial fruit if needed		Anemones, daffodils, potentially early tulips if we have a mild January
St. Patrick's Day	Perennial transplants can be set out now to get abundant roots established before summer heat sets in: rudbeckia, daisy, hollyhock, veronica, & many others	Start warm-season seeds indoors if you want to get a head start on the season and set out just after last frost. Some that do better started later: ageratum, amaranthus, gomphrena, basil	Dig and separate and replant the perennials that reseeded the previous fall, before they start growing larger (rudbeckia, feverfew)		Bulbs: Anemones, tulips, daffodils, hyacinth potentially early ranunculus Landscape: hellebores (lenten rose), forsythia
Good Friday	Direct sow sunflowers, nasturtium even if this lands in late March because these can take a bit of cold	Celosia, which cannot take any cold weather, shouldn't be started indoors too early or it may get leggy. Prefers temps above 50F full-time (so does basil)	Dig and dry out your finished anemone and ranunculus corms (bulbs). Cut foliage off and store in well-ventilated area as they dry. Store throughout the summer in any dry place.		Mint foliage & raspberry foliage for arrangements (or to make tea), evergreens from your landscaping, ranunculus, dutch iris, sweet Williams, last of anemones if the weather is still cool

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Tax Day (average last frost)	Direct sow frost-tender annuals if the forecast looks clear	If you have not grown many of these seeds before, make sure to label the places you plant in the garden with plant markers so you don't accidentally misidentify them as weeds and pull them up!	Violas, pansies, ranunculus, Icelandic poppies, potentially the earliest peonies, Dutch iris, some woody perennials in landscape
May Day	Tuberose, gladiolus, dahlias & other warm-weather bulbs & tubers	Cultivate and weed your seedlings once they are a few inches tall and before the weeds get big.	Peonies, Dianthus Sweet William, violas, pansies. Most "cool flowers" from our list below bloom in May
Memorial Day	Direct sow another round of zinnias, cosmos, sunflowers if you haven't done so yet	"	Most "cool flowers" from our list below bloom in May
Last Day of School	"	Add layer of leaf mulch around dahlias to retain moisture and keep down weeds. Do not do this if we are getting tons of rain as dahlias are sensitive to becoming waterlogged and drowning; fertilize peonies if needed (usually best to only once every few years, if at all, unless your soil is poor)	Lilies, yarrow, feverfew, drumstick allium, foxglove, forget-me-not, monarda, rudbeckia, others
Fourth of July	You can still be planting summertime annuals. Plant a batch of tuberose, lilies, gladiolus if you are staggering those out	Inspect for bugs and diseases throughout the summer and stop by Renfrow's with samples if you are stumped on treatment plan. Enjoy harvesting your summer annuals. Deadheaded flowers to encourage continual blooming.	Rudbeckia, lisianthus, grains and seedheads from various grasses and weeds, many of the annuals sown in April
Dog Days of August	Last sowing of zinnias, cosmos, marigolds, 75+days sunflowers etc for fall blooms	Time to take care of weeds and bugs, weeds and bugs!	This is when the summertime annuals take the spotlight as most perennials bloom in the first half of the year, herb blossoms, tuberose
Labor Day	Last sowing of fast-growing sunflowers (60 days or less); Direct-sown cool season annuals (see complete list on handout)	Cut back dead and dying peony foliage to the ground; toss leaves in garbage, not compost pile; for healthiest plant hygiene don't leave them at base of plant or forget to cut back.	Dahlias - I don't expect to have many beautiful dahlias before September - they love the cool months of September & October and the leaf-munching bug pressure tends to diminish at this point ; cowpea pods; seedheads, herbs

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Halloween (average first frost)	Direct-sown cool season annuals (see complete list on handout); earliest anemones & ranunculus	Get out and collect seeds from some of your favorite zinnia plants before frost to sow next year; Dig up and compost all your plants that die at frost. Plant a cover crop on garden beds not being used over the winter. Dig and divide and replant short-lived perennials like yarrow or mountain mint, dig and separate and replant self-sown seedlings of biennials or short-lived perennials like rudbeckia and feverfew, taking care not to disturb their roots if possible	Late batch of warm-season annuals planted in midsummer as the April-planted ones have usually fizzled out by now
Thanksgiving	Bare-root peonies, fall bulbs like tulips, daffodils, alliums, iris, Dutch iris, etc	Very lightly cover peonies with leaves to prevent weed growth in winter. You can more heavily cover all other fall bulb crops that will emerge in spring.	Autumn leaves, herb folliages, pinecones, perennial autumn fruits and nuts (persimmons, pomegranates, pecans); kale foliage
Christmas	Fruit plants (which are fun holiday gifts) provide interesting cutting foliage, blossoms, and immature fruit for unique touches in arrangements	Put flower seeds or flower books on your gifts wish list :)	Create holiday arrangements of evergreen greenery and holly berries; a few snowdrops or earliest blooming bulbs may pop up in your landscape
	This chart & the lists below are by no means exhaustive, but a starting point and overview to help you begin to understand and know the natural rhythms of the garden full of flowers :)		
	Direct-seeded annual cold-hardy "Cool flowers" : agrostemma, ammi (Queen Anne's Lace, highest quality as a cut flower, better than the roadside blooms), Dara (purple ammi-like lace flower), nigella "love in a mist", larkspur, bachelor buttons, poppy, Chinese forget-me-not, bupleurum, dill, bells of Ireland, some Asclepias (milkweed) varieties		
	Direct-seeded summer-blooming annuals : cosmos, marigolds, zinnias, sunflowers, nasturtiums, basil, euphorbia "snow on the mountain", basil once the soil is very warm **you can easily start all of these indoors as well, except not recommended for sunflowers		
	Summer-blooming annuals that prefer being started indoors : gomphrena, ageratum, amaranth, nasturtium, celosia, others		
	Perennials & biennials you can start from seed : feverfew, yarrow, delphinium, campanula, foxglove, dianthus sweet william, eucalyptus		