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How to Make an Annual Bed

Today on Gardening in a Minute: how to make an annual bed.

Success with annual flowers depends largely on adequate preparation of the planting bed.

Spade or till the bed to a depth of at least six inches several weeks before planting to loosen and aerate the soil. Thoroughly mix organic materials like compost or composted animal manure to help the soil retain nutrients and moisture that plants need.

Flower beds should be fertilized prior to planting or at planting time, with a controlled-release, complete fertilizer. Most of these products last for months, so you shouldn't have to fertilize very often.

Before planting, make sure you loosen and spread the roots of your annuals. After planting, add mulch to beds to keep weeds down, and water regularly.

Your annuals will respond with beautiful displays for the season!

For more about annuals and many other gardening topics, contact your county extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida's Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.

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