

**March 17th is our last killing frost date &  
November 12th - 15th is our first killing frost date in Parker County**

*Information researched and collected by a Parker County Master Gardener*

For additional information check out: [www.successwithseed.org](http://www.successwithseed.org)

Seed Name	Annual or Perennial in Parker County	Planting Information
Air Potato Vine <i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	Annual	An invasive plant. Plant in February in a container in a greenhouse. The plant is slow to come up in the spring.
Bird of Paradise	Perennial	Collect seeds after pod dries/Will re-seed in area where planted.
Blackberry Lily <i>Belamcanda chinensis</i>	Perennial	Plant seed 1/4" deep in 65 to 75 degree soil. Germinates in 7-14 days, then plants 8"-12" apart. Prefers full sun. Sow seed in garden after danger of frost OR can also be sown outside, up to 2 months before the last fall frost. Collect seeds in early fall after pod dries. Seed is ripe when the pods start to split open and/or the pods are brown...and the seeds are shiny black.
Blanketflower <i>Gaillardia aristata</i> 'Arizona Sun'	Perennial	Thrives in full sun in well-drained areas. Easily established from seed, and will reseed. Sowing 1/8" or surface sow. Germinates in 15-45 days. Blooms from May - Sept.
Brazilian Verbena <i>Verbena bonariensis</i>	Perennial	Hardy and easy to grow. Attractive to hummingbirds, bees and butterflies. Reseeds itself readily. Collect seeds in early fall. Plant seeds in the spring 2 - 4 weeks before average last frost; 14 - 25 days to emerge; thin to 12" apart; Height is 3' to 6' tall. Blooms all summer until first frost. Flowers the first year.
Bronze Fennel	Perennial	Re-seeds
Butterfly Vine <i>Mascagnia macroptera</i>	Tender Perennial	Propagate from cuttings, layering, or seed (direct sow after last frost). Allow pods to dry on plant, break open to collect seeds in fall. The seed is in the butterfly "body". Use both thumbnails to pull the butterfly "body" apart. The seeds are encapsulated inside. To make sure the seed is viable, roll it between the thumb and forefinger. If it is "good", it will not crumble. If it is an old seed and not good, it will crumble. Germination of seed is erratic. Seeds may germinate over a period from one week to a month. Take cuttings in late spring and summer. Take the runners and remove the leaves on the lower 5" and pot them. Layering is faster and an easier way to propagate this vine.
Butterfly Weed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Perennial	Attractive to bees, monarch and other butterflies, and/or birds. Self-sows freely. Deadhead if you do not want volunteer seedlings next season. Propagate from seed; direct sow outdoors in fall. Bag seedheads to capture ripening seed. Allow pods to dry on plant, break open to collect seeds. Seedpods have small flat seeds with silk on one end used to scatter them. These plants come up late in spring. Attractive to aphids but they really don't hurt the plant or the caterpillars.
Candytuff	Perennial	
Cardoon	Perennial	Collect seeds after flowering.
Castor Beans	Annual	Collect seeds after pod dries.

Chives (Common) <i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	Perennial	Plant in early spring or in the fall no later than Sept.12th in order for chives to have 2 months before our first fall frost (Nov. 12-15. 10 - 15 Days to emerge. Space about every 1/4" or may wish to have group plantings. Thinning is not necessary. DO NOT plant garlic chives as they reseed everywhere. Onion chives have purple blooms and garlic chives have white blooms.
Cleome (Spider Flower) <i>Cleome spinosa</i> 'Violet Queen'	Annual	Direct sow seed in spring after average last frost date in full sun. Blooms midsummer to early fall. Reaches 3' - 5' tall. Is a butterfly magnet. A prolific re-seeder so collect seeds after pod dries on plant.
Columbine (Lavender) <i>Aquilegia</i>	Perennial	Re-seeds in early spring.
Columbine (Red) <i>Aquilegia</i>	Perennial	Re-seeds in early spring.
Columbine (Yellow) <i>Aquilegia</i>	Perennial	Re-seeds in early spring.
Dutchman's Pipe Vine <i>Aristolochia labiata</i>	Perennial	Collect seeds after pod dries.
Flowering Sienna <i>Senna corymbosa</i>	Perennial	Blooms late summer and/or early fall. Attractive to bees, butterflies, and birds. It is a host to butterfly caterpillars. Produces 3"-4" seedpods in the fall. In late fall allow seedpods to dry on plant before collecting seeds. Break open to collect seeds. Direct sow seeds after first frost (around March 17th).
Native Foxglove <i>Penstemon cobaea</i>	Perennial	
Evergreen Dianthus	Perennial	Re-seeds (Collect seeds in September & October)
French Marigold	Annual	Plant in spring
Gomphrena <i>Gomphrena globosa</i>	Annual	
Hardy Plumbago 'Leadwort'	Perennial	
Purple Hyacinth Bean	Annual	Collect seeds in early fall.
White Hyacinth Bean	Annual	Collect seeds in early fall.
Rocket Larkspur <i>Delphinium ajacis</i>	Annual	Collect seeds after flowering.
Malabar Spinach Vine <i>Basella rubra</i>	Annual	Collect seeds in fall.
Maximillian Sunflower <i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>	Perennial	Requires full sun. Germination takes 7 - 25 days. Sow 1/8" in spring after last killing frost (March 16). Reaches 3' - 10' tall. Blooms from July - October. Requires two years to become established.
Mexican Sunflower 'Tithonia'	Annual	Collect seeds after flowering.
Oxeyed Daisy <i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>	Perennial	Plant in full sun or partial shade. A prolific re-seeder. Germination is in 15 - 30 days. Sowing depth is 1/16" or surface sow. Blooms May - July. Collect seeds after flowering in early spring.
Chili Pequin		
Peruvian Lily <i>Alstroemeria pulchella</i>	Perennial	Collect seeds after flowering.
Pink Double Ruffled Poppy	Annual	Collect seeds after pod dries.

Red Double Ruffled Poppy	Annual	Collect seeds after pod dries.
Sweet Alyssum <i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Annual	Thrives in full sun to partial shade and in almost any soil. Best sown in early spring, seedlings cannot withstand a heavy frost. It takes 15 - 20 days to emerge. Surface sow. Reseeds easily. When it gets raggy looking, just cut off to ground and new seedlings will emerge. Blooms April - May.
Sweet Annie <i>Artemisia annua</i>	Annual	In our area, it is best to plant in the spring after last chance of spring frost. Plant in full sun and just press lightly into the surface of soil. 10 - 14 Days to emerge. When 3" - 4" tall, thin to 3' apart. Will reach 4' - 6' tall. Most of the time, Sweet Annie will reseed.
Sweet William <i>Dianthus barbatus</i>	Biennial	In our area, it is best to plant in the fall by October 1st so it will have 6 weeks to establish itself before our first killing frost (Nov. 12-15). Seeds take 5 - 10 Days to emerge. When plants are 2" high, thin or transplant to 6" apart. Plants have to go through a freezing spell before they will flower.
Texas Star Hibiscus	Perennial	Collect seeds after pod dries.
White Hibiscus	Perennial	Collect seeds after pod dries.
Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Perennial	Thrives in most soils in full sun. Sow 1/16" or surface sow. Germinates in 7 - 30 days. Blooms from June - August. Collect seeds after flowering.
Doubledecker' Coneflower <i>Echinacea</i>	Perennial	Plant as early as February 14th which is 3 to 4 weeks before our <b>last killing frost date (March 17th)</b> OR as late as September 12th which is 2 months before the <b>first killing frost date (November 12-15)</b> . Collect seeds after flowering. 10 - 20 Days to emerge. When 1" tall, thin to 1.5' - 2' apart.
Harvest Moon' Coneflower <i>Echinacea</i>	Perennial	Plant as early as February 14th which is 3 to 4 weeks before our <b>last killing frost date (March 17th)</b> OR as late as September 12th which is 2 months before the <b>first killing frost date (November 12-15)</b> . Collect seeds after flowering. 10 - 20 Days to emerge. When 1" tall, thin to 1.5' - 2' apart.
Orange Meadowbrite' Coneflower <i>Echinacea</i>	Perennial	Plant as early as February 14th which is 3 to 4 weeks before our <b>last killing frost date (March 17th)</b> OR as late as September 12th which is 2 months before the <b>first killing frost date (November 12-15)</b> . Collect seeds after flowering. 10 - 20 Days to emerge. When 1" tall, thin to 1.5' - 2' apart.
Purple Coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Perennial	Plant as early as February 14th which is 3 to 4 weeks before our <b>last killing frost date (March 17th)</b> OR as late as September 12th which is 2 months before the <b>first killing frost date (November 12-15)</b> . Collect seeds after flowering. 10 - 20 Days to emerge. When 1" tall, thin to 1.5' - 2' apart.
Sunrise' Coneflower <i>Echinacea</i>	Perennial	Plant as early as February 14th which is 3 to 4 weeks before our <b>last killing frost date (March 17th)</b> OR as late as September 12th which is 2 months before the <b>first killing frost date (November 12-15)</b> . Collect seeds after flowering. 10 - 20 Days to emerge. When 1" tall, thin to 1.5' - 2' apart.
Sundown' Coneflower <i>Echinacea</i>	Perennial	Plant as early as February 14th which is 3 to 4 weeks before our <b>last killing frost date (March 17th)</b> OR as late as September 12th which is 2 months before the <b>first killing frost date (November 12-15)</b> . Collect seeds after flowering. 10 - 20 Days to emerge. When 1" tall, thin to 1.5' - 2' apart.

White Swan' Coneflower <i>Echinacea</i>	Perennial	Plant as early as February 14th which is 3 to 4 weeks before our <b>last killing frost date (March 17th) OR</b> as late as September 12th which is 2 months before the <b>first killing frost date (November 12-15)</b> . Collect seeds after flowering. 10 - 20 Days to emerge. When 1" tall, thin to 1.5' - 2' apart.
Wine Cup <i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>	Perennial	Will <b>NOT</b> bloom the first year it is planted. In our area, it is best to plant in full sun in the fall the same time as poppy, larkspur, and parsley seeds. The flowers close each evening and remain permanently shut after pollination. The stems and leaves of the entire plant die back in the heat of summer and should be trimmed to promote fall growth. Blooms Feb. - July. It takes 28 - 56 days for seed to germinate.

## **Planting Zinnia Seeds Outdoor**

There are many kinds of zinnia seed so read information on package.

They range in many colors and vary in height and width from 6" to 36", too. Zinnias are un-demanding annuals that simply need full sun, warmth, and well-drained soil rich in organic matter. If soil is poor, incorporate lots of compost. Soil should be loose and crumbly and moist before planting. **DO NOT** plant seeds where you have mulch....seeds won't come up through mulch. Scatter a general-purpose fertilizer over the soil and rake until the ground is smooth and level.

Plant zinnia seed in the spring after all danger of frost. The old timers say danger is past when the Bois d'Arc, Mesquite, and Pecan trees have budded out. They also say after Good Friday. Jimmy Turner's presentation at the Neil Sperry Show said to start Zinnia seeds on June 1st, which I probably will do as my larkspur and poppies will be finished by that time and zinnias could readily take their place. It usually takes about 8 weeks for zinnias to flower so that needs to be considered. You could also plant zinnia seeds every 2 weeks (like glads) to extend the season. You would have to be careful to keep them moist as the season progresses and give them sufficient sun if planted in the same area.

Zinnias grow best in full sun. All the packages say to cover 1/4 ". I scatter mine or direct sow seeds in the soil, but if I covered, I'd just sprinkle potting medium over the seeds...I surely wouldn't try to plant each seed. I buy ample seed so I can scatter and have no need to cover with soil. Covering them might save some from the birds. Most packages say to thin when 2-4" tall to space 10-12" apart.

Thin seedlings as needed. When seedlings are about 1-4" tall, space plants of small kinds 6"-12" apart, taller kinds up to 12"-18" apart.

Keep them fairly moist, watering when the surface feels dry. Zinnias do not like any moisture on their leaves so soaker hoses or drip irrigation is best for watering; therefore, eliminating brown spots and mildew.

Zinnias are sun-loving and heat tolerant. Blooms midsummer to frost making this plant attractive to butterflies.

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