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How to Grow Anemones: The Complete Anemone Flower Guide



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Planting, Growing, and Caring

By Catherine Boeckmann

Last Updated: November 22, 2024



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Available in spring and fall blooming species, anemone flowers (pronounced Ah-NEM-oh-ne) provide charming vibrant blooms throughout the growing season. These low-growing plants produce tall stems of bold flowers, making them perfect for a range of locations across the garden.

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Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a beginner, this guide will cover everything you need to know about planting, growing, and caring for anemone flowers.

Anemones, also known as wind flowers, produce long-lasting blooms on reaching stems. They are low maintenance making them ideal for borders, containers, raised beds, and naturalized areas.

Native to Asia, Europe, Mediterranean and North America, these sweet flowers are all related to the buttercup.

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There are over 200 species of anemones and they come in all shapes and sizes. In general, their foliage grows low to the ground and their flowers appear on thin stems poking out above the leaves.

Note: These fast-growing flowers are apt to spread and some species may be considered invasive. Check with local regulations before planting and keep the plants contained if you don't wish for them to spread!

What Do Anemones Look Like?



Lots of beautiful colors of anemones.

Credit: imageBROKER.com

The flowers themselves are cup shaped and come in a huge range of colors. Blue, pink, purple, red, white and yellow just to name a few, some are even multi-colored!

Further on in this guide you'll find our 'types' section where you can find out the colors and shapes of individual species.

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The delicate flowers are usually just single blooms sitting atop a long and thin stem. Some varieties have slightly frilly shaped petals, others are more smooth edged.

Read Next

- [How to Grow Larkspurs: The Complete Larkspur Flower Guide](#)
- [How to Grow Verbenas: The Complete Verbena Flower Guide](#)
- [How to Grow Gauras: The Complete Gaura Flower Guide](#)

PLANTING



Pink anemones standing to attention.
Credit: Alex Manders

Choose a spot with well-draining soil that stays evenly moist. Add compost, leaf mold or aged manure to the soil before planting to improve texture and fertility, if necessary. Anemones don't like to sit in wet soil (especially in winter), but they will appreciate some moisture during the hottest and driest months of the year.

Anemones will grow best in a location that is mostly sunny but that does receive a bit of shade, especially during the middle of the day.

When to Plant Anemones

- In warmer regions (Zones 7 to 9), plant anemones in the fall.
- In cold climates (Zones 4 to 6), plant the tubers in early spring, as they will need to settle in before they can tolerate freezing temperatures.

How to Plant Anemones

get established sooner after planting.

- Plant tubers 3 to 4 inches deep and space them 4 to 6 inches apart.
- Water deeply after planting.

Growing Anemones from Seed

- Propagating anemones from seed is slow and can be very inconsistent so is usually only attempted by professionals or dedicated amateurs.
- After the flowers fade and the seed heads dry out, collect the seeds and sow them in an outdoor cold frame with plenty of well-draining soil.
- Only just cover the seeds with the soil and after they sprout, cover with a thick layer of mulch over winter.
- Transplant them in the spring.

GROWING

- Anemones usually take at least one growing season to get established, blooming profusely in the following year.
- Keep soil moist (especially in the

- Add organic mulch around the plants to keep soil moist and suppress weeds.
- Some of the taller, fall-blooming varieties may need staking.
- Deadhead faded flowers to encourage more blooms.
- Fertilize in early spring.
- If you live in colder regions, tubers can be dug up in the fall and stored indoors over the winter. Dry the tubers before placing in a paper bag and storing in a well-ventilated area.
- Divide anemones every 3 to 4 years.

Specific Requirements



*Delicate anemone flowers. Credit:
Alex Manders*

These plants are pretty easy to grow and don't need much attention after you've planted them as long as the following conditions are met.

- Light - make sure these plants get a minimum of four hours sunlight every day.
- Soil - moist, well rained soil is the best.
- Water - If rainfall is under 1 inch a week, you'll need to water these plants slowly, allowing the soil time to absorb the water.
- Temperature - very much dependent on the species. They usually like cool temperatures, between 58 - 65 degrees Fahrenheit.

Pruning

- Spring bloomers don't usually require any pruning, they typically wither away.
- Fall bloomers might look messy after the first frost so you can get rid of dead flowers in early winter.

Propagating

Propagating anemones is an easy process, you simply need to dig up the tubers, divide them, and replant.

Do this once your flowers have died back and become fully dormant. For fall-blooming varieties, this will be in the spring, and the reverse for spring-blooming varieties.

If you don't want to replant them immediately, you can store them in a cool and dry place until you're ready to replant.

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Types

Spring-blooming Anemones

- *Anemone blanda* aka Grecian anemone.

This tall variety grows from 4 to 8

inches tall in mounds of delicate blue

magenta, mauve, and bicolor. It's hardy in zones 4 to 9.

- *Anemone canadensis* aka Canada or meadow anemone is smaller, growing 1 to 2 feet tall with upward-facing white flowers. It typically blooms from April to June but **spreads quickly and can become invasive**. This variety is hardy in zones 3 to 8.
- *A. coronaria* aka poppy anemone is another smaller species, growing 1 to 1.5 feet tall. The single or sometimes double flowers are white, pink, red or blue large and it's ideally grown in zones 7 to 10.
- *A. coronaria* 'Hollandia' has bright red flowers with black centers that bloom all spring.
- *A. sylvestris* aka snowdrop anemone grows from 1 to 1.5 feet tall and produces fragrant, single white flowers with yellow stamens. Many species need plenty of light but this one tolerates shade. It's a spring-bloomer and is hardy in zones 4 to 8.

Fall-blooming Anemones

produces masses of 2-toned, pink single flowers. It blooms from August to September and is hardy in Zones 5-8.

- *E. x hybrida* (hybrids of Japanese anemone): heights vary with this perennial.
 - ‘Whirlwind’: grows 3 to 4 feet tall, has semi-double white flowers with green edges, blooms August to October and is hardy in Zones 4-8.
 - ‘Wild Swan’: grows 1 ½ feet tall with large white flowers with lavender reverse sides. This species has a long bloom time from June to mid fall and is hardy in Zones 6 to 8.

HARVESTING

Anemones as Cut Flowers

- Anemones make excellent cut flowers. Harvest the flowers in the early morning.
- Flowers should be harvested when they have just started to open. Petals should be just beginning to separate.



GARDENING PRODUCTS



PESTS/DISEASES

Anemones don't suffer from any serious problems, here are a few that you might find your plants suffering with. We have guides for each of these, so if you'd like further information, search Almanac for the individual guides.

- [Japanese beetles](#)
- Black blister beetles
- Flea beetles
- Slugs /snails

- Rust
- Root rot

Other Problems You Might Experience

- Floppy flowers - you might need to stake taller varieties if they don't have enough light.
- Holes in the leaves - usually due to slugs and snails.
- Plants died out over winter - there is no solution other than to start again if winter was particularly harsh and cold.



Sweet pink anemone flowers with yellow centers. Credit: Mira Drozdowski

Anemones are pretty going, low maintenance flowers that don't require much care and attention from your after planting.

warded with striking petals in a variety of colors.

Use these flowers to create vibrant displays around the edge of your garden, or to brighten up a spot that needs some extra color. Their delicate and graceful flowers won't fail to disappoint!

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WIT AND WISDOM

- Anemones belong to the buttercup family, Ranunculaceae.
- The genus name is derived from the Greek word *anemos*, meaning “wind.”

- In Irish and English folk tales, many believed that fairies would sleep within the petals as they closed up at night.
- This plant contains protoanemonin which is moderately toxic to animals and humans.

FLOWERS

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Catherine Boeckmann



Catherine Boeckmann loves nature, stargazing, and gardening so it's not surprising that she and The Old Farmer's Almanac found each other. She leads digital content for the Almanac website, and is also a certified master gardener in the state of Indiana. [Read More from Catherine Boeckmann](#)

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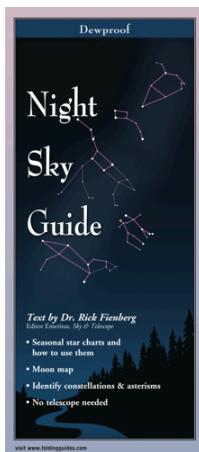
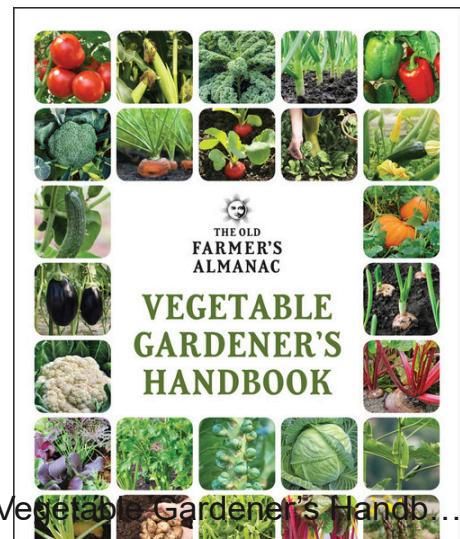
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Anemone look alot like native spring
wildflowers:

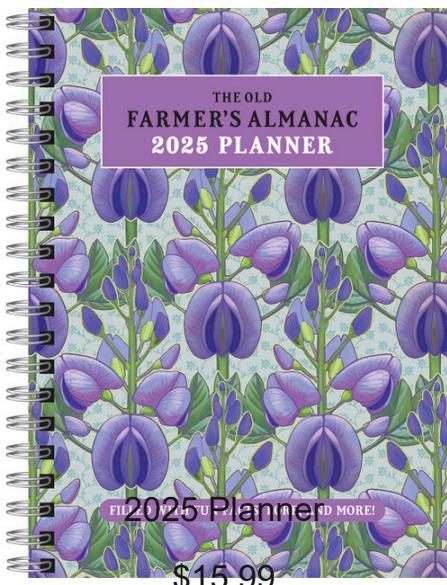
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