



## Carnation Planting Guide

### About Carnations

Carnations are among the most popular commercial cut flowers, used in arrangements, corsages, and boutonnieres. These beautiful blooms are native to the Mediterranean area and showcase lovely fringe-petaled flowers with a pleasant, spicy fragrance.

### When to Plant

Start seeds indoors 6-8 weeks before your last frost and transplant seedlings 1-2 weeks before last frost. Or direct sow your seeds into your garden 1-2 weeks before your last frost.

### Where to Plant

Carnations thrive in full sun in average, evenly moist, well-drained soils. They prefer neutral to slightly alkaline conditions and perform best in areas with cool summers. Carnations are ideal for beds and borders, cottage gardens, and container planting; and they make beautiful cut flowers.

### How to Plant

If starting indoors, sow 2-3 seeds per pot or cell. Lightly cover with soil, about 1/4", and keep moist. If direct sowing, be sure to space plants out 8-10" apart. Germination should occur within 2 weeks if temperatures are 65-70 degrees F. If in containers, move seeds to a sunny, cool place after germination. Harden off seedlings before moving to your outdoor garden.

### Caring for Carnations

Carnations do not need a lot of water, except in hot months. Soaker hoses are best. Do not over water as this can cause yellow foliage. Deadhead regularly to prolong flowering and a compact habit. Divide clumps every other spring, or plant new ones to maintain vigor.