



**Virginia Green Industry Council**

For Immediate Use

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Electronic Version:

[www.viriniagreen.org](http://www.viriniagreen.org)

## **Instant Color with Annuals**

Colorful flower beds are showing up more and more often at parks, public buildings, shopping centers and medium strips on streets and interstates. Most of these flower beds contain annual bedding plants, according to Len Diacont, President of the Virginia Green Industry Council. "With the rare exception of wildflower beds on the Virginia's interstates, these gardens are planted with the same varieties of bedding plants most gardeners can find at their local nursery," Diacont said.

Bedding plants are young plants, which can be removed individually from their containers and set out as specimens or in group displays for "instant" color. Buying bedding plants allows you to have flowers, vegetables or herbs much earlier than if you had sown the seeds yourself. Also, these plants are usually healthier and fuller with more flowers than home-grown plants.

The special magic of bedding plants is the "instant" garden they make possible in all climates, plus the advantage of using plant materials selected and grown under commercial, controlled greenhouse conditions – all ready for your garden.

The most popular bedding plant varieties are petunias, begonias, impatiens, geraniums, salvia, marigolds, and dianthus (garden pinks). You can purchase these small plants and have a garden in one day.

Most vegetables are offered as bedding plants. Tomatoes, peppers, broccoli, cabbage and eggplant are popular ones. Transplants allow you to harvest vegetables sooner and for a longer period of time than starting these vegetables from seeds. Look for plants that are stocky, green and healthy. Avoid ones that are shriveled or have wilting leaves.

Whether you are planning a productive vegetable garden, decorative flower beds, or a combination of the two, purchasing professionally grown bedding plants is the best way to get the most from your garden.

More gardening information is available at [www.VirginiaGardening.com](http://www.VirginiaGardening.com)

The Virginia Green Industry Council is the voice of the horticulture industry in the Commonwealth and is dedicated to enhancing the beauty of the state's environment, the well-being of our citizens, improving our state's economy, and improving the health and wellness for everyone in Virginia. The Council is made up of providers and consumers of horticultural products and services. The Council works to provide public and industry education, environmental guidelines and other information that will keep Virginia green and growing. For more information, visit [www.viriniagreen.org](http://www.viriniagreen.org). 540-382-0943 FAX: 540-382-2716

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