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2442 State Route 27 ~ North Brunswick, NJ 08823 ~ (732) 297-1244 ~ Open Seven Days

## **Cosmos** (*Cosmos bipinnatus*)



A native of Mexico, also called Mexican Aster, Cosmos is a heat loving annual that provide abundant blooms all summer until frost. This airy plant produces tall, lanky stems with feathery leaves and colorful daisy-like flowers. The plants can grow up to 4-6 ft with dwarf varieties up to 1- 3 ft tall. The blooms come in assorted colors of white, pink, red, lavender and yellow, in single, semi-double and double forms making them an excellent cut flower.

### **Care**

Grow them in full sun in a well drained, dry, poor soil. They thrive on neglect; rich wet soil will produce floppy plants with many leaves and little flowers.

Start them from seeds indoors 6-8 weeks before the last frost date or sow directly outdoors after the last expected frost. To start the seeds indoors: Sow seeds and cover lightly with soil. Germination should take 5-10 days at 70-85 degrees.

### **Plant**

seedlings outdoors 9-24" apart. The taller varieties of Cosmos should be planted in the back of the flowerbed and may need staking. To keep tall varieties from falling over, plant them 9-12" apart, so that they can interweave and support each other. For compact, bushier plants with more flowers pinch them back once or twice before flowers buds begin to show.

### **Deadhead**

spent flowers for continuous bloom and to prevent them from self-seeding. If you want Cosmos to self-seed next year; allow some of the seed heads to remain on the plant at the end of the season. You can also collect dry seed heads for next year's planting.