GARDEN GUIDE
Easy steps to gardening success

FEATURING TIPS FROM FRANKIE FLOWERS
Get your garden ready

A little planning goes a long way to create your perfect garden.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

**Climate:** Start planting around the date of the last spring frost. Some trees and shrubs can also be planted in early fall before the first frost of the year. Ask your local garden centre about frost dates in your area.

**Wind:** Pay attention to harsh winds and place your garden where it’ll be protected.

**Sun:** Track the sun (and shade) in your yard throughout the day so you can find the best places to plant.

**Drainage:** If the ground stays wet 24 hours after it rains, it likely has poor drainage. You may want to consider creating a raised garden bed instead.

**Soil:** Soil quality is the key part of any successful garden. Loose, well-drained, nutrient-rich soil is the best growing environment, and it helps your plants thrive. Always start with a top-quality garden soil, such as Miracle-Gro® Garden Soil Plus for your in-ground or raised garden, or Miracle-Gro® Moisture Control® Potting Mix for your container garden.

**Effort:** Gardening is a lot of fun, but it can quickly get out of hand. That’s why you should start out small in your first year, and increase your garden size once you’re ready.

**FRANKIE’S TIP:** Get to know the hardiness zone in your area. This will help you to select plants that overwinter without any struggles. There are a lot of great websites that can tell you what your hardiness zone is, so look online.
Garden styles

Choose the right garden type for your space and conditions.

In-ground garden:
This type of garden is great for beginners, and it’s one of the most popular garden choices, due to its low cost, convenience, and easy set-up. Simply remove your sod and grow your garden directly in the ground. They require less water and don’t dry out as quickly as other gardens, but they do require good soil quality to get results.

Raised bed:
This type of garden is created with a wood frame or other building materials, and then nutrient-rich soil is added, instead of using soil from the ground. Raised garden beds have a lot of benefits: they give more control over soil quality, have better drainage, help reduce weeds, and the soil won’t get compacted by foot traffic.

FRANKIE’S TIP:
A raised bed is the best way to grow vegetables in an area with poor soil.

Container garden:
This type of garden is grown in pots, baskets or other containers instead of in the ground. They do dry out more quickly than in-ground or raised bed gardens, so be sure to use Miracle-Gro® Moisture Control® Potting Mix to help retain moisture.
Get the right plants for your garden

Annuals vs. Perennials
Annual flowers last for one season and tend to have longer flowering periods than perennials. Perennial flowers return to bloom every year, and they keep multiplying.

Annuals
Annuals are the perfect way to change the look of your garden from year to year. These versatile flowers work in any type of garden.

Perennials
Perennials can be bought by the bulb or as a young plant. They help establish your garden, are low-maintenance, and provide great value for your money because they come back every year.

If you are planting bulbs, plant them in the fall with Miracle-Gro® Organic Choice® Bone Meal for early spring bloom.

FRANKIE’S TIP: Take a picture of your plant tags to create a digital garden file. It will help you remember what you planted year after year.

FRANKIE’S TIP: Buy fresh garlic at the store and plant the cloves upwards when the weather starts to cool in the fall. They’ll grow over the winter and be ready to harvest in early summer.

Plant what you love
Keep in mind what you love to eat, what grows best in your area, and how much space you have.

Extend the growing season
Choose vegetables that can be harvested in the spring and summer. And keep the harvest going with cool-weather vegetables that can be harvested in the fall.

Plant for your space
Keep in mind how big your vegetable plants will grow. Each plant requires a different amount of space to grow a good crop. Refer to plant tags or the back of seed packages, and plan your space for growing success.

Plan for next year
Different plants use up different nutrients in the ground. Rotating the location of your plants each year will protect your soil from being leached of the same nutrients.
10 easy to grow flowers

Azalea
Brightly coloured flowers with outstanding foliage. Available in thousands of varieties.

Black-eyed Susan
A popular and bright wildflower that’s great for borders and containers.

Bleeding Heart
Stunning with pink or white heart-shaped blooms. Grows great in the shade.

Clematis
A spectacular blooming vine that scrambles up walls, fences, and other structures.

Coreopsis
A sunny flower that’s easy to grow, with blooms that last most of the season.

Daffodil
Planted in the fall; when these flowers come up, it’s a sign that spring has arrived.

Delphinium
Dark green leaves and stately flower spikes make this elegant plant a gardener’s favourite.

Fuschia
Exotic teardrop blooms with vibrant border petals make them ideal for hanging baskets.

Petunia
Sturdy flowers that can handle the summer heat. Great for groundcover or in pots.

Tulip
This iconic spring flower comes in a wide variety of colours, and makes a great fresh-cut bouquet.

10 no-fuss vegetables

Carrots
This root vegetable grows great in sandy soil and can handle a little bit of frost.

Peas
This cool-season crop is easy to grow but needs a lot of space. Available in vine and dwarf varieties.

Peppers
They love the heat, and grow great with dark mulch that attracts the sun.

Radishes
One of the easiest vegetables to grow. Ready in only 4-5 weeks. Can also be planted in early fall.

Tomatoes
Give your tomatoes maximum sun, but don’t forget to water regularly to avoid split roots.

Zucchini
One or two plants will grow plenty of this versatile summer squash, but they need a lot of space.
FRANKIE’S TIP: Rotate your vegetables to replace nutrients in the soil and reduce the likelihood of spreading disease.

Garden map

Build your garden in an area with the right amount of sunlight, drainage, and aesthetic.

1 Flowers: When planting flowers, consider the amount of sunlight available during the day. Some flowers require full sun exposure, while others love the shade.

2 Trees: When planting a tree, keep in mind its full-grown height and how much shade the canopy gives you. Too much shade can affect the plants in your garden, and be sure to choose a location that will keep branches away from power lines and roots away from your home’s foundation.

3 Vegetable garden: A successful vegetable garden requires an area with at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day, so choose a location with little to no shade.

4 Containers: Container gardens are a great way to plant flowers, vegetables or herbs in areas with poor soil quality or lack of space. You can also move them around for maximum sun exposure, and they make a great decoration.
Plan and prepare your garden

**Get creative**
Think outside the flower box with a curved or freeform garden. Try making a few smaller beds, and play with rocks or trench work to define your garden’s edge. When it comes to planting, you may want to try growing both flowers and vegetables in the same garden.

**Think themes**
Try planting a themed garden. Wildflower and rock gardens offer visual impact, while plants that attract butterflies and birds will bring new friends to the yard.

**Be colourful**
Consider a colour scheme when picking plants. Pastel blossoms give a softer look that’s ideal for smaller spaces. For those shadier spots, brighter colours can add the right amount of drama.

**Timing is everything**
A good mix of annuals and perennials will ensure your garden is both beautiful to look at and in bloom all season.

**FRANKIE’S TIP:**
Over-planting is a common and costly beginner’s mistake. To ensure you don’t place plants too close together, check the tag to learn each plant’s mature height and width.

**Remove sod**
Cut one square foot in the grass. Separate the grass and topsoil with a shovel. Roll back the grass, removing as little soil as possible.

**Squeeze test**
Take a handful of moist soil and squeeze tight. Sandy soil will break apart, while clay soil holds its shape. If the soil holds, but breaks apart when you move it around, your soil is ideal.

**Enrich soil**
Loosen soil clumps with a garden fork. Remove weeds, roots or rocks. Then add 2” of compost or new garden soil and mix it in.

**Finishing touches**
Dig a small border or trench around the garden to define the edge, or add edging material to keep grass from growing back.
Plant a flower

Add some colour to your yard. Each season gives you a chance to plant something new.

What you need:

- Flower seedlings
- A garden trowel
- Miracle-Gro® Quick Start®
- Miracle-Gro® Shake 'n Feed®
- Miracle-Gro® Garden Soil

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

STEP 1
Dig a hole in the soil that’s twice the size of the root ball.

STEP 2
Remove the seedling from its pot and gently break apart the root ball. Then place the seedling in the hole and fill with Miracle-Gro® Garden Soil. Be sure to cover the soil around the stem to the height it was in the pot it came from. Then pack the soil down around the plant base.

STEP 3
To reduce the risk of transplant shock and promote strong roots, mix Miracle-Gro® Quick Start® with water and give your plant a thorough watering.

STEP 4
Shake on Miracle-Gro® Shake ’n Feed® slow release plant food each season to replace soil nutrients and grow your new flower big and beautiful.
Growing a tomato plant is simple and requires minimal upkeep. And you can eat the fruits of your labour.

**What you need:**

- A cherry or grape tomato plant
- 16” pot (minimum)
- Miracle-Gro® Moisture Control® Potting Mix
- Miracle-Gro® Shake ‘n Feed® Tomato, Fruits & Vegetables

**DIFFICULTY:** Beginner

**STEP 1**

Tomato plants need at least 6 hours of direct sunlight a day, so choose a sunny location.

**STEP 2**

Fill your pot with Miracle-Gro® Moisture Control® Potting Mix and dig a small hole in the centre.

**STEP 3**

Transplant your tomato plant into the potting soil. Make sure to plant it deep enough so that the stem is covered up to its first set of leaves.

**STEP 4**

Insert a tomato stake 2-3 inches away from the base of your tomato plant to support heavy stems later. Loosely tie under large stems and be prepared to cut ties and retie as the plant grows.

**STEP 5**

Water until the soil is moist, but not soggy. After a few weeks, feed your tomato plant with Miracle-Gro® Shake ‘n Feed® slow release plant food to keep it healthy all season.
Plant a tree or shrub

Trees and shrubs add shade in the summer, provide colour in the fall, and block wind in the winter, making them the perfect addition to your yard.

**DIFFICULTY:** Intermediate

**What you need:**

- The tree or shrub of your choice
- A shovel
- Miracle-Gro® Garden Soil
- Miracle-Gro® Quick Start®
- Miracle-Gro® Shake ‘n Feed® Flowering Trees & Shrubs

**STEP 1**
Plan to plant your tree or shrub in an area that gives it the right amount of sun and shade for its needs. Once you have found your location, dig a hole 2x the width and 1.5x the depth of the root ball.

**STEP 2**
Break up the root ball and insert it into the hole. Then cover the stem-base no deeper than it was in the original pot with Miracle-Gro® Garden Soil.

**STEP 3**
Build up a reservoir of soil around the base of the tree or shrub to direct water down to the roots. Then mix Miracle-Gro® Quick Start® with water and give your tree or shrub a long watering to promote healthy root growth. Keep moist until established.

**STEP 4**
If planting a larger tree or shrub, loosely tie it to a sturdy tree stake for support.

**STEP 5**
Feed your tree or shrub every four months with Miracle-Gro® Shake ‘n Feed® Flowering Trees & Shrubs to get deep green leaves or needles.
Create a container garden

Container gardens are an easy way to transform any outdoor space into a garden oasis or herb paradise.

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

What you need:

- A mix of decorative pots or hanging baskets (with drainage holes)
- A variety of plants
- Miracle-Gro® Moisture Control® Potting Mix
- Miracle-Gro® Shake n’ Feed® All Purpose
- A touch of creativity

STEP 1
Plan your arrangements. Think taller, bold plants in the centre or back with smaller flowers or foliage in the front. Finally, add trailing plants that hang over the edge as a finishing touch.

STEP 2
Fill containers with at least three inches of potting mix. Since containers dry out quickly, use Miracle-Gro® Moisture Control® Potting Mix to help prevent over- and under-watering. Then plant your flowers one at a time.

STEP 3
Gently water until excess water starts to come out of the drainage holes. After a few weeks, add Miracle-Gro® Shake n’ Feed® slow release plant food to grow bigger and more beautiful plants. Remember, pots dry out easier than regular gardens, so check them daily.

STEP 4
Arrange your containers to create your look. Try grouping different pots together for a bit of drama.
Caring for your garden

These simple steps will help keep your garden happy and healthy.

Feeding
As plants grow, they use up nutrients in the soil. It’s important to feed your garden with plant food to replace the nutrients in the soil so your plants can thrive.

• In the spring, shake on Miracle-Gro® Shake ’n Feed® Slow Release Plant Food to feed your garden for up to 4 months.

Weeding
Those unsightly weeds steal moisture and nutrients from the soil. If left alone, they can injure plant roots and take over your garden.

• Pull small weeds frequently. It’s easier to pull them when the soil is moist.

Watering
Understand the needs of your plants and water regularly. Remember, too much water can be just as bad as too little.

• A deep thorough watering in the early morning is best. Water 1-2 times a week.

• Containers require frequent watering and should be checked daily.

Mulching
Mulching is a great way to prevent moisture loss, reduce weeds, and stop soil diseases spreading to your plants.

• 3 inches of mulch is enough to keep out most weeds.

• Plant annuals first, then mulch the surrounding area.

• For perennials, wait until the flowers push through, and then lay mulch around them.

• For a clean, finished look that won’t fade throughout the season, try a shredded wood mulch like Scotts® Nature Scapes®.

Pests
Prevention is your best approach for protecting your garden. Monitor it regularly and watch for signs of critters and chewed leaves.

• Control slugs and snails with Scotts® EcoSense® Slug-B-Gon® Slug & Snail Bait.

• If you do see damaged leaves from insects, such as aphids, try Scotts® EcoSense® Bug-B-Gon® Insecticidal Soap.

• Use wire mesh around your garden to keep small animals away.

FRANKIE’S TIP:
Deadheading (picking dead flower heads from the stem) not only keeps your garden looking good, it helps reduce disease and promotes additional buds and blooms, while increasing the overall health of your plants.
Grow a garden without gardening

What you need:
- A garden bed
- Miracle-Gro® flower magic™
- Water

DIFFICULTY: None

Choose from three varieties of flower magic™ and grow a beautiful flower garden, anywhere there’s soil. This unique mix is packed with premium annual flower seeds, Miracle-Gro® plant food, and coir compost to help absorb water and protect the seeds. It’s everything you need to grow a beautiful flower garden in one bottle. Simply shake it on, keep the soil moist, and watch your garden grow.

STEP 1
Shake.

STEP 2
Water.

STEP 3
Enjoy! Yes, it’s that easy.

FRANKIE’S TIP: Miracle-Gro® flower magic™ tells you when to add water. When it begins to turn light brown, add more water until it turns dark brown.

No green thumb? No problem.
Give your garden some love.

Feed your plants with Shake ’n Feed® slow release plant food. One shake is all it takes to help your plants thrive all season long.

We’re always available to give you great gardening advice. Visit us online, or call our helpline.

1-866-779-5852 miracle-gro.ca ScottsMiracle-GroCanada

When using Miracle-Gro® products, always follow label directions. ® and TM used under license by Scotts Canada Ltd.