



KNOW YOUR CAMPUS
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#5 flowering Annuals of IGNFA



Landscaping and Gardening of IGNFA - Part 1





Nature and Wildlife Photography club IGNFA

Know Your Campus



The KYC (Know your Campus) initiative started by the IFS 2019 batch in this lockdown period shall come out with a campus related topic each day.




ABOUT THE ISSUE



Annuals germinate, blossom, produce seed, and die in one growing season. This issue brings you the five flowering annuals planted in and around the IGNFA campus. This issue is dedicated to gardeners of IGNFA !

What role does Ornamental landscaping with these annuals have on the ecosystem ?

- ✿ Flowers are the rich source of nectar that is a food and nutritional source of many insects.
- ✿ Some have medicinal properties like marigold.
- ✿ Aesthetic lively appeal to built environment that forms a habitat to minute insects and worms.
- ✿ Watching these blooms and their cycle of growth itself a therapeutic advantage. We call it as Horticultural therapy



Though there are numerous flowering annuals found in the New Forest Area of Dehradun, I selected the following 5 plants: Marigold (Tagetes sp.), Salvia or sage plant (Salvia sp.), Chrysanthemum (Chrysanthemum sp.), Dahlia (Dahlia sp.), Petunia (Petunia sp.)





#1. MARIGOLD

Marigold seeds germinate quickly, within just a few days, and bloom in about 8 weeks. This quick sense of satisfaction makes them great first-time gardening. Marigold could be planted in borders or in containers or in full stretch of bed. Who could miss this beautiful yellow - orange pop-ups in the garden ? Next time when you're in a new hostel or on your way to the old mess - say 'Hello' to their clumpy yellow flowers. And marigold is considered as one of the natural mosquito repellent plants.



#2. SALVIA

Butterflies and hummingbirds also enjoy annual salvia's nectar-rich blooms. Considered a tender perennial, it is grown as annuals in colder areas like Dehradun. Growing in profusion with erect spikes these flowers are available in red, purple, pink or white varieties. Red Salvia are more common in our IGNFA. They can be grown as edge plants but it is popular in container gardens. Salvia is grown in potted earth containers in IGNFA and it is placed along walkways.



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#3. CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Chrysanthemum flowers bloom in a range of colors in shades of white, yellow, orange, lavender, purple, or red; as well as bicolor flowers.

These are short-day plants, flowering is triggered by the shorter days in late summer and early fall. Perfect for planting in containers and baskets. Chrysanthemum are most commonly used as winter annuals. Dead or dried flowers after bloom are pinched off for better appearance and new bloom grows in the place of old ones. You can find it in IGNFA walkways and pots.



#4. DAHLIA

You might have noticed this big flower staked with a stick in old hostel. With their intense color, and ability to keep flowering until the first frosts, dahlias are easy to grow and bring life to your garden. Dahlias could be planted by tubers. Dahlias in full bloom can be their own worst enemy.

In heavy rains, the open blossoms fill with water like a dish; if too much water accumulates, the stalk will tip over. Next time if you see the Dahlia in rainy season shake off the water.



#5. PETUNIAS

Although they are actually classified as tender perennials, they won't tolerate frost so they are commonly grown as annuals in most climates.

Petunias need at least six hours of sunlight each day to bloom well. Petunias can be grown in edges, around a tree, walkways or in flower pots or hanging baskets. You can see petunia hanging baskets in our bike sheds. Petunia will be available in all possible colors and shapes with or without stripes.

Thanks for Reading....

*How well the skillful gard'ner drew
Of flow'rs and herbs this dial new,
Where from above the milder sun
Does through a fragrant zodiac run;
And as it works, th' industrious bee
Computes its time as well as we.
How could such sweet and wholesome hours
Be reckon'd but with herbs and flow'rs!*

The Garden
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