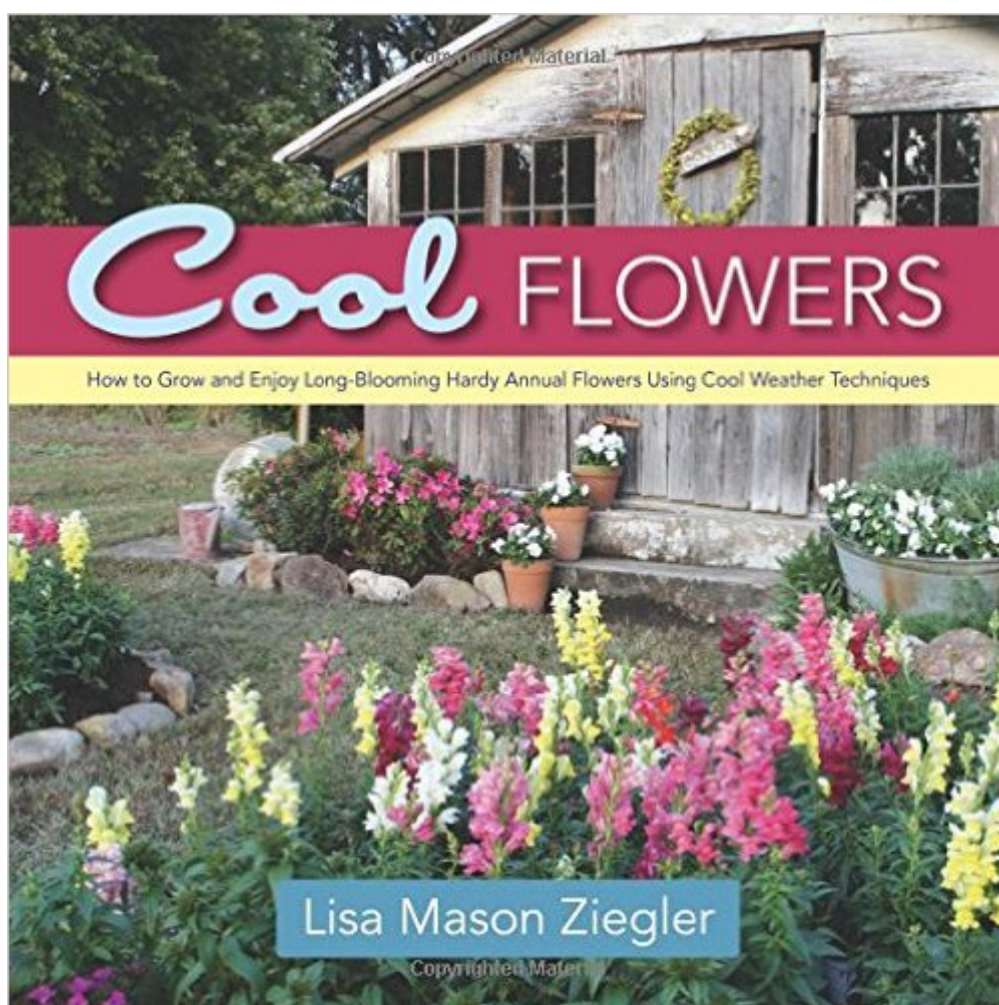


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# Cool Flowers: How To Grow And Enjoy Long-Blooming Hardy Annual Flowers Using Cool Weather Techniques



## Synopsis

Everyone longs for fragrant early spring blossoms â “ Snapdragons, Bells of Ireland, Sweet Peas, Sweet Williams and other beauties. But few grow them successfully in their own gardens because they havenâ™t learned the simple cool-weather techniques that make it possible. Expert flower grower Lisa Zeigler profiles 30 long-blooming stars of the spring garden, the "hardy annuals" that thrive when they are planted during cool conditions (instead of waiting until the warmth of spring and losing much of the season). Give them a cool start, plant them in the right spot at the right time, and stand back. In no time at all youâ™ll have a low-maintenance, vibrant spring flower garden that keeps on blooming when the "tender annuals" are dead and gone. Beautifully photographed and filled with simple steps to success.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Cool Flowers" was written by Lisa Mason Ziegler, a cut-flower grower in Virginia. Even though she gardens in a warmer zone (Zone 7) than I do (Zone 5), she has included advice for cold-winter gardeners in her book, and I think her advice might be sound for these areas. Most books written about growing cut flowers seem to be written by authors who garden in California, the Pacific Northwest or England, and the experience of those growers is largely useless for those of us who live in places where the ground can be frozen solid for four months of the year. Perhaps because this book confines itself to growing one type of flowers, annuals that like cooler weather and that can tolerate light frost (such as sweet peas and pansies), this book is far more useful to growers in wide-ranging zones. Ziegler has different advice for warm-winter area gardeners, who must plant

cool-season annuals in autumn, and cold-winter area gardeners, who must plant them in very early spring, and she helps us calculate planting dates by basing them on the last expected frost dates for local areas. I'm a fairly serious ornamental gardener, but I've never had much luck with sweet peas, which I really would like to grow. After reading "Cool Flowers," I realize that the problem was that I never planted them early enough. Unlike in England and the west coast, Midwest spring weather moves from frozen ground to summer heat in a relatively short period, so the cool weather period that sweet peas thrive in is short in duration. When midwesterners think of annuals, we think mostly of petunias, zinnias and other warm-season annuals, which cannot be planted until after the last expected frost date (about May 10 here). But cool season annuals are different.

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