

# Florida Flower Grower

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## ANEMONE FLOWER PRODUCTION IN FLORIDA

by

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The poppy-flowered Anemone coronaria used by florists is native to the warm Mediterranean region where tubers are generally planted in the fall and flower the following spring and early summer. Commercial flower production of anemone is centered in the warmer regions of New Zealand. In England, tubers are planted in the field from June to August for winter production and protected during cold weather. Florida's climate is very similar to that of Mediterranean regions, and therefore, anemones have good potential as a commercial cut flower crop. Freezing temperatures have not been a problem with anemone production in the Gainesville area even during severe winters. Freezing temperatures may cause slight injury to open flowers, but will not injure buds or foliage. Anemones will resume growth and flower production as soon as a cold spell has subsided.

Research studies conducted at the Florida Agriculture Experiment Station, Gainesville, Florida, indicate a potential yield for one acre of anemones of over one million blooms.

Anemone tubers should be planted between November 1 and 15, and subsequent flower production will start in early January and continue into mid-April.

Standard four foot wide beds can be used, or tubers can be planted in beds of various dimensions. Soil should be sterilized to control soil born fungi and weeds. Tubers should be planted in beds six inches on center, two tubers to a hole or three inches on center, one tuber to a hole. This spacing will allow production of 35 to 50 flowers per square foot at the recommended fertilizer rate. Tubers should be planted at a depth of  $\frac{3}{4}$  to one inch below the soil surface, and soil must be kept moist while tubers are germinating.

Anemones should be fertilized at the rate of 25 pounds of 8-8-8 per 1000 square feet of bed area every two weeks during the growing season. Fertilization should be stopped after foliage starts to turn yellow and normal fertilization does not bring back normal foliage color.

Tubers should be dug in early summer after tops have dried and stored in a cool place. Storage in a 45°F refrigerator is suggested, however, storage at room temperature may be possible. Information on storage at room temperature is unavailable at this time.

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