

PINWHEEL GARDEN PLANTING GUIDELINES

IF PLANTING LESS THAN 100 IN THE GROUND

1. Identify the ground space
2. Pinwheels can be “planted” in rows or randomly.
3. It is easiest if a Phillips Head screwdriver with a long shaft is used to make the initial hole in the ground.
4. Insert pinwheel stick into the hole (at least 3”)
5. Tap soil around stick to secure.
6. 2 people can share the planting. I can make the hole and the other can put the pinwheel in the ground and secure it.
7. The effect is greater if all pinwheels are facing the same direction.

IF PLANTING MORE THAN 100 IN THE GROUND

1. After ground space is identified, measure in feet.
2. Stake the perimeter of the area.
3. The pinwheels can be planted randomly but the effect is more impactful if they are planted in rows.
4. The method used in Virginia is to place stakes along parallel sides of the space (2 sides) about 1 foot apart. It helps if this step can be completed before the planting begins. (even the day before if possible)
5. When it’s time to plant, tie string around the first stake on either the end of the planting area and run it across to the corresponding stake on the other side. This becomes the guide for planting a row at both ends.
6. Follow steps 3-6 above.
7. Plant pinwheels 6-10 inches apart along the row. (this can vary depending on the space and appearance that you want to achieve).
8. Make sticks the length of space between each pinwheel for the planters.
9. When the row is finished move the string to the next set of stakes and continue toward the middle.
10. If the planting area is large enough 2 rows can be started in the middle and planters can work toward the ends. (4 rows can be planted simultaneously.)
11. Depending on the area, it may be helpful to establish a perimeter with either short white plastic fencing or nylon roping attached to the stakes along the perimeter.
12. Create signage that describes the purpose of the garden that is waterproof.
13. If the display will continue for more than a few days, assign volunteers to check on them every few days. The wind can knock them over if not planted firmly or disengage them from the ground.

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR PLANTING

1. 2 Tape measurers
2. Wooden stakes (preferably pointed at one end) number depends on planting are and if planting in rows)

3. Heavy string (Not rope. Just strong)
4. 2-4 hammers
5. Box cutters to open pinwheel boxes
6. A measuring stick for each planter
7. Phillips head screwdrivers (number depends on how many rows will be planted at the same time.
8. Scissors
9. Latex gloves if it's muddy
10. Paper towels
11. Garbage bags for trash
12. Name tags for staff and volunteers if people don't know one another
13. First Aid kit
14. Kleenex
15. Water/snacks if planting for more than 2 hours.

Volunteers/Staff Needed

It requires approximately 40 volunteers working in 1-2 hour shifts to organize, manage, and plant 3,600-4,000 pinwheels. The time at the site, not counting planning and organization and pre-staking the area is about 4 hours. The number of helpers needed will depend on the number of pinwheels to be planted.

Guide provided by:

