



ranunculus

Ranunculus can be a tricky flower to grow, but the effort is so worth the beauty they provide!

Ranunculus does best in areas with mild winters and long, cool springs. Here in the midwest, our winters can be quite cold and harsh, so we plant them in hoop houses around Thanksgiving.

If you have a cold frame or greenhouse, those might work for fall planting. Otherwise, you can store your corms in a dry place (a non-freezing garage or basement) until late winter or early spring when you decide to plant.

*Remember: These plants can handle some frost, but not a full winter of deep frosts, so if you don't have a greenhouse you might want to wait until late winter (around March) to plant these in your garden.

Here are the 5 basic steps of our ranunculus process. We begin this process about 3-4 weeks before we intend to plant them into the ground in November, but they can be planted in early spring.

- Soak the corms for 4-6 hours in a bucket of water with the tap streaming gently into the bucket to aerate the water.
- Plant the soaked corms in potting soil in seedling trays (or in pots), making sure they're covered.
- Do not water until you transplant into the ground unless they get really dry! They are prone to rotting if overwatered.
- Store in a warm--but not too hot (50-60 degrees seems ideal)--place for 3-4 weeks or until you barely see green tips sprouting above the soil. They don't need much light during this time so your basement or garage would be fine as long as it's warm enough.
- Once you see green appear, transplant the plants outdoors (or, in our case, in a hoop house).

good luck!