



Growing Ranunculus and Anemones



General- Ranunculus and anemones grow from food storage structure called corms. They are cool season perennials, so they prefer growing in spring and early summer and will go dormant in hot, dry periods.

Soaking- Corms arrive looking dried up. In order to give them a jump start they can be soaked in room temperature water for approximately 4 hours. Over soaking the corms can lead to rot (ask me how I know). After soaking they will plump up quite a bit and be ready to be planted in the ground outside or pre-sprouted inside.

Pre-Sprouting- Pre-sprouting (*optional) corms allows them to focus on growing roots and will help them to bloom sooner. To pre-sprout, use a flat bottom tray and fill half way with moist soil ("brownie batter" is the consistency that I go for). Place the soaked corms on top of the soil. Ranunculus corms should have their little "octopus tentacles" down and anemones should have the "acorn point" down. Then completely cover the corms with soil and be sure to label varieties.

Care- Place the tray in a dark, cool environment (I use my basement). Check on the corms every few days to make sure that the soil remains moist, but not soggy as that will result in mold. The corms will begin to grow little white roots downward and even sprouts up at 10+ days. Now they will be ready to plant outside in the sun.

Planting- Corms can be planted out in a garden, raised bed, or container as long as there is sufficient sun and sufficient draining. Quality soil including compost is always best. Corms should be planted 2 to 3 inches deep and I space them 6 to 8 inches apart. They should be watered regularly. If temperatures dip below freezing at night, they can be covered with a layer of frost cloth.

Harvesting- The gorgeous ranunculus and anemone blooms have a wonderful vase life and should be cut before they are fully open, when they feel like a marshmallow. Deadheading plants will encourage more blooms.

Post-Harvest- As temperatures increase in the summer, the flowers will become less productive. Corms can be treated as annuals and then left alone. Depending on factors like temperature and moisture over the next months, they may even grow again in future years. They can also be dug up and stored to plant again with the same process the next spring. To dig up corms, they should be allowed to dry with their foliage on until it is yellow/brown. Then dig up the corms, remove foliage and dirt and let them sufficiently dry out. Put the corms in a paper bag in a cool, dry location.