

Single-stemmed annuals, such as some varieties of chrysanthemums, dahlias, and snapdragons, benefit from pinching when young to make them stockier and bushier. Either remove the center with your fingertips, or cut it out with scissors.

Trim tall and leggy plants by removing three or four sets of upper leaves just above a leaf axil. Do this when plants are six inches tall, unless they are varieties that branch on their own. Don't worry; you're not killing the seedlings. Pinching not only makes bushier plants, it also causes more flowering.