Ranunculus Planting Calendar and Pet Safety Checklist

FitInFlow.space · Based on NC State Extension, RHS, ASPCA and Cornell University guidance. Updated October 2026.

1. When to plant

Your winters	Plant	Where	Flowers
Mild (USDA zones 8 to 10)	Autumn	Sunny, free-draining beds	Spring
Cold (zone 7 and colder)	Late winter in pots, or outdoors a few weeks before last frost	Cool, bright spot, then outside after frost	Late spring to early summer
UK and similar	September to December in pots	Cool greenhouse or cold frame	From about April

My last frost date: _____ Planting date: _____

2. Planting steps

[ ] Gloves on (the sap irritates skin) [ ] Soak tubers (RHS: about a day) [ ] Free-draining soil or gritty compost

[ ] Claws DOWN, crown up [ ] About 2 in (5 cm) deep [ ] 6 to 8 in apart in beds, about 4 in in pots [ ] Water once, then barely damp until shoots

3. Season checklist

Stage	What to do
Shoots to buds	Full sun. Keep the top 6 in (15 cm) damp, never soggy. Protect from frost below about 28°F (–2°C). Give good airflow.
Flowering	Keep moist. Deadhead spent flowers. Cut for vases before fully open; keep vases away from ripening fruit.
Leaves yellowing	Normal dormancy. Stop watering. Lift, dry and store tubers cool and dry, or replace them next season.

4. Quick problem fixes

Problem	Fix	Problem	Fix
Tubers rot	Better drainage, less water	Grey mould	More airflow and spacing
Powdery mildew	Even moisture; remove bad leaves	Aphids	Rinse off; check under leaves
Slugs and snails	Hand-pick; pet-safe controls only	Few flowers	Full sun; plant earlier

5. Pet and child safety

All parts are toxic to people, dogs, cats and horses (ASPCA). Signs in pets: vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, mouth ulcers, poor appetite, wobbly walk.

[ ] Pots and vases out of reach [ ] Stored tubers labeled, away from food [ ] No metaldehyde slug bait around dogs

Person ate some (US): Poison Help 1-800-222-1222. Call 911 for breathing trouble or collapse.

Pet ate some: your vet or ASPCA Animal Poison Control (888) 426-4435 (a fee may apply).

Sap on skin: wash with soap and water. See a doctor for large or spreading blisters, or any near the eyes.

Ranunculus is an ornamental plant, not a remedy. Folk and homeopathic uses are history only. Do not use any part of it on skin or as medicine.