



Perennials for Sunny Locations

Sharon S. Bale, Richard E. Durham, Robert G. Anderson, and Robert L. Geneve

Perennial flowers are hardy plants that occupy a permanent place in the garden and return year after year. Perennial flowers bloom sometimes for one week and occasionally for as long as 10 weeks. Some desirable perennials are not grown for their flowers but for their foliage.

Perennials are generally used in small numbers, while annual flowers are used in large numbers to create massive displays of color. A typical goal for a perennial garden is to have plants in bloom, or producing some type of display, throughout the growing season even though an individual plant may be colorful for only a short period of time.

Choosing perennial plants requires more thought and knowledge than choosing annual plants for the garden. This is because there are so many perennials, and they will be a relatively permanent addition to your landscape. Annual flowers generally tolerate a wide range of conditions, while perennial plants may have specific soil and light requirements.

Perennials should not be considered a low-maintenance plant for the flower garden. No plant is that perfect. Most perennials, if not all, require some type of specific care, such as deadheading (removing spent blooms), cutting back, or division to maintain the vigor of the plant. In addition, weeds are a constant problem in a perennial flower garden.

A list of the “best perennials” is almost impossible to compile. There are many choices, and the “best perennials” depend on the likes and dislikes of the gardener.

This publication lists selected perennials. Most perform well in Kentucky, while others may not be as reliable or hardy, or they may have other problems that make them less desirable. These plants prefer a sunny location; most perform best in a full-sun location, and some tolerate partial shade conditions. For information on perennials that thrive in shade, consult this publication’s companion piece, *Perennials for Shady Locations* (HO-77).

Perennial Flower Gardens

A border planting is one of the most common uses of perennials. A gardener usually “plans” the border so different plants flower at different times. Choosing a variety of plants to bloom in succession provides a good visual display throughout the growing season.

Smaller perennials are suitable for use in rock gardens, along the edge of a flower bed, or in small areas where they can be seen easily. Many perennials are grown in the background of the garden and are used as cut flowers.

The most common mistake made when planting an entire perennial border is not allowing enough space for the mature plants. Perennials purchased in gallon containers may fool a gardener about their potential size. Most plants can be easily moved to provide more room. It is just a case of more work for the gardener.

Be aware that the perennial garden will change with time. No matter how experienced the gardener, no matter how exact the planting plan, a perennial garden will constantly change and yield surprises. Tall plants won’t be as tall as you had hoped; yellow blooms won’t be as bright as you expected; even your favorite plant may not make it through the winter. More commonly, you may run out of garden space. Adding more space to your garden can give you a chance to try new cultivars and different plants.

Pest Management in Perennial Flower Gardens

You will notice that most plants listed in this publication are designated as having few pests. However, the overall health of the perennial flower garden can drastically affect the need for pest control. A very practical and effective approach to pest control involves a process known as integrated pest management, or IPM. The IPM approach is multifaceted and much broader than simply applying pesticides when problem organisms are present.

One of the main tenets of IPM is to select plants with natural pest resistance such as many of the species and cultivars listed in this publication. However, plants should also be selected based on the environment in which they will grow, such as sunny versus shady conditions, wet versus dry sites, or acid versus alkaline soils. These environmental recommendations are often given in the **Performance** section of the plant descriptions. Placing a plant in an improper site will result in poor plant growth that often invites pest problems down the road.

Good cultural practices, another important part of IPM, include choosing the right plant for a particular site, preparing the planting site, placing the plant properly, and maintaining the plant with correct practices involving irrigation, fertilization, mulching, sanitation, and division or separation of overgrown plants.

Proper mulching and sanitation yield many benefits. Organic mulches applied regularly to the soil promote the growth of beneficial soil organisms, regulate soil temperature, conserve soil moisture, and reduce competition by weeds. Regularly removing dead or dying plant material and cleaning up the gar-

den in fall and spring will greatly reduce the number of insects and diseases that are present and may potentially overwinter in the landscape. When these activities are carried out correctly, the perennial flower garden will rarely need treatment with pesticides.

When pest problems do arise, the issue can often be resolved through non-chemical means, or the use of chemicals or biological control agents that are very specific to the targeted pest and less likely to interfere with the natural ecology of the perennial garden. Your county Extension agent is often able to help with diagnosis of the problem and can prescribe a treatment to remedy the pest situation.

Explanation of Terms Used in Plant Chart

Plant names—The scientific and common names of selected perennials are listed in the chart. Common names vary depending on location. Therefore, scientific names are arranged alphabetically for ease in finding particular plants.

The scientific name (genus and species) is important because gardeners seeking information about a specific plant will need this name for most reference books. In some cases, scientific names have changed; an effort has been made to list the new scientific name with the older, more familiar scientific name. Plant names are based on those used in *Herbaceous Perennial Plants* by Alan M. Armitage. Scientific names are hard to learn but make it easier to find information in perennial books and catalogs.

Typical common names are listed as well, but these names may vary from region to region and may be confusing.

A specific cultivar (cultivated variety) is often listed with the scientific name or mentioned in the comments. This indicates that the cultivar is superior to the “wild-type” genus and species. Plant breeders working on perennial flowers are producing more and more choices, and many of them are worth the extra expense to purchase or the extra time to find.

If your favorite cultivar is not listed, be assured it was not left out intentionally. It is nearly impossible to keep up with all the good cultivars. Contact your county Extension agent about favorite plants that have proven their worth to you.

Color—Most perennials are available in a narrow range of colors. Bicolor blooms are those with two colors.

Bloom season—The bloom season listed is the typical time to expect the perennials to flower. Weather conditions affect the exact date of bloom. Therefore, a comment relative to season of bloom seems more appropriate than giving specific months.

Diseases and insects—Most of the perennials listed have no serious disease or insect pests. The plants generally tolerate pest problems and require no chemical treatment. The age-old practices of garden cleanup and sanitation are important in pest management.

Performance—This category provides tips on plant performance and general maintenance that encourages plant vigor. Warnings concerning invasiveness and other cultural problems are also listed here.

Propagation—Many perennials can be produced from seed. Propagation of perennials from seed is slow, and some may require several years before they are mature enough to bloom. A gardener may lose patience and/or plants before those propagated from seed mature to flower production.

Division is a common way perennials are produced. There may be specific times during the season when division is most successful for some plants, while others can be divided anytime. A general rule is, “If the plant blooms in the spring, divide it after bloom or in the fall. If the plant blooms in the fall, divide it in the spring.”

Cuttings of perennials may root easily and produce large numbers of small plants in a short time. The only requirements are appropriate growing media and a typical cutting propagation environment. Although cutting production may be simple, the small plants may require several years before blooms are produced.

Comments—This section contains specific information about the species or hybrids. Cultivar names may be listed. Uses of the plant are mentioned. Comments are made on life expectancy of the plant if it is short.

Name	Flower Color	Height	Season	Pests	Uses	Propagation	Performance/Comments
<i>Achillea x</i> 'Coronation Gold' Yarrow	yellow	2-3'	summer	few	border, cut, dried	division in spring or fall, cuttings in spring or early summer	Performance: <i>Achillea</i> performs well in poor soil; it is easily overwatered. Division is recommended every 2-3 years to maintain plant vigor. Bloom size decreases as season progresses. Excessive fertilization causes the plant to become leggy. Comments: 'Coronation Gold' may require staking. The flat-headed blooms are long-lasting cut flowers. They will dry and retain their color. 'Coronation Gold' is a hybrid of <i>A. filipendulina</i> and considered one of the best choices for the garden.
<i>Achillea x</i> 'Moonshine' Yarrow	yellow	1-2'	summer	few	border, cut, dried	division in spring or fall, cuttings in spring or early summer	Performance: Performs similarly to <i>A. 'Coronation Gold'</i> except the plant is more compact and does not require staking. Does best during seasons of little rainfall. Comments: 'Moonshine' is a hybrid of <i>A. clypeolata</i> and <i>A. taygetea</i> . <i>A. taygetea</i> is susceptible to many foliar diseases that are promoted during hot, humid weather.
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> Common Yarrow	red, white, pastel shades	1-3'	summer	few	border, cut	division in spring or fall, seed	Performance: This plant may become invasive. Comments: 'Summer Pastels' is an All-America Selection. It has a wide range of colors. When started from seed, it may not bloom well the first season. As cut flowers they take up water rapidly.
<i>Allium tuberosum</i> Garlic Chives	white	1-2'	late summer	few	border, cut, herb	division in spring or fall, seed	Performance: The plant is very hardy and produces bloom at a time when most other perennials do not bloom. To control the spread of this plant, remove the declining blooms. Can be invasive. Comments: The foliage is edible and used for its mild garlic flavor.
<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i> Willow Amsonia	pale blue	3-4'	late spring, early summer	few	border	division (spring or fall), cutting, seed	Performance: Reliably hardy and will spread into a large clump. Comments: Related species: <i>A. hubrectii</i> is more dwarf.
<i>Anemone x hybrida</i> Japanese Anemone	white, pink, violet	3-4'	late summer, fall	few	border	division in spring, root cuttings, seed	Performance: The light, airy, pastel blooms are attractive in the fall. Comments: Often sold under the name <i>Anemone japonica</i> . Many of the cultivars available are probably hybrids. Some cultivar choices are: 'Lady Gilmour'—16" tall, double pink; 'Luise Uthink'—24" tall, double white; 'September Charm'—30" tall, single pink; 'Margarette'—36" tall, semidouble pink; 'Honorine Jobert'—36" tall, single white.
Related species: <i>A. huphensis</i> , 'Robustissima'							
<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i> Golden Marguerite	yellow	3'	midsummer	few	border, cut	division in spring or fall, seed	Performance: Plant performs well until late summer when it may become unsightly. This plant does fine in dry, average soil. Plant should be cut back after flowering to promote vigorous growth. Division every 2-3 years is necessary to maintain vigor. Plant may need staking. Comments: 'Moonlight' blooms heavily, and cut flowers last a long time.
<i>Aquilegia x hybrida</i> Hybrid Columbine	blue, white, red, pink, yellow	18"-3'	spring, early summer	leaf miner	border	seed, division in late summer	Performance: Does well in partial shade. Requires excellent drainage but does not tolerate an overly dry soil. Comments: There are several species of <i>Aquilegia</i> . The hybrids are popular because of the wide range of colors available and the large upright blooms.
<i>Arabis albida</i> Wall Rock-cress	white	12"	early spring	aphids	edging, rock garden	division, cuttings, seed	Performance: The plant tends to "burn out" in hot, humid weather. It may be considered a short-lived perennial. Pruning in late spring helps promote vigorous growth. Comments: Also known as <i>A. caucasica</i> . Some cultivars available are 'Flore Pleno'—double white flowers; 'Snow Cap'—6" tall, white flowers; 'Variegata'—cream-yellow, variegated foliage.

Name	Flower Color	Height	Season	Pests	Uses	Propagation	Performance/Comments
<i>Armeria maritima</i> Common Thrift	pink, lilac, white	6-12"	early summer	few	border, rock garden	division, seed	Performance: The gray-green clump of foliage is evergreen. Prefers a dry location. A wet location causes the plant to rot. Divide often to promote flowering. Comments: Several species and cultivars of thrift are available.
<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i> White Sage	gray foliage	2-4'	all season	few	border, dried	division, seed	Performance: This plant can be very invasive. It tolerates a wide range of soil conditions but will not tolerate a wet location. Comments: The foliage can be harvested throughout the growing season and dried for use in wreaths or arrangements. 'Silver King' and 'Silver Queen' are two of the cultivars available.
<i>Artemisia schmidtiana</i> 'Silver Mound' Silver Mound Artemisia	gray-green foliage	6-8"	all season	few	border, rock garden	cuttings	Performance: Under extremely hot conditions, the plant may become leggy and unattractive. Promote new growth by lightly shearing the plant. Comments: This plant is grown for the fine-textured foliage.
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> Butterfly Weed	orange	1-2'	summer	aphids	border, cut	seed, root cuttings	Performance: The plant is slow to emerge in the spring so care should be taken to avoid disturbing it. It is difficult to transplant. The plant is native in Kentucky and performs well. Comments: The flowers are commercially produced as a cut flower. There is a great deal of color variation related to seedling variation. Repeat bloom is promoted if the initial blooms are removed as they begin to decline.
<i>Aster x frikartii</i> 'Wonder of Staffa' Frikart's Aster	lavender	2-3'	summer to fall	powdery mildew	border	division	Performance: Needs staking. Give some winter protection if extremely cold and no snow cover. Prefers well-drained soil. Pinch plant in spring to encourage abundant flowers. Comments: 'Monch' flowers are deep blue and have an extra row of petals. The plant is shorter than other cultivars.
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i> New England Aster	pink, white, red	3-5'	late summer	powdery mildew	border, cut	division	Performance: May need staking. May have longer vase life than <i>A. novi-belgii</i> Comments: Many cultivars are available.
<i>Aster novi-belgii</i> Michaelmas Daisy	violet, white, blue	1-6'	late summer	few	border, cut	division	Performance: Fertilize sparingly. Divide every other year. Taller types require staking. Comments: Many cultivars are available.
<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i> Basket of Gold, Perennial Alyssum	yellow	1'	spring	few	border, edging, rock garden	division in fall, seed, cuttings in spring or fall	Performance: The gray-green foliage may become unsightly after bloom. Cut back after flowering. Not long-lived. Requires excellent drainage. Comments: Also listed as <i>Alyssum saxatile</i> . Many cultivars are available.
<i>Baptisia australis</i> False Indigo	blue	3-5'	late spring	few	border	seed, division in late fall or early spring	Performance: Because of its shrub-like habit, this plant is attractive in the garden after bloom. Even moisture is best. Average, well-drained garden soil is adequate. Comments: The charcoal-gray seed pods are attractive in dried arrangements. No special care is required to dry them. Dependable, low-maintenance plant.
<i>Belamcanda chinensis</i> Blackberry Lily	yellow, orange (spotted blooms)	3-4'	summer	iris borer	border	seed, division	Performance: Average garden soil is fine. Each bloom lasts only a short time, but the plant produces a large number of buds. Comments: The seeds give the plant its common name. Birds often spread this plant to other parts of the garden. The foliage is very similar to that of an iris.

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<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i> Bergenia, Pigsqueak	pink, red	1-2'	spring	few	border, ground cover	division in spring, seed	Performance: The glossy foliage is practically evergreen. The foliage is more showy than the flowers. Tolerates a wide range of conditions. During the winter, the foliage becomes red or bronze. Comments: The plants perform well in semi-shade also. Many cultivars are available.
<i>Boltonia asteroides</i> Boltonia	white, pink	3-4'	late summer	few	border	division in spring	Performance: Does not require staking when grown in full sun. Performs best in deep, moist, organic soils. Does not seem to mind drought. Divide every 3-4 years. Comments: Seeds of 'Snowbank' do not come true to the cultivar. 'Pink Beauty' is superior to 'Snowbank'.
<i>Campanula carpatica</i> Carpathian Harebell	blue, white	4-12"	early spring	few	border, cut	division in spring or fall, seed	Performance: Plant prefers an evenly moist soil. Comments: Many cultivars are available.
<i>Campanula glomerata</i> Clustered Bellflower	purple	1-2'	summer	few	border	cuttings after bloom, seed	Performance: Prefers a moist soil and tolerates a wet location. The blooms last for approximately 3 weeks. May need staking. Comments: Lasts well as a cut flower. Some of the cultivars available: var. <i>acaulis</i> —3-5" tall, violet blue; 'Joan Elliott'—12-14" tall, violet blue; 'Superba'—12-14" tall, violet, tolerates heat.
<i>Campanula persicifolia</i> Peach-leaf Bellflower	blue, white	2-3'	late spring, early summer	few	border, cut	division, cuttings, seed	Performance: Prefers a well-drained, average soil. Comments: Tolerates partial shade. Several cultivars are available. Re-blooms if cut. Good for cutting.
<i>Centaurea dealbata</i> Persian Cornflower	pink, white	2-3'	late spring, early summer	few	border, cut	division	Performance: It is best to cut the declining blooms to maintain the compact habit of the plant. Comments: <i>Centaurea hypoleuca</i> 'John Coutts' was thought to be a cultivar of <i>C. dealbata</i> . Whether it is or not doesn't matter—this is a good cultivar.
<i>Centranthus ruber</i> Red Valerian, Jupiter's Beard	pink-red, white	1-3'	summer	few	border, cut	seed, cuttings	Performance: Prefers a well-drained soil that is slightly alkaline. Comments: Flowers most of the summer.
<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i> Black Snakeroot, Cohosh	white	5-8'	late summer	few	border	seed, division	Performance: Prefers a rich, moist soil. Fills in rapidly and does well at the back of the border. The plant has a deep root system and does not divide well. Seed may be difficult to germinate. Comments: The tall, white spire blooms last for several weeks.
<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i> Tickseed	yellow	2-3'	early summer	few	border, cut	seed, division	Performance: To keep this plant in good condition, old, dead flowers must be removed. The plant produces many blooms but requires heavy maintenance. Comments: 'Early Sunrise' requires less maintenance. This one will bloom the first season, but it still performs better the second or third season.
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i> Threadleaf Coreopsis	yellow	1-2'	summer	few	border	seed, division	Performance: Generally does not require much maintenance. Comments: 'Moonbeam'—12" tall, primrose yellow flowers are produced most of the summer. This is an excellent cultivar and requires no maintenance. 'Zagreb'—18" tall, deep yellow flowers. Other cultivars are available.
<i>Crocasmia x</i> 'Lucifer'	red	2½-3'	summer	mites	border, cut	division	Performance: While other <i>Crocasmias</i> may not be as reliably hardy, this particular cultivar performs quite well. May benefit from division every 2-3 years. Comments: 'Lucifer' is a result of an interspecific hybrid of <i>Crocasmia</i> and <i>Curtonus paniculatus</i> . Seed pods are also attractive and useful in flower arrangements.

Name	Flower Color	Height	Season	Pests	Uses	Propagation	Performance/Comments
<i>Delphinium x elatum</i> Hybrid Bee Delphinium	white, blue, lavender	2-8'	late spring	few	border, cut	seed	Performance: A cool season perennial that generally lasts only 1-2 years in Kentucky. Requires an excellent garden site. Comments: Many beautiful cultivars are available, but none are reliable in Kentucky.
<i>Dendrathera x morifolium</i> Garden Chrysanthemum, Fall Blooming Mums (formerly <i>Chrysanthemum morifolium</i>)	yellow, bronze, lavender, white	1-2'	fall	aphids, leaf hopper	border, cut	cuttings, seed, division in spring	Performance: Some cultivars require pinching until July to keep the plants compact and attractive. Soil should be fertile. Ideally they should be divided each spring. Comments: Even though listed as hardy, some cultivars may not survive our winter conditions.
<i>Dianthus gratianopolitanus</i> Cheddar Pinks	rose, pink	9-12"	spring, summer	few	edging, rockery	seed, division, terminal cuttings	Performance: May be short-lived, so divide every 2-3 years. Full sun, excellent drainage, slightly alkaline soil. Comments: 'Bath's Pink' has soft pink flowers, 1" across, fringed. 'Tiny Rubies' has double, deep-pink flowers. Related species: <i>D. allwoodii</i> , <i>D. deltoides</i> , and <i>D. plumarius</i> .
<i>Doronicum caucasicum</i> Leopard's Bane	yellow	1'	spring	few	border, cut	seed, division	Performance: Must have a moist soil. The foliage declines during hot weather. Comments: Also listed as <i>D. cordatum</i> . Not a long-lived perennial in this area. May perform better in partial shade.
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> Purple Coneflower	reddish purple, white	3-5'	summer	powdery mildew	border, cut	seed	Performance: This plant blooms for an extended period in the garden. Removal of old flowers promotes bloom production and prevents reseeding. Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions. Comments: 'Bright Star' has brilliant rose flowers, and petals extend horizontally. <i>E. purpurea alba</i> has white flowers with bronzy orange, domed cones in the center. All are excellent cut flowers.
<i>E. tennesseensis</i> Tennessee Coneflower	Mauve	1½-2'	summer	few	border, cut	seed, division	Performance: Flower petals are more narrow than <i>E. purpurea</i> ; performance is equal. Comments: A southeastern native and on the Federal Endangered Species List. Seeds and plants are available from reputable sources.
<i>Echinops ritro</i> 'Taplow Blue' Globe Thistle	steel blue	2-3'	summer	few	border, cut, dried	seed, division	Performance: After bloom the foliage begins to die back. New growth appears in the fall. Requires no special soil conditions. Comments: Large, spiny leaves resemble a thistle, but these plants are not invasive like thistle. Any unwanted seedlings can be easily pulled from the garden. The flowers can be dried.
<i>Euphorbia epithymoides</i> 'Polychroma' Spurge	yellow	1-2'	early spring	few	edging, border	division	Performance: Prefers a poor, dry soil. Comments: Foliage turns crimson-red in the fall. Forms brilliant yellow mound in early spring. Relative of poinsettia.
<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i> Myrtle Euphorbia, Donkeytail Spurge	yellow	8-12"	early spring	few	border, rock garden	seed, division, cuttings	Performance: Prefers a poor, dry soil. Comments: Like all <i>Euphorbias</i> , this plant has a milky sap that irritates the skin, possibly severely. The plant is grown for the trailing effect of the gray-green foliage which is practically evergreen.

Name	Flower Color	Height	Season	Pests	Uses	Propagation	Performance/Comments
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> Queen of the Meadow	white	3-4'	summer	few	border	seed, division	Performance: Prefers a moist soil. In full sun the foliage tends to "burn" and look unsightly. Comments: Several cultivars are available. Related species have pink flowers.
<i>Gaillardia x grandiflora</i> Blanketflower	dark red with yellow tips	1'	summer	few	border, cut	seed	Performance: Prefers a dry, well-drained soil that is not overly fertile. Cut the declining flowers to encourage more blooms. Comments: 'Goblin' is a common cultivar.
<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i> Gaura	white, pink	3-4'	summer	few	border	seed, division	Performance: Plant tolerates adverse conditions, but the leggy habit may not be desirable. Comments: Introduction of new cultivars with improved plant habit.
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i> Cranesbill	violet, red	1'	late spring	few	edging, border	seed	Performance: Requires a well-drained soil. Does not require frequent division. Comments: Many other species and cultivars are available. These plants can spread over 2 feet.
<i>Geum hybrids</i> Geum	yellow, orange, red	1-3'	late spring	few	border, cut	seed, division	Performance: Prefers a well-drained soil high in organic matter. Comments: Several cultivars are available. This is not a long-lived perennial in Kentucky. The plants prefer a cooler climate.
<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i> Baby's Breath	white, pink	2-3'	summer	few	border, cut	seed, terminal cuttings	Performance: Prefers a well-drained soil and does not tolerate wet feet. The plant produces large, fleshy roots. Once established the plant resents disturbance. Comments: Several cultivars are available. Cutting the blooms tends to promote re-bloom. Tends to be a short-lived perennial in this area.
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides scabra</i> 'Summer Sun' Heliopsis	yellow	3-4'	summer	few	border, cut	seed	Performance: Does well at the back of the border. No staking is required. No special soil conditions are needed. Comments: The mound of double blooms produced by this plant can be very showy, and it flowers much of the summer. Other cultivars are available, but this particular one has performed well. The color is very bright.
<i>Hemerocallis hybrids</i> Daylily	yellow, orange, white, pink, salmon, bicolors	8"-3'	early summer	aphids, leaf spot	border, mass planting	division	Performance: Easy to grow and a good addition to the garden. Tolerates semi-shade. Although each bloom lasts only one day, numerous buds are produced. Comments: These plants are available in a wide range of bloom colors, forms, plant heights, and bloom sizes. Thousands of cultivars are available, all of which have something to offer the flower garden. Mid- to late June is considered the prime blooming time for <i>Hemerocallis</i> . 'Stella d'Oro' is one cultivar that blooms for a long period of time.
<i>Heuchera</i> sp. Coral Bells	pink, red, white	8-18"	late spring	few	border, mass planting	seed, division	Performance: Requires a well-drained soil. Divide every 3 years. May perform best in a semi-shade or shade location. The dainty blooms can add a great deal to the landscape. Comments: <i>H. sanguinea</i> cultivars recommended include 'Chatterbox', 'Mt. St. Helens', and 'June Bride'. <i>H. x brizoides</i> cultivars recommended include 'Coral Cloud', 'Pluie de Feu', 'White Cloud', 'Bloom's Variety', and 'Tattletale'. Other Dan Heims hybrid introductions worth finding include 'Ruby Veil', 'Ruby Ruffles', 'Regal Robe', 'Purple Sails', and 'Pewter Veil'.
<i>Heuchera micrantha</i> Small-flowered Alumroot	white	8-10"	late spring	few	border, edging	division, seed	Performance: Cultivar 'Palace Purple' is grown more for the effect of the foliage rather than the flowers, which are often removed. Comments: 'Purple Palace' is a readily available cultivar. <i>H. americana</i> 'Purple Petticoats' has a solid dark purple leaf with ruffled edges. Seedlings may vary widely in foliage color. Cultivars should be propagated by division.

Name	Flower Color	Height	Season	Pests	Uses	Propagation	Performance/Comments
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> Rose Mallow	white, red, pink, bicolors	3-8'	summer	Japanese beetles, caterpillars	border	seed, division	Performance: The foliage dies back to the ground in winter. One plant will eventually fill a 4-foot-square area. Comments: This plant produces blooms that average 6-8" in diameter. The plants are very showy. Plants grown from seed take several years to reach a mature size. Allow plenty of room for these plants. The 'Frisbee' hybrids are about 4 feet tall and are a better choice than older forms that require staking.
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i> Candytuft	white	6-10"	early spring	few	border, edging	seed, cuttings. Most of the cultivars are propagated by cuttings.	Performance: Requires a well-drained soil. May suffer winter dieback in full sun. Prune after bloom to maintain compact growth habit. Comments: This is a common perennial used for spring show in much the same way as creeping phlox. Some of the cultivars available are 'Purity White'—12"; 'Snowflake'—10".
<i>Iris kaempferi</i> Japanese Iris	red-purple	24-30"	summer	few	border	division in spring or fall	Performance: Woodland iris adapts well to partial shade, full sun, and moist, organic-rich soil that is acidic. Comments: Cultivars are truly magnificent, and very large flowers should be removed as they fade. There are singles, doubles, and peony-style flowers. They bloom a month later than tall bearded iris.
<i>Kniphofia uvaria</i> Red Hot Poker	orange, red	3-4'	late spring	few	border, cut	seed, division	Performance: Requires a well-drained soil. One clump will produce a large number of blooms. The sword-like foliage stays attractive after the bloom period. Comments: For best germination the seed should be prechilled at 40°F for 6 weeks. Plants are sometimes winterkilled because water freezes in the crown of the plant. Several cultivars are available.
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> , <i>Lavandula x intermedia</i> Lavender	blue	12-14"	summer	few	edging, border, cut flowers and foliage	seed, cuttings	Performance: Short-lived perennial in this area; heavy soils promote root rot and loss of the plants. Comments: Desirable for the fragrance of the foliage and flowers. Many cultivars are available, but none has proved more tolerant of Kentucky soil and weather conditions.
<i>Leucanthemum x superbum</i> Shasta Daisy (Formerly <i>Chrysanthemum x superbum</i>)	white	1-3'	early spring	aphids	border, cut	seed, division	Performance: It seems to die for no apparent reason or can become a weedy pest. Must have a well-drained soil. Divide every 2-3 years. Comments: They generally do not bloom the first season from seed. Also listed as <i>C. maximum</i> . 'Alaska' appears to be hardier than the species.
<i>Liatis pycnostachya</i> Cattail Gayfeather, Kansas Gayfeather	rose-purple	3-5'	summer	few	border	seed, division	Performance: Requires staking; otherwise, heavy flower spikes fall over and growing end of spike twists upward. Does not tolerate wet feet in winter. Indigenous to prairies and woodlands. Comments: Cultivars 'Alba' and 'Alexander' get high marks for performance. Erect pubescent stems are very leafy. Flower spike may be 15" to 18" long.

Name	Flower Color	Height	Season	Pests	Uses	Propagation	Performance/Comments
<i>Liatriis spicata</i> Gayfeather	purple	1-2'	early summer	crown rot	border, cut	seed, division	Performance: Indigenous to damp meadows, savannas, and stream banks. Must have a well-drained location. Removing the declining blooms sometimes promotes a re-bloom, but the second blooms are very small. Comments: Cultivars of <i>L. spicata</i> are not as tall as other species of <i>Liatriis</i> . The spike blooms are excellent cut flowers. Spike flowers bloom from the top down. 'Kobold' grows 2' tall and is known as a dwarf cultivar; 'Alba' has white flowers; 'Floristan Violet' has mauve-purple flowers; 'Floristan White' flowers are creamy white. All these cultivars are recommended for hardiness and survivability after wet winters.
<i>Liatriis squarrulosa</i> Blazing Star	violet-purple	5'	late summer	few	mixed border, cut	seed, tuberous roots	Comments: Definite architectural interest. Highly desired in flower arranging.
<i>Limonium tataricum</i> German Statice (syn. <i>Goniolimon tataricum</i>)	white, red/white	1-2'	summer	few	border, cut, dried	seed, division	Performance: This plant does not tolerate a wet location. It does not like to be disturbed once it is established. Comments: This plant is grown for the effect of the calyx rather than the actual flower. The blooms drop very quickly, but the calyx persists on the plant for most of the summer. The airy stems are a good substitute for baby's breath. <i>L. latifolium</i> is a related species that is also useful in the garden. It is commonly called Sea Lavender. 'Violetta' is considered an excellent cultivar.
<i>Macleaya cordata</i> Plume Poppy	white	6-10'	summer	few	border, mass planting	division	Performance: Plume poppy is a large, showy plant, but it spreads like crazy. Because it is difficult to contain, careful thought should be given before this plant is added to the garden. May be best used in a wild area such as a roadside. Comments: Also known as <i>Bocconia cordata</i> . Tolerates shade.
<i>Malva alcea</i> 'Fastigiata' Hollyhock Mallow	pink	3-4'	summer	mites, Japanese beetles	border	seed, division, cuttings in spring	Performance: This plant blooms for an extended period. Blooms are 2" in diameter. Prefers a well-drained soil. Blooms well the first season. Comments: This plant is often a short-lived perennial, but it reseeds readily. Because of self-sowing, this plant may become a problem in the garden.
<i>Oenothera missouriensis</i> Sundrops, Evening Primrose	lemon-yellow	10"	early summer	few	border	seed, division after flowering	Performance: Not particular about soil but does not tolerate a wet location during the winter. Comments: Blooms may reach a diameter of 4". Plants may spread 2' in diameter. Single blooms open only in the morning.
<i>Paeonia</i> (hybrids) Chinese Peony	pink, white, red	3-4'	late spring	botrytis, thrips, leaf spots, root rots, Japanese beetles	border, cut	division	Performance: It is important not to plant the crown of the plant too deeply. The "eyes" or buds should be just below the soil surface. If planted too deeply, the plant won't bloom. There are many pest and disease problems associated with <i>Paeonia</i> , but the plant is worth putting in the garden. Comments: There are several flower forms available and many cultivars to choose from. After the plants bloom, the shrub-like habit of the plant remains attractive in the garden.
<i>Papaver orientalis</i> Oriental Poppy	red, pink, white	1-2'	late spring	few	border, cut	root cuttings, division, seed	Performance: Plant grown from seed generally blooms the second year. If the plants are divided, it takes a while for them to recover. Once established, the plant does not tolerate disturbance well. Comments: The blooms are very showy, but keep in mind that after bloom the foliage will die back and that spot in the garden will be bare.
<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i> Russian Sage	blue	4-6'	summer	few	border	seed, cuttings, division	Performance: If the foliage is left over the winter, it should be cut back in the spring. It can be rather rank in appearance. It grows like a small shrub. Comments: The gray-white foliage and the long period of bloom make this plant desirable. Like the ornamental grasses, the foliage can add winter accent to the garden.

Name	Flower Color	Height	Season	Pests	Uses	Propagation	Performance/Comments
<i>Phlox paniculata</i> Summer Phlox	white, pink, blue, red	2-6'	summer	powdery mildew	border, cut	seed, division	Performance: Declining blooms should be removed to prevent reseeding. Cultivars that are allowed to reseed produce inferior plants that, because of their vigor, can literally "run" the desirable plants out of the garden. Comments: Many named cultivars are available, offering a range of very attractive colors. Many cultivars are fragrant.
<i>Phlox subulata</i> Moss Pink	blue, white, pink	3-6"	early spring	few	border, rock garden, edging	division	Performance: The plant benefits from light pruning after it blooms. Comments: Many cultivars are available. The leaves are evergreen and can be useful as a ground cover.
<i>Platycodon grandiflorus</i> Balloonflower	blue, pink, white	1-2'	late summer	few	border, cut	seed, division	Performance: Prefers a moist, well-drained soil. Tall cultivars require staking. Comes up late in the spring. It is slow growing and does not require frequent division. Some sources say this plant is difficult to divide. Comments: The flower buds resemble tiny balloons that open into star-shaped blooms.
<i>Polygonum affine</i> Himalayan Fleeceflower	rose-red	6"	mid- to late summer	few	border, ground cover	seed, division	Performance: Prefers a moist soil. Usually not invasive. Comments: Best used as a ground cover. New and old flower spikes stay on the plant at the same time and give good contrast. The leaves turn bronze in the fall.
<i>Pulsatilla vulgaris</i> (<i>Anemone pulsatilla</i>) Pasque Flower	blue	10-12"	early spring	few	border	seed, division, root cuttings	Performance: Generally performs well. Comments: These plants probably are still listed in most catalogs as <i>Anemone pulsatilla</i> . The seed heads that appear after bloom can be as attractive as the blooms.
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> Black-eyed Susan, Gloriosa Daisy	yellow	2-3'	summer	powdery mildew	border, cut, meadow	seed, division	Performance: Plants can produce large clumps. Generally performs well. Considered a short-lived perennial, and some cultivars may last only one season. Generally not as affected by powdery mildew as other <i>Rudbeckias</i> . Comments: 'Goldstrum' is an excellent cultivar, but it should be propagated only from cuttings.
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i> Cutleaf Coneflower	yellow	3-6'	summer	few	border	seed, division, cuttings	Performance: Prefers a moist soil. Requires division every 3-4 years. Comments: Cultivars must be propagated by cuttings. 'Gold Drop'—2-3' tall, golden yellow; 'Golden Glow'—3-5' tall, lemon yellow; 'Goldquelle'—3' tall, gold. Generally thought of as a wildflower.
<i>Salvia x superba</i> 'East Friesland' Meadow Sage	violet, pink	18"	late spring	few	border	cuttings, division	Performance: Prefers a well-drained soil. Tolerates drought conditions. Divide every 1-2 years. Comments: 'East Friesland' is a hybrid and is also known as 'Ostfriesland'. Other possible cultivars are 'Blue Queen'—18-24" tall, violet; 'Lubeca'—30" tall, violet-blue; 'Rose Queen'—30" tall, rose-pink.
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i> Lavender Cotton	yellow	1-2'	summer	few	border, edging	cuttings	Performance: Shearing or pruning the plant after bloom is beneficial. Comments: This plant and <i>S. virens</i> , which has needle-like dark green foliage, are both considered aromatic herbs. The foliage of both has a strong odor and was used as a moth repellent. The blooms are button-shaped. Although the blooms are attractive, the plant is really grown for the gray-green foliage.
<i>Saponaria ocymoides</i> Soapwort	pink	6-9"	late spring	few	border, edging, rock garden	seed, division, cuttings	Performance: Must have a well-drained soil. Prune after flowering to promote new growth. May burn out during hot summers. Comments: The plant is very attractive used as an edging plant. The common name comes from the plant's use as a source of "soap."

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<i>Sedum</i> (various species and hybrids) Stonecrop	yellow	3-8"	summer	few	edging, ground cover	division, seed	Performance: This is generally a quick-growing ground cover that is semi-evergreen. It grows just about anywhere, except wet areas. Drought tolerant. Comments: This is a varied group of plants grown mostly for the effect of the foliage. The texture and color are varied, and some do produce blooms. The foliage burns back in a cold winter. 'Dragon's Blood'—foliage is purplish bronze, flowers are dark red.
<i>Sedum spectabile</i> Showy Sedum	pink, red, white, lilac	12-18"	fall	few	border, edging, cut, dried	division, cuttings	Performance: The foliage dies back after bloom, but the new growth begins to emerge in late fall. Does not tolerate a wet location. Comments: <i>Sedum</i> x 'Autumn Joy' is a desirable red type. The foliage is succulent in texture, and the plants are uniform and mounded in habit. They would be attractive even if they did not produce blooms. Variegated forms are also available.
<i>Solidago</i> hybrids Goldenrod	yellow	2½-6'	late summer	few	border, cut	cuttings, seed	Performance: While often considered a nuisance plant even though it is the Kentucky state flower, this plant has new hybrids that are excellent additions to the garden. Comments: Goldenrod does not cause hay fever (ragweed, which blooms at the same time, is the real culprit). Cultivars developed in Europe are quite nice in the garden. 'Baby Gold', 'Fireworks', and 'Golden Baby' are just a few of these highly satisfactory plants.
<i>Stachys byzantina</i> Lamb's Ears	purple	1-2'	late spring	crown rot	edging, ground cover	division	Performance: Tolerates semi-shade. The plants should be divided every few years to reduce crowding. Hot, humid conditions promote disease problems that often result in dead patches. The plant generally starts to recover in the fall. Comments: The plants are generally grown for the effect of the foliage. The bloom spikes are not showy or attractive. They should be removed after bloom or before to maintain the vigor of the plants. 'Silver Carpet' does not produce flowers.
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i> Germander	purple	6-10"	summer	few	edging, ground cover	division, cuttings	Performance: This plant tolerates shearing or pruning into a hedge form. The foliage is evergreen. Comments: Grown more for the glossy foliage than for the flowers.
<i>Tradescantia x andersoniana</i> (syn. <i>T. virginiana</i>) Spiderwort	shades of pink, white, blue, purple	1½-2½'	summer	few	border	division, cuttings	Performance: Although each flower is only open for a day, numerous buds are produced, and the bloom display can last for 6-8 weeks. Divide every 2-3 years to rejuvenate the clump. Comments: Foliage may become unsightly after bloom and can be cut back.
<i>Verbena bonariensis</i> Brazilian Verbena	lavender	3-4'	summer to frost	powdery mildew	back-ground, grouping, middle of border	root cuttings, seed (erratic germination over 3-5 weeks)	Performance: Excellent plant for stressful Kentucky summers. If over-fertilized, grows to 4' and must be cut back. Comments: Named for city of Buenos Aires, where first discovered. Has naturalized in U.S. Panicle of flowers measures 2" across. Zone 7-9 plant; therefore a tender perennial, but it comes back reliably from seed.
<i>Verbena</i> 'Homestead Purple'	dark purple	8"	summer	few	edging, border	cuttings	Performance: Vigorous grower that does not mind heat. Dark green foliage stays attractive all summer. Comments: Discovered by Allen Armitage and Michael Dirr at an old homestead. Late to emerge in spring. Best to provide some winter protection.
<i>Verbena rigida</i> Rigid Verbena	silver-blue	1'	summer	few	border, edging	seed	Performance: Vigorous grower, dense plant produces many flowers. Comments: Zone 7-9 perennial but comes back reliably in Kentucky's hardiness zone 6.

Name	Flower Color	Height	Season	Pests	Uses	Propagation	Performance/Comments
<i>Veronica incana</i> Woolly Speedwell	blue, pink	1-2'	summer	few	border, edging, rock garden	seed, division, cuttings	Performance: Does not tolerate a wet location. During rainy periods the foliage traps water that may cause disease problems. Comments: The silver-gray foliage is attractive most of the season. 'Saraband'—18" tall, violet-blue; 'Barcarolle'—12" tall, pink; 'Minuet'—24" tall, pale pink. Cultivar foliage is not as gray.
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i> Adam's Needle	white	2-3'	summer	few	border, specimen plant	seed, offsets	Performance: Prefers a light, textured soil with good drainage. Is drought tolerant. Comments: Plants from seed require 4-5 years before bloom is produced. Offsets are rooted like cuttings.

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