



Perennial Plant & Herb Index by Common Name

<u>Alstroemeria</u>	Iris, Tall <u>Bearded</u>
<u>Amaryllis</u>	Iris, <u>Siberian</u>
<u>Angel's Trumpet</u>	<u>Iris, Variegated</u>
<u>Angelonia</u>	<u>Liatris</u>
<u>Aster, Japanese</u>	Lily, <u>Calla</u>
Aster, <u>Stokes'</u>	Lily, <u>Crinum</u>
<u>Bachelor's Button</u>	Lily, <u>Peace</u>
<u>Bee balm</u>	Lily, <u>Spider</u> , Peruvian Lily
Begonia, <u>Cane or Angel Wing</u>	Lily, Spider - <u>Setcreasea</u>
<u>Begonia, Hardy</u>	Lily, <u>Tiger</u>
<u>Bellflower</u>	Lily, <u>Torch</u> or Red-Hot Poker
Black and Blue <u>Salvia</u>	Lily, Trumpet or <u>Easter</u>
Black-Eyed <u>Susan</u>	Lily, <u>White</u> Garland
<u>Cactus</u> , Night Blooming	<u>Marigolds</u>
<u>Canna</u>	<u>Mexican</u> Petunia
<u>Chinese lantern</u>	<u>Money</u> Plant
<u>Chocolate Flower</u>	<u>Obedient</u> Plant
<u>Coleus</u>	<u>Peony</u>
<u>Columbine</u>	<u>Polka</u> dot plant
<u>Coneflower</u>	<u>Poppy</u> , Woodland
<u>Coreopsis</u>	<u>Portulaca</u> , <u>Rose Moss</u>
<u>Crocsmia</u>	Rose, <u>Campion</u>
<u>Daffodil</u>	Rose, <u>Climbing</u>
<u>Daisy, Shasta</u>	<u>Sunflower</u> , <u>Swamp</u>
<u>DayLily</u>	<u>Solomon's</u> Seal
<u>Elephant Ears</u>	<u>Sedum</u>
<u>Guara</u>	<u>Tickseed</u>

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Hippeastrum (group) 'Amaryllis'

Common Name: amaryllis
Type: Bulb
Family: Amaryllidaceae
Zone: 8 to 10
Height: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
Spread: 0.75 to 1.00 feet
Bloom Time: Seasonal bloomer
Bloom Description: Red, pink or white with spotting and banding
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Medium
Flower: Showy

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a457>



Culture

Grow in pots/containers at least 6-8" wide in the St. Louis area. Select the largest bulbs available. Plant each bulb neck up with half of the bulb above the soil surface in a humusy, well-draining potting soil mix. Plants enjoy bright locations in the home with some morning sun, but not direct afternoon sun. Sun dappled shade or bright shade is best for plants taken outdoors. Bulbs are commonly planted in pots between mid-fall and late winter, or in succession every week or so during such period for bloom approximately 5 weeks later. Bulbs may also be started indoors in early spring and moved outside for late spring to early summer bloom. Regardless of growing cycle, bulbs need (1) a period of recovery and rejuvenation after bloom when flowers are removed but foliage is left in tact and watering is continued, albeit reduced and (2) a subsequent period of dormancy (at least 2 months) before starting the bloom cycle over.

Noteworthy Characteristics

The giant amaryllis bulbs sold in fall each year are basically all hybrids which have been developed over the years from *Hippeastrum* species plants indigenous to Central and South America. Bulbs are frequently planted in pots at Thanksgiving for bloom at Christmas. Typically bulbs produce one or more stout-but-hollow leafless flowering stems (scapes) that grow 12-18" tall. 2-6 amaryllis flowers, mostly in shades of red, pink and white with interesting spotting and banding, bloom atop each scape. Large strap-shaped green leaves begin to grow at about the time the flowers open.

Genus name comes eventually from the Greek words *hippos* meaning horse and *hippeus* meaning rider. A possible allusion to the flower looking like the head of a horse.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Mealybugs are occasional visitors. Watch for snails if plants are taken outdoors. Culture for saving the bulbs for the following year is somewhat complicated and time-consuming. For more information see: [Problems Common to Many Indoor Plants](#)

Garden Uses

Houseplant, container plant.

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Angelonia angustifolia



Common Name: angelonia
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Plantaginaceae
Native Range: Mexico, West Indies
Zone: 9 to 11
Height: 1.00 to 1.50 feet
Spread: 0.75 to 1.00 feet
Bloom Time: June to September
Bloom Description: Deep mauve to violet, white, pink, bicolors
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Annual
Flower: Showy
Leaf: Fragrant
Tolerate: Drought, Dry Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=b444>

Culture

Winter hardy to USDA Zones 9-11. In St. Louis, it is grown as a bedding or container annual. Prefers moist, fertile soils with good drainage. Some drought tolerance. Good tolerance for summer heat and humidity. Plants grown in containers may be difficult to overwinter indoors. Consider purchasing new plants from local nurseries each spring.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Angelonia angustifolia, commonly called angelonia or summer snapdragon, is native to Mexico and the West Indies. It is an upright, glabrous, somewhat bushy, tropical perennial that is noted for its long summer bloom of small snapdragon-like flowers. Plants typically grow 12-18" tall. Stems are clad with narrow, oblong to lanceolate, green leaves (to 3" long) with toothed margins. Foliage is slightly aromatic. Bluish-purple flowers (each to 3/4" across) bloom from late spring to early fall in narrow terminal spikes (to 8" long). The two-lipped flowers are somewhat reminiscent of snapdragon. Cultivars are available in white, blue, light pink and bicolor flower colors.

Genus name comes from the Latinized version of the South American vernacular name of one of the species of these perennial herbs and sub-shrubs.

Problems - No serious insect or disease problems. Watch for aphids and powdery mildew.

Garden Uses - In St. Louis, grow as annuals massed in beds and borders. Also appropriate for containers.

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Centaurea montana 'Bachelor's Button'



Common Name: mountain bluet
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Asteraceae
Native Range: Central and southern Europe
Zone: 3 to 8
Height: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 1.50 feet
Bloom Time: May to June
Bloom Description: Blue
Sun: Full sun
Water: Dry to medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Naturalize
Flower: Showy
Tolerate: Drought, Dry Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=h570>

Culture

Easily grown in average, dry to medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. Drought tolerant. Tolerant of poor soils. Can spread somewhat rapidly by stolons to form colonies in optimum growing conditions, particularly in rich fertile soils which should be avoided and in cool northern climates where it is more robust. Remove spent flower stalks after bloom. Sparse rebloom in late summer-early fall may occur. Plants need to be divided every 2-3 years.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Centaurea montana is an erect, stoloniferous, clump-forming perennial which features solitary, fringed, rich blue cornflowers (2" diameter) with reddish blue centers and black-edged involucre bracts. Flowers appear in late spring atop unbranched stems typically growing 1-2' tall. Gray-green, lance-shaped lower leaves to 7" long. Commonly called mountain bluet, perennial cornflower or perennial bachelor's button.

Genus name comes from the Greek word *kentauros* meaning centaur.

Specific epithet means pertaining to mountains.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Rust, aster yellows, stem rot and mildew are occasional problems.

Garden Uses

Best massed in border fronts, cottage gardens or naturalized areas.

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Begonia (Semperflorens Cultorum Group)



Common Name: begonia
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Begoniaceae
Zone: 10 to 11
Height: 0.50 to 1.00 feet
Spread: 0.50 to 1.00 feet
Bloom Time: June to frost
Bloom Description: White, pink, red, bicolor
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Annual
Flower: Showy
Tolerate: Rabbit, Dry Soil, Black Walnut

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a562>

Culture

Tender perennial that is winter hardy to USDA Zones 10-11. In St. Louis, it is grown as an annual. It is noted for its tolerance to hot and humid summers. It is easily grown in average to moderately fertile, moist, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Prefers sun dappled part shade and a good mulch in hot summer climates such as St. Louis. Bronze-leaved varieties are more tolerant of full sun. Plants tolerate considerable shade, but are generally less floriferous therein. Plants are best with consistent moisture throughout the growing season, but tolerate periods of drought due to their thick and waxy leaves which help minimize water loss in hot weather. Start seeds indoors 6-8 weeks before last frost date, purchase starter plants or take cuttings from overwintered plants. Set plants out after last frost date. Space plants well (8" for dwarfs and 12" for taller ones) to promote good air circulation and to reduce potential fungal disease problems. Container plants may be cut back in fall and overwintered indoors a cool location with reduced watering. Propagation from seed can be difficult due to the small size of the seed, and seed should not be sown directly in the garden.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Begonia is a genus of about 1,300 species of annuals, perennials, shrubs and climbers. Most have fleshy stems. Some produce underground tubers or rhizomes. They are grown for their showy flower or colorful leaves; some for both. Begonias can be divided into 7 informal groups by growth habit: Cane-stemmed, Rex-cultorum, Rhizomatous, Sempervirens, Tuberos, Winter-flowering, and Shrub-like.

Semperflorens Cultorum Group, often called wax begonia, is an extremely popular garden annual. It is a compact, bushy, mounded, fibrous-rooted plant that features fleshy stems, waxy dark green to bronze leaves and loose clusters (cymes) of single or double flowers in shades of white, pink or red plus bicolor versions thereof. Flowers reliably bloom throughout the growing season (May to October). Dwarf varieties grow to 6-8" tall and taller varieties grow to 10-12" tall.

Genus name honors Michael Begon (1638-1710), Governor of French Canada.

Group name means ever-blooming plants of cultivated lands and gardens.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Susceptible to bacterial leaf spot, powdery mildew, blight and stem/crown rots. Watch for mealybugs and thrips. For more information see: [Problems Common to Many Indoor Plants](#)

Garden Uses

Mass in beds or borders. Edgings. Containers and window boxes

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Salvia guaranitica 'Black and Blue'



Common Name: anise-scented sage
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Lamiaceae
Zone: 8 to 10
Height: 2.00 to 5.00 feet
Spread: 2.00 to 5.00 feet
Bloom Time: July to frost
Bloom Description: Deep blue with black calyxes
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Annual
Flower: Showy
Leaf: Fragrant
Attracts: Butterflies
Tolerate: Deer

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c834>

Culture

Winter hardy to USDA Zones 8-10. In St. Louis, it should be grown as an annual in average, evenly moist, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. It prefers organically rich loams. If grown in too much shade, plant stems tend to elongate and fall over. Plant height can be reduced by cutting back stems in late spring. Although species plants may be grown from seed started indoors before last spring frost date, this cultivar should be propagated from cuttings. Set out plants after last frost date. Deadhead spent flowers to encourage additional bloom. If desired, cut back and pot up several plants in fall or take cuttings in late summer for overwintering in a bright but cool sunny window. Plants grown in protected locations with winter mulch may survive mild winters in USDA Zones 6-7.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Salvia guaranitica is native to Brazil, Paraguay and northern Argentina. It is a tender perennial or subshrub that exhibits a bushy, somewhat open habit with upright, branching, square, dark green stems typically growing 3-5' tall. When grown as an annual, plant height is shorter, more often in the 2.5-3' area. Two-lipped, tubular, deep blue flowers (to 2" long) with purple-blue calyxes bloom in axillary and terminal spikes (to 10" long) from mid summer into fall. Ovate, wrinkled, pointed, lightly-toothed, dark green leaves (2-5" long) are pale green below. Plants may grow to as much as 6' tall in optimum conditions where winter hardy, but usually grow much shorter in the St. Louis area. Plants are sometimes commonly called blue anise sage or anise scented sage. When bruised, the foliage has a very mild aroma that has very little if any anise scent.

Genus name comes from the Latin word *salveo* meaning to save or heal in reference to the purported medically curative properties attributed to some plants in the genus.

'Black and Blue' is a cultivar that features deep cobalt blue flowers with black calyxes. Flowers appear on spikes to 15" long over a long mid-summer to fall bloom.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Susceptible to downy and powdery mildew.

Garden Uses

Beds, borders and cottage gardens. Containers. Annual for areas north of USDA Zone 8.

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Rudbeckia hirta



Species Native to Missouri
Common Name: black-eyed Susan
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Asteraceae
Native Range: Central United States
Zone: 3 to 7
Height: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
Bloom Time: June to September
Bloom Description: Yellow to orange-yellow rays and dark brown centers
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Annual, Naturalize
Flower: Showy
Attracts: Butterflies
Tolerate: Deer, Drought, Clay Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=277225>

Culture

Biennial or short-lived perennial that is winter hardy to USDA Zones 3-7. It blooms in the first year from seed planted in early spring, and is accordingly often grown as an annual. It is easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. Best in moist, organically rich soils. Tolerates heat, drought and a wide range of soils except poorly-drained wet ones. For best result from seed in the St. Louis area, start seed indoors around March 1. Seed may also be sown directly in the garden at last frost date. Some varieties are available in cell/six packs from nurseries. Set out seedlings or purchased plants at last frost date. Deadhead spent flowers to encourage additional bloom and/or to prevent any unwanted self-seeding. Whether or not plants survive from one year to the next, they freely self-seed and will usually remain in the garden through self-seeding.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Rudbeckia hirta, commonly called black-eyed Susan, is a common Missouri native wildflower which typically occurs in open woods, prairies, fields, roadsides and waste areas throughout the State. It is a coarse, hairy, somewhat weedy plant that features daisy-like flowers (to 3" across) with bright yellow to orange-yellow rays and domed, dark chocolate-brown center disks. Blooms throughout the summer atop stiff, leafy, upright stems growing 1-3' tall. Rough, hairy, lance-shaped leaves (3-7" long). Plants of this species are sometimes commonly called gloriosa daisy, particularly the larger-flowered cultivars that come in shades of red, yellow, bronze, orange and bicolors.

Genus name honors Olof Rudbeck (1630-1702) Swedish botanist and founder of the Uppsala Botanic Garden in Sweden where Carl Linnaeus was professor of botany.

Species name of *hirta* means hairy in reference to the short bristles that cover the leaves and stems.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Susceptible to powdery mildew. Watch for slugs and snails on young plants. Can self-seed freely.

Garden Uses

Borders. Annual beds. Cottage gardens. Wild gardens. Meadows. Groups or mass plantings. Good cut flower.

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Cane Begonias (group)

Cane begonias have been popular plants for many years and were probably grown by your Grandmother, who called them "Angel Wing" begonias. Many types have been created since then, although those grown by your Grandmother are probably still in cultivation. There are several types of canes in varying sizes but they all have in common tough stems that have a bamboo-like appearance, which is why they are called canes. The superba canes generally grow the largest. They can have leaves up to about 14 inches long and can grow to 12 feet high although they are usually kept smaller and more compact. They have leaves that are cut and most types have silver spots or splashes on them. The flowers are in large clusters and some are fragrant. Canes are most popular in the southern states where they are grown outdoors in frost free areas but they can also be grown quite well indoors or in a greenhouse.



Two begonia hybridizers, Irene Nuss and Belva Kusler created many of the first superbas to become

popular. Irene's hybrid B.'Irene Nuss' and Belva's B.'Sophie Cecile' are the two most widely circulated superbas of all time. The other most popular type of cane is the type formally called "angel wing" begonias. These come in every size from those commonly grown in baskets to large upright plants but all have the familiar pointed leaf shape that gave them their former common name. This type is still widely grown and many new hybrids are created every year. Many have silver spotted/splashed leaves and some have different serrated edges. Most are heavy bloomers, some even everbloomers.

<http://www.begonias.org/greenhouse/cane.htm>

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Canna (group)



Common Name: canna
Type: Bulb
Family: Cannaceae
Zone: 7 to 10
Height: 1.50 to 8.00 feet
Spread: 1.50 to 6.00 feet
Bloom Time: July to August
Bloom Description: Red, orange, pink, yellow, cream, bicolors
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Medium
Suggested Use: Annual
Flower: Showy
Leaf: Colorful

Culture

Best grown in moist, organically rich, well-drained soils in full sun. Rhizomes may be left in the ground in USDA Zones 7-10, however in the St. Louis area (Zones 6a-5b), the rhizomes should be lifted in fall for overwintering. Plant rhizomes 4-6" deep in spring after threat of frost has passed. Remove entire flowering stems immediately after bloom. In fall, cut plants to the ground immediately after first frost and lift rhizome clumps for winter storage in a dry medium (peat or vermiculite) in a cool dry location than does not fall below 40 degrees F. Container grown plants can be stored in their containers in winter.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Cannas are large tropical plants that produce gladiolus-like flower spikes in summer atop erect stems sheathed in large paddle-shaped leaves. Plants sold in commerce are mostly hybrids ranging from 1.5' tall dwarfs to 8' tall giants. Flower colors typically include red, orange, pink, yellow, cream and some bicolors. Foliage colors include shades of green, bronze and striped/variegated. Dramatic foliage provides considerable ornamental interest when plants are not in flower.

Genus name comes from the Greek word *kanna* meaning a reed.

Problems

Rhizomes may rot in poorly drained wet soils. Watch for aster yellows. Japanese beetles, caterpillars, slugs and snails may chew on the foliage.

Garden Uses

Mass in beds or borders. Large containers.

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Physalis alkekengi



Sample Picture

Common Name: Chinese lantern
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Solanaceae
Native Range: Europe, northern Asia
Zone: 3 to 9
Height: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
Bloom Time: July
Bloom Description: Tiny white flowers followed by orange-red calyx
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Medium
Suggested Use: Naturalize
Flower: Showy, Good Cut, Good Dried

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=b713>

Culture

Easily grown in average, evenly moist, well-drained soils in full sun. Plants spread by rhizomes and can spread aggressively in the garden. Plants may self-seed in the garden. Propagate by seed or by division. Plants may be grown as annuals by starting seed indoors about 6-8 weeks prior to last spring frost date.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Physalis alkekengi, commonly called Chinese lantern, is an herbaceous perennial of the nightshade family that grows in an upright clump to 24" tall and as wide. Stems are clad with ovate-rhombic medium green leaves (to 3" long) with entire to undulate margins. Small, bell-shaped, axillary, white flowers in summer are insignificant. The showy part of this plant is the papery, globose, orange-red calyx (to 2" long), resembling the shape of a Chinese lantern, that forms around each ripening fruit in late summer. The bright calyces provide excellent and somewhat unique fall color. Fruit is technically edible but tasteless and rarely eaten. Fruiting stems are used in both fresh arrangements and dried arrangements. For dried arrangements, cut stems as soon as the calyces turn from green to orange-red, remove the leaves and then hang the stems upright in a dry location.

Genus name comes from the Greek *physa* meaning a bladder for the inflated calyx.

Specific epithet comes from Arabic meaning bladder cherry in reference to the husked fruit.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems.

Garden Uses

Best sited in areas of the landscape where its spreading tendencies are not a concern. This plant is generally not recommended for borders.

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Berlandiera lyrata



Common Name: chocolate flower
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Asteraceae
Native Range: Southern United States, Mexico
Zone: 4 to 10
Height: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
Bloom Time: May to October
Bloom Description: Yellow rays with maroon brown center
Sun: Full sun
Water: Dry to medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Naturalize
Flower: Showy, Fragrant
Tolerate: Drought, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=242272>

Culture

Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerates some light shade. Prefers slightly alkaline soils. Good tolerance for heat and drought. May produce more flowers with consistent moisture, but at the cost of stem-drooping. May self-seed in the garden. Easily grown from seed.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Berlandiera lyrata, commonly called chocolate flower (also known as lyreleaf green eyes) is native to dry sandy loams, rocky limestone soils, mesas, plains, grasslands and roadsides in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Mexico. It typically grows to 1-2' tall on branched, usually erect but sometimes decumbent stems, and features aromatic, night blooming, daisy-like flowers (1-2" diameter) with yellow rays, maroon-brown center discs and green cup-like bracts. Flowers appear on leafless stems. Yellow rays have red veins (sometimes entirely red) on the reverse side. Leaves are deep green above and whitish below, with irregular pinnate lobes. Flowers bloom at night from late spring to frost, but in frost free areas will bloom year round. Flowers smell like chocolate, with the aroma being most noticeable in early to mid-morning before the petals close up or drop.

Genus name honors Jean-Louis Berlandier (1805-1851), French-Swiss botanist and physician, who collected plants in Texas and Mexico in the early 1800s.

Specific epithet means lyre-like in reference to the leaf shape.

Common name of lyreleaf green eyes is in reference to (1) pinnate deeply-lobed leaf has lyre-like curves and (2) once the yellow flower petals drop, the remaining stiff cupped green calyces surrounding the center disk resemble a green eye.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Root rot may occur in overly moist soils.

Garden Uses

Perennial border. Wildflower meadow. Naturalized areas. Edger for informal situations.

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Aquilegia (McKana Group)



Common Name: columbine
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Ranunculaceae
Zone: 3 to 9
Height: 2.00 to 2.50 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 1.50 feet
Bloom Time: April to May
Bloom Description: White, red, yellow, blue, pink, purple, maroon, bicolors
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Medium
Suggested Use: Naturalize
Flower: Showy, Good Cut
Attracts: Hummingbirds
Tolerate: Rabbit, Deer

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=260312&isprofile=0&>

Culture

Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Tolerates wide range of soils except heavy, poorly drained ones. Prefers rich, moist soils with light to moderate shade. Remove flowering stems after bloom to encourage additional bloom. Keep soils uniformly moist after bloom to prolong attractive foliage appearance. When foliage depreciates, plants may be cut to the ground. This cultivar may be grown from seed and may self-seed in the garden under optimum growing conditions. However, different varieties of columbine may cross-pollinate in the garden producing seed that is at variance with either or both parents.

Noteworthy Characteristics

The McKana Group is a tall columbine hybrid seed strain which features a wide selection of large, bright-colored, long-spurred, nodding, bi-colored flowers in shades of blue/white, red/yellow and various other color combinations involving pinks and purples. A clump-forming perennial which typically grows to 30" tall. Biternate to triternate, almost fern-like, gray-green foliage is somewhat suggestive of meadow rue (*Thalictrum*). Blooms in spring. *Aquilegia* comes from the Latin word for eagle in reference to the flower's five spurs which purportedly resemble an eagle's talon.

Genus name comes from the Latin word for eagle in reference to the flower's five spurs which purportedly resemble an eagle's talon.

Problems

Susceptible to leaf miner. Foliage usually declines by mid-summer at which point it should be cut to the ground.

Garden Uses

Woodland and shade gardens. Also effective in borders, cottage gardens or naturalized areas. Continue to water plants after bloom to enjoy the ground cover effect of the attractive foliage.

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Canna (group)



Common Name: canna
Type: Bulb
Family: Cannaceae
Zone: 7 to 10
Height: 1.50 to 8.00 feet
Spread: 1.50 to 6.00 feet
Bloom Time: July to August
Bloom Description: Red, orange, pink, yellow, cream, bicolors
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Medium
Suggested Use: Annual
Flower: Showy
Leaf: Colorful

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=264586&isprofile=0&>

Culture

Best grown in moist, organically rich, well-drained soils in full sun. Rhizomes may be left in the ground in USDA Zones 7-10, however in the St. Louis area (Zones 6a-5b), the rhizomes should be lifted in fall for overwintering. Plant rhizomes 4-6" deep in spring after threat of frost has passed. Remove entire flowering stems immediately after bloom. In fall, cut plants to the ground immediately after first frost and lift rhizome clumps for winter storage in a dry medium (peat or vermiculite) in a cool dry location than does not fall below 40 degrees F. Container grown plants can be stored in their containers in winter.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Cannas are large tropical plants that produce gladiolus-like flower spikes in summer atop erect stems sheathed in large paddle-shaped leaves. Plants sold in commerce are mostly hybrids ranging from 1.5' tall dwarfs to 8' tall giants. Flower colors typically include red, orange, pink, yellow, cream and some bicolors. Foliage colors include shades of green, bronze and striped/variegated. Dramatic foliage provides considerable ornamental interest when plants are not in flower.

Genus name comes from the Greek word *kanna* meaning a reed.

Problems

Rhizomes may rot in poorly drained wet soils. Watch for aster yellows. Japanese beetles, caterpillars, slugs and snails may chew on the foliage.

Garden Uses

Mass in beds or borders. Large containers.

Coreopsis verticillata 'Moonbeam'



Common Name: threadleaf coreopsis
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Asteraceae
Zone: 3 to 9
Height: 1.50 to 2.00 feet
Spread: 1.50 to 2.00 feet
Bloom Time: June to August
Bloom Description: Creamy yellow
Sun: Full sun
Water: Dry to medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Naturalize
Flower: Showy
Attracts: Butterflies
Tolerate: Deer, Drought, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c260>

Culture

Easily grown in dry to medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun. Thrives in poor, sandy or rocky soils with good drainage. Tolerant of heat, humidity and drought. Prompt deadheading of spent flower stalks can be tedious for a large planting, but does tend to encourage additional bloom and prevent any unwanted self-seeding. Plants may be sheared in mid to late summer to promote a fall rebloom and to remove any sprawling or unkempt foliage. Species plants can spread somewhat aggressively in the garden by both rhizomes and self-seeding.

Although species' plants freely self-seed, 'Moonbeam' is a sterile cultivar. Plants can spread somewhat aggressively in the garden by rhizomes.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Coreopsis verticillata, commonly called threadleaf coreopsis or whorled coreopsis, is a rhizomatous perennial which typically grows in dense, bushy clumps to 1-3' tall. Features yellow, daisy-like flowers (1-2" diameter) with yellow untoothed rays and yellow center disks. Flowers appear singly in loose clusters (cymes) in a profuse and lengthy late spring to late summer bloom. Shearing plants in mid-summer will promote a fall rebloom. Palmately 3-parted leaves with thread-like segments lend a fine-textured and airy appearance to the plant.

The genus name comes from the Greek words *koris* meaning bug and *opsis* meaning like in reference to the shape of the seed which resembles a bug or tick.

Specific epithet means having whorls in reference to the leaves.

Plants in the genus *Coreopsis* are sometimes commonly called tickseed in reference to the resemblance of the seeds to ticks.

'Moonbeam' is somewhat more compact (to 2' tall) and features pale yellow, daisy-like flowers (1-2" diameter) with untoothed rays and darker yellow center disks. 1992 Perennial Plant of the Year award.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Slugs and snails may occur. Tends to sprawl, particularly if grown in moist and/or fertile soils. Crown rot may occur if grown in moist, poorly drained soils. Uncommon diseases include botrytis, aster yellows, powdery mildew and fungal spots.

Garden Uses

Borders. Also effective in naturalized areas, native plant gardens or cottage gardens. Good plant for areas with poor, dry soils.

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Coreopsis grandiflora 'Early Sunrise'



Common Name: large-flowered tickseed
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Asteraceae
Zone: 4 to 9
Height: 1.50 to 2.00 feet
Spread: 1.50 to 2.00 feet
Bloom Time: May to August
Bloom Description: Yellow
Sun: Full sun
Water: Dry to medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Naturalize
Flower: Showy, Good Cut
Attracts: Butterflies
Tolerate: Rabbit, Deer, Drought, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=243938>

Culture

Easily grown in dry to medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun. Thrives in poor, sandy or rocky soils with good drainage. Tolerant of heat, humidity and drought. Prompt deadheading of spent flower stalks encourages additional bloom and prevents any unwanted self-seeding. Freely self seeds and can become somewhat weedy. Also spreads by rhizomes. Plants are somewhat short-lived and self-seeding helps perpetuate a good planting in the garden. Plants may be cut back hard in summer if foliage sprawls or becomes unkempt. When grown in borders or other formal garden areas, division may be needed every 2-3 years to maintain robustness. May be grown as annuals.

'Early Sunrise' generally comes true from seed.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Coreopsis grandiflora, commonly called large-flowered tickseed, is native to prairies, glades, open woods, thickets, roadsides and open ground in the southeastern U.S. from Florida to Texas and New Mexico north to Georgia, Missouri and Kansas. It typically grows in a clump to 2' tall. Daisy-like single flowers (2-3" diameter) feature deep yellow rays (notched at the tips) surrounding a darker golden yellow center disk. Flowers appear singly atop slender, erect stems rising to 2' tall. Flowers typically bloom from late spring to late summer and sometimes into fall, though bloom period can be much shorter if spent flowers are not regularly deadheaded. Upper leaves are pinnatifid and deeply lobed, but lower leaves at the base of the plant are lobeless and linear. Through introduction and garden escapes, this coreopsis has become established in the eastern and central U.S. well north of its native range.

The genus name comes from the Greek words *koris* meaning bug and *opsis* meaning like in reference to the shape of the seed which resembles a bug or tick.

Specific epithet means large-flowered.

Common name of tickseed is in reference to the resemblance of the seeds to ticks.

'Early Sunrise' is a compact cultivar which features solitary, yellow, daisy-like, semi-double flowers (to 2" diameter) with yellow rays and darker yellow center disks atop slender, erect stems rising to 18" tall.

Flowers typically bloom from late spring to late summer and sometimes well into fall, though bloom period can be much shorter if spent flowers are not regularly deadheaded. Spatulate to lanceolate leaves. Lower basal leaves are mostly entire, while smaller stem leaves are often pinnately lobed. 1989 All-America winner.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Foliage is susceptible to powdery mildew, leaf spot and rust. Compact plants are less likely to sprawl than taller varieties of coreopsis. Crown rot may occur if grown in moist, poorly drained soils.

Garden Uses

Borders. Also effective in naturalized areas, meadows, prairies or cottage gardens. Good plant for areas with poor, dry soils.

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Crocosmia pottsii



Common Name: montbretia
Type: Bulb
Family: Iridaceae
Native Range: Temperate southern Africa
Zone: 6 to 9
Height: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 1.50 feet
Bloom Time: July to August
Bloom Description: Orange
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Medium
Flower: Showy

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=281197&isprofile=1&basic=crocospia>

Culture

Best grown in moist, organically rich, slightly acidic, moderately fertile, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Prefers full sun in cool summer climates, but appreciates some part afternoon shade in hot summer climates such as the St. Louis area. Plant corms in spring after last frost date approximately 3-4" deep and 6" apart. In optimum growing conditions, plants will spread over time (stoloniferous corms) to form colonies. Plants may be propagated by division or removal of offsets. These plants are not reliably winter hardy throughout USDA Zone 5 where they will benefit from being sited in protected locations (e.g., near the south side of a house) and mulched in winter. To avoid risk of loss in Zone 5, corms may be lifted in fall, dried and then stored for winter in a dry medium in a cool but frost-free location.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Crocospia pottsii is a cormous perennial that is native to moist grasslands and stream banks in South Africa (Natal and Transvaal). It is a clump-forming plant that grows 2-3' tall. It is noted for its erect, sword-shaped, medium green, basal leaves (to 18-24" long) and deep orange flowers (to 1.25" long) that are sometimes flushed with red. Flowers appear in summer above the foliage on the upper portions of wiry, arching, branched scapes. This species is not commonly found in commerce, but it is one of the parents of the popular *Crocospia x crocosmiiflora* hybrids sold under the common name of montbretia.

Genus name comes from the Greek words *krokos* meaning saffron and *osme* meaning a smell for the smell of dried flowers steeped in warm water.

Specific epithet honors John Potts (d. 1822) or C.H. Potts (fl.1877).

Problems

Spider mites can cause significant damage to the foliage, and, if left unchecked, can impair normal flowering. Winter hardiness is a concern in the St. Louis area.

Garden Uses

Perennial borders. Also effective in containers where lifting corms for winter is rather simple.

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Daylilies



General information on Daylilies, of which there are many different varieties.

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/our-garden/notable-plant-collections/daylilies.aspx>

Daylilies are members of the lily family (Liliaceae) and are a perennial favorite for area gardeners. The daylily's scientific name, *Hemerocallis*, is a combination of the Greek words for beauty and day – a fitting description for a blossom that opens at dawn and withers by dusk. Fortunately, each stem produces numerous buds that bloom at different times, allowing visitors to enjoy daylilies for most of June and July.

The Garden displays more than 2,000 specimens, with over 1,800 in the Jenkins Daylily Garden. Of those hundreds of plants, there are over a dozen species represented and over 1,700 different hybrids. The Jenkins Daylily Garden is a sanctioned [American Hemerocallis Society](#) Display Garden. The collections are largely overseen by the local Missouri Botanical Garden Daylily Association and the [West County Daylily Society](#).

The modern daylily originated from plants growing in China and Japan where they have been cultivated for centuries. Early accounts in Chinese literature report the plant's roots and flowers being used for food and medicine. Boiled young shoots and fresh roots were consumed to prevent a variety of ailments including fever, hemorrhage, jaundice and cirrhosis.

Within the last 75 years, hybridizers have bred great improvements into the daylily from the wild forms found in the Far East. Most of these have been directed at improving the form, flower color and hardiness. Wild daylilies are only the colors of yellow, orange and fulvous (a pale, rusty orange hue). Now the color range has expanded to pinks, purples, pastels, near-blue and a wide assortment of patterned colors.

Hemerocallis – Daylily (group)

<https://www.bhg.com/gardening/plant-dictionary/perennial/daylily/>

Daylilies are so easy to grow you'll often find them growing in ditches and fields, escapees from gardens. And yet they look so delicate, producing glorious trumpet-shape blooms in myriad colors. In fact, there are some 50,000 named hybrid cultivars in a range of flower sizes (the minis are very popular), forms, and plant heights. Some are fragrant.

The flowers are borne on leafless stems. Although each bloom lasts but a single day, superior cultivars carry numerous buds on each scape so bloom time is long, especially if you deadhead daily. The strappy foliage may be evergreen or deciduous.

LIGHT:

Part Sun, Sun

TYPE:

Perennial

HEIGHT:

From 6 inches to 8 feet

WIDTH:

1-3 feet wide

FLOWER COLOR:

Blue, Orange, Pink, Red

FOLIAGE COLOR:

Chartreuse/Gold

SEASONAL FEATURES:

Spring Bloom, Summer Bloom

PROBLEM SOLVERS:

Drought Tolerant, Good For Privacy, Groundcover, Slope/Erosion Control

SPECIAL FEATURES:

Fragrance, Good for Containers, Low Maintenance

ZONES:

3-10

Propagation

Division

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ELEPHANT EAR PLANTS IN YOUR GARDEN

Learn how to grow and care for elephant ears, plus discover 7 great varieties

By Jenny Andrews



<https://www.gardendesign.com/plants/elephant-ear.html>

(SAMPLE Picture)

Share:

Elephant ears bring to mind lush, tropical forests, adding drama to both gardens and containers. The most recognized forms have heart or arrow shaped leaves (often oversized) with decorative veining, inspiring the common name elephant ears. No plant satisfies the craving for a taste of the tropics like alocasias, popular in Victorian times, they have enjoyed a rebirth in the recent craze for zonal-denial, exotic plants.

COMMON TYPES OF ELEPHANT EARS

- [COLOCASIA](#)

- [ALOCASIA](#)

- [CALADIUM](#)

- [XANTHOSOMA](#)

Zones:

7-12

Exposure:

Full sun/part shade

Soil:

Medium to wet, organically rich

Height:

3 to 10 feet

Spread:

2 to 10 feet

Originating in tropical parts of Asia and India, *Colocasia* plants like it warm and humid. Their leaves point downward and they have edible tubers, called taro. Their size makes them a great specimen plant and if you're lucky yours may produce calla lily-like flowers. Warning: certain *Colocasia* species are considered invasive along the Gulf Coast.

ELEPHANT EAR CARE

High drama and bold texture are the signature benefits of showcasing alocasias in a garden or container. Growing elephant ears is simple — they like filtered sun or shade and rich, moist soil. Elephant ear plants, which are grown from tuberous rhizomes, can reach impressive sizes quickly.

Zones:

In warm climates, similar to their native humid and tropical Southeast Asia, elephant ears will grow as perennials. In cooler areas they will need to be replanted each year.

How climate affects elephant ears:

- Fully hardy in Zones 9 to 11
- Many are proving root-hardy in Zone 8 and a very few in Zone 7
- Most can endure temperatures down to 30 degrees
- Will go dormant with a frost or temperatures below 45

Overwintering:

In zones colder than 8, or with less hardy alocasias, the tuberous rhizomes can be stored over winter.

After a frost, do the following:

1. Cut back foliage
2. Dig up rhizomes
3. Allow to dry for a few days
4. Store in an open container with peat moss or dry potting soil barely covering the rhizome
Keep them cool (45 to 55 degrees), and dry

For winter protection outdoors in Zone 8 (and Zone 7 if you're feeling lucky), cover the base of the plant with four to 12 inches of mulch.

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Alstroemeria pulchella variegated (pictured)

Common Name: Frosted Peruvian Lily



General Information from: <http://www.thegardenhelper.com/alstroemeria.html>



Peruvian Lily plants are tuberous rooted perennials with bright green, lance shaped foliage that grow 2-3 feet tall.

They produce loose clusters of speckled, 1½"-2" Azalea-like flowers on long, leafy stems in late spring into mid summer.

Alstroemerias are low maintenance, long lived plants that are prized for their usability in cut flower bouquets.

There are about fifty species of Alstroemeria that were discovered in South America in the 18th century and brought back to Europe where botanists quickly began to experiment and create new hybrid cultivars.

Most commonly available Peruvian Lilies are hybrids of *Alstroemeria aurea*, *A. ligtu* or *A. chiliensis*.

Growing Requirements for Alstroemeria Plants

Peruvian Lily plants are hardy in [USDA zones 7-10](#).

They should be grown in full sun except in hot summer regions, where they will do fine in light shade. Peruvian Lilies should be grown in rich, light, [slightly acidic soil](#).

Prepare the [planting hole](#) by adding generous amounts of [compost](#) and peat moss to the soil along with coarse builders sand for added drainage. Alstroemeria tubers should be planted 6"-8" deep, using care not to damage their brittle roots.

Water regularly and thoroughly to keep the soil evenly moist.

In cold winter regions, apply a heavy mulch of [peat moss](#) or dry leaves in the fall.

[Top-dress](#) with well rotted manure or compost as soon as new growth begins each spring.



In areas where they aren't hardy, the tubers should be dug up in late fall and stored in some damp potting soil and kept in a cool, dark area.

Alstroemerias are suitable for [growing in pots](#) and can be [maintained as house plants](#)

if you can provide them with a cool space and sufficient sun.

Water regularly, but be careful not to over-water. Reduce watering in the winter months.

Feed every 2-3 weeks when in bloom, using a ½ strength solution of a soluble, [bloom type fertilizer](#).

Pick Alstroemeria Flowers, Do Not Cut Them

Cutting Alstroemeria flowers will slow the growth of the plant.

The proper method of harvesting Peruvian Lily flowers is to grasp the stem a few inches from the ground and twist it as you pull it upward.

This will detach the flower cleanly from the rhizome and promote heavier flower production.

Propagating Peruvian Lilies and Growing them from Seed

Alstroemerias should be left undisturbed for as long as possible before digging and dividing them because they will take 2 or 3 seasons to re-establish themselves after transplanting.

They should only be divided in early spring.

Alstroemeria seeds can be planted directly into the garden in early spring, once the temperature reaches about 40°. In mild winter regions, they should be planted in the fall.

Sow seeds indoors in late winter. Maintain a soil temperature of 55° until germination, which takes 15-20 days. Once the seedlings are 5"-6" tall, give them a light feeding of a slow release fertilizer.

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Gaura lindheimeri 'Whirling Butterflies'



Common Name: gaura
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Onagraceae
Zone: 5 to 9
Height: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Spread: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Bloom Time: May to September
Bloom Description: White
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Medium
Flower: Showy

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=245599>

Culture

Best grown in sandy, loamy, well-drained soils in full sun. Good drainage is essential. A taprooted plant which tolerates heat, humidity and some drought. Remove spent flower spikes to prolong bloom period. Thin flower stems tend to become leggy and flop, particularly when grown in rich soils, and plants can benefit from close planting or support from adjacent perennials. Plants (particularly those which typically grow tall) may be cut back in late spring by 1/2 to control size. May self-seed if spent flower stems are left in place in the fall.

Although the species will self-seed, this cultivar is sterile.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Gaura lindheimeri, commonly called gaura, is a herbaceous clump-forming perennial that is native to Texas and Louisiana. It grows to as much as 5' tall on stems clad with spoon-shaped to lanceolate leaves (to 3" long). Pinkish buds along wiry, erect, wand-like stems open to white flowers which slowly fade to pink. Flowers appear in long, open, terminal panicles and open only a few at a time. Narrow, lance-shaped, stemless leaves (1-3" long) are occasionally spotted with maroon.

Genus name comes from the Greek *gauros* meaning superb in reference to the beautiful flowers.

Specific epithet honors Ferdinand Jacob Lindheimer (1801-1879), Texas plant collector.

'Whirling Butterflies' features arching red stems, pink flower buds and 4-petaled snow white flowers (1" diameter) which appear in long, terminal, wand-like panicles above the foliage over a very long late spring to autumn bloom period. Flowers open only a few at a time, and dance in the wind like butterflies, hence the cultivar name. Typically grows 2-3' tall. Differs from the species *Gaura lindheimeri* by being more compact and more floriferous with flowers being a brighter white. Narrow lance-shaped leaves (1-3" long) are sometimes spotted with maroon.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Root rot may occur in heavy and/or poorly drained soils. Rust and powdery mildew may also occur. Watch for aphids, whitefly and flea beetles.

Taller plants may need support.

Garden Uses

Effective in sunny borders or wild gardens.

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GENERAL INFO ON BEARDED IRIS

Iris pallida 'Variegata'



Common Name: iris
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Iridaceae
Zone: 4 to 9
Height: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Spread: 1.50 to 2.00 feet
Bloom Time: May to June
Bloom Description: Pale lavender-blue
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Medium
Flower: Showy, Fragrant
Leaf: Colorful
Tolerate: Deer, Drought

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a795>

Culture

Best grown in moist, humusy, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Established plants tolerate some dry conditions. Best in sunny locations, but this species is more shade-tolerant than many other species of *Iris*. Divide in late summer as needed.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Iris pallida is commonly known as Dalmatian iris because it is native to Dalmatia, a province of Croatia. It is also native to the southern Alps. It is a rhizomatous bearded iris that features sword-shaped, gray-green leaves (to 24" long) and sweetly fragrant, pale lavender-blue flowers with yellow beards. Flowers (3-5" across) appear in late spring to early summer atop sparsely-branched scapes rising to 40" tall. Spathes are white and papery. The species is sometime cultivated as a source of orris (from the rhizomes), which is used in perfumes and breath fresheners. Also commonly known as sweet iris, orris or orris root.

Genus named for the Greek goddess of the rainbow.

Specific epithet means pale.

'Variegata' features gray-green leaves variegated with stripes of creamy yellow. It is synonymous with 'Aurea Variegata'.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Susceptible to iris borer.

Garden Uses

Good iris for partial shade locations. Borders, open woodland gardens, shade gardens.

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Kalimeris pinnatifida 'Hortensis'



Common Name: kalimeris, aster
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Asteraceae
Zone: 4 to 8
Height: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Spread: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Bloom Time: June to October
Bloom Description: White
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Flower: Showy, Good Cut

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=p820>

Culture

Hardy to USDA Zones 4-8 where it is easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Appreciates some part afternoon shade in hot summer climates. Shelter from strong winds. This is an easy plant to grow. It is often considered to be an aster look-alike. Alan Armitage has asserted that "If gardeners are confused about what plant to begin with, I usually recommend this one."

Noteworthy Characteristics

Kalimeris pinnatifida, commonly known as Japanese aster, is an herbaceous perennial that typically grows to 2-3' tall and as wide. It is native to Japan. Semi-double daisy-like flowers (to 1" wide), each featuring white rays and a pale yellow center disk, bloom abundantly over a long early summer to fall bloom period. Flowers are very similar in appearance to some asters and boltonias. Flowers bloom abundantly over a long early summer to fall bloom period. Finely-cut basal leaves (to 3 1/2" long) are pinnately lobed. Much smaller stem leaves are usually entire.

Specific epithet means pinnately cut in reference to the leaves.

Commonly called Japanese aster because of its Japanese origin, chrysanthemum-like double flowers, and general resemblance to wild asters.

'Hortensis' is a pure white form with double flowers on a 3' tall plant.

Problems

No significant insect or disease problems. Watch for root rot in poorly drained soils.

Garden Uses

Provides color and contrast to the perennial border, wild garden or meadow. Mass or group in borders.

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Helleborus orientalis



Common Name: hellebore
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Ranunculaceae
Native Range: Northeastern Greece, northern and northeastern Turkey, Caucasian Russia
Zone: 4 to 9
Height: 1.00 to 1.50 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 1.50 feet
Bloom Time: April
Bloom Description: White to pink to rose-purple with yellow stamens
Sun: Part shade to full shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Naturalize
Flower: Showy
Leaf: Evergreen
Other: Winter Interest
Tolerate: Deer, Heavy Shade, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil, Air Pollution

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=d100>

Culture

Best grown in organically rich, humusy, well-drained soils in part shade to full shade. Locate plants in areas protected from cold winter winds. Clumps establish fairly quickly. Although the foliage is evergreen, it may become scorched and tattered in extremely harsh winters, particularly if not sited in locations protected from cold winter winds and/or insulated by snow cover. Cut back flowering stems after bloom to promote new foliage growth. New plants can be obtained from division of the clumps (best in spring) and from seedlings which grow up around the plants as a result of self seeding. A slightly larger and much easier plant to grow than the similar, but earlier blooming, *Helleborus niger*.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Helleborus orientalis, commonly called Lenten rose, is a clump-forming, late winter-blooming perennial which typically grows 1-1.5' tall. Features large, cup-shaped, rose-like, usually nodding flowers (3-4" diameter) with center crowns of conspicuously contrasting yellow stamens. Flowers usually appear in clusters of 1-4 on thick stems rising above the foliage. Flower color is extremely variable, ranging from white to pink to light rose-purple, frequently with interior spotting. Palmate, serrate, leathery, 8-16" wide, glossy, basal, dark green leaves (7-9 leaflets) are evergreen in warm climates but deciduous in extremely cold winters. In the St. Louis area, plants will remain evergreen in moderate winters, but may become scorched and tattered in extremely cold weather, particularly if not insulated by snow cover. Blooms in late winter (sometimes when snow is still present) and continues into spring, with a long, 8-10 week bloom period. Leaves, stems and roots are poisonous.

Genus name comes from the Greek words *bora* meaning food and *helein* meaning injures/destroys in reference to the plant's toxic leaves, stems and roots which are poisonous to humans if ingested.

Specific epithet means from the Orient.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Leaf spot and crown rot are occasional problems. A rugged and easy-to-grow plant.

Garden Uses

Clumps of Lenten rose blooming in February or March are true harbingers of spring. Locate plants near a kitchen window, patio or walkway so that the early bloom may be enjoyed to the fullest. Group in shady locations under trees or large shrubs, woodland gardens or border fronts. May also be incorporated into a naturalized area where clumps will slowly spread through self-seeding. May also be massed to form an attractive ground cover.

Liatris spicata



Common Name: blazing star
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Asteraceae
Native Range: Eastern United States
Zone: 3 to 8
Height: 2.00 to 4.00 feet
Spread: 0.75 to 1.50 feet
Bloom Time: July to August
Bloom Description: Red-purple
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Rain Garden
Flower: Showy, Good Cut, Good Dried
Attracts: Birds, Butterflies
Tolerate: Drought, Clay Soil
[Garden locations](#)

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=d780>

Culture

Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soils in full sun. Somewhat tolerant of poor soils, but prefers moist, fertile ones and generally performs better in moist soils than most other species of *Liatris*. Intolerant of wet soils in winter. Tolerant of summer heat and humidity. May be grown from seed, but is slow to establish.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Liatris spicata, commonly called blazing star, dense blazing star or marsh blazing star, is a tall, upright, clump-forming perennial which is native to moist low grounds, meadows and marsh margins. In Missouri, it has only been found in Oregon County on the Arkansas border (Steyermark). It typically grows 2-4' tall in cultivation, but can reach a height of 6' in some parts of its native habitat. Features terminal spikes (6-12" long) of sessile, rounded, fluffy, deep purple flower heads (each to 3/4" across) appearing atop rigid, erect, leafy flower stalks. One or more stalks arise from a basal tuft of narrow, grass-like, medium green leaves (to 12" long). Stem leaves gradually decrease in size toward the top. Blooms in summer. *Liatris* belongs to the aster family, with each flower head having only fluffy disk flowers (resembling "blazing stars") and no ray flowers. The feathery flower heads of *liatris* give rise to another common name of gayfeather.

Genus name of unknown origin.

See also *L. spicata* 'Kobold' which is a popular compact cultivar that is less likely to need staking than the species.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Taller plants may require staking or other support.

Garden Uses

Mass in perennial borders, native plant gardens, cottage gardens and prairie areas.



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Marigolds (group)

Calendula officinalis



Common Name: marigold
Type: Annual
Zone: 2 to 11
Height: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
Tried and Trouble-free

Caltha palustris



Species Native to Missouri
Common Name: marsh marigold
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Zone: 3 to 7
Height: 1.00 to 1.50 feet
Tried and Trouble-free

Tagetes erecta



Common Name: African marigold
Type: Annual
Zone: 2 to 11
Height: 1.00 to 4.00 feet
Tried and Trouble-free

Tagetes patula



Common Name: French marigold
Type: Annual
Zone: 2 to 11
Height: 0.50 to 1.00 feet
Tried and Trouble-free

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderprofileResults.aspx?basic=marigold>

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Cuphea hyssopifolia



Common Name: false Heather
Type: Broadleaf evergreen
Family: Lythraceae
Native Range: Mexico, Guatemala
Zone: 9 to 11
Height: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
Spread: 0.75 to 2.50 feet
Bloom Time: Flowers freely
Bloom Description: Lavender
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Annual
Flower: Showy

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a113>

Culture

Winter hardy to USDA Zones 9-11. In the St. Louis area, it is grown as an annual, container plant or houseplant. In the garden, it is easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soils in full sun. May be grown from seed started indoors 8-10 weeks before last frost date. Tolerates high summer heat and some drought. Best with regular moisture. If grown in containers, plants may be overwintered indoors in warm, sunny locations. Easily propagated from tip cuttings. Best to start new plants each year, however.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Cuphea hyssopifolia, commonly called Mexican heather, is native from Mexico to Guatemala. It is a rounded, densely branched 1-2' tall tropical sub-shrub. It produces quaint, small, trumpet-shaped flowers with six spreading lavender petals and green calyx tubes. Flowers appear singly in the leaf axils along stems crowded with lance-shaped glossy green leaves (to 3/4" long). Blooms profusely summer to frost. Although heather-like in appearance, this plant is not a member of the heather family, hence the sometimes used common name of false heather. Some white- and pink-flowered cultivars are available. Flowers are attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies.

Genus name comes from the Greek word *kyphos* meaning curved or humped in probable reference to the shape of its seed capsules.

Specific epithet means leaves like hyssop.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. For more information see: [Problems Common to Many Indoor Plants](#)

Garden Uses

Annual for borders, beds, ground cover or edgings along walkways or paths. Container plant for decks, patios or porches. Hanging baskets. Houseplant.

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Ruellia simplex 'Purple Showers'



Common Name: Mexican petunia
Type: Broadleaf evergreen
Family: Acanthaceae
Zone: 8 to 10
Height: 3.00 to 4.00 feet
Spread: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Bloom Time: Flowers freely
Bloom Description: Purple
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium to wet
Maintenance: Medium
Suggested Use: Annual, Rain Garden
Flower: Showy
Leaf: Evergreen
Attracts: Butterflies
Other: Winter Interest
Tolerate: Drought, Wet Soil
Invasive: [Where is this species invasive in the US?](#)

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c952>

Culture

Winter hardy to USDA Zone 8 (marginally hardy in Zone 7 with protection and mulch) where it is best grown in medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade. Best flowering is in full sun. This plant thrives in moist, fertile, humusy but well-drained soils. It is a versatile plant that tolerates an extremely wide range of growing conditions. It thrives as a marginal water plant and in boggy soils. It also does well in average garden soils with even moisture. Established plants have respectable drought tolerance. Plants also tolerate high heat and humidity. Cut back stems after flowering to encourage new flowers. Plants will spread by rhizomes and self-seeding in the garden, and have escaped gardens and aggressively naturalized in parts of the southeastern U.S. Notwithstanding its value as an excellent flowering plant, this species is currently listed as a Category One invasive species by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FEPPC) because it has been found to invade natural areas and displace native flora in the State of Florida. Plants are most invasive in moist areas. Invasiveness is clearly not a problem in St. Louis, however, where these plants are grown as annuals, with stem cuttings overwintered indoors if desired. Easy to propagate by cuttings, division and seed.

'Purple Showers' does not produce seed, but will spread by rhizomes where winter hardy.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Ruellia simplex, commonly called Mexican petunia or Texas petunia, is a vigorous, shrubby, woody-based, rhizomatous perennial that is grown as an annual north of USDA Zone 8. It is native to Mexico, but has escaped gardens and naturalized somewhat aggressively in parts of the southeastern U. S. from South Carolina to Texas plus Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the U. S. Virgin Islands. It typically grows to 3-4' tall in the wild, but to 2-3' tall in gardens. Plants branch from the ground into several woody-based stems clothed with elongated, linear, willow-like, dark green leaves (to 6-12" long and 3/4" wide) that are often tinged with purple. Tubular, trumpet-shaped, 5-lobed, petunia-like, lavender to violet flowers (to 1.75" long) bloom from the upper leaf axils in loose purple-stemmed clusters (long-stalked cymes). Each flower blooms for only one day. Best flowering occurs in the deep South near the temperatures of its Mexican origin where flowers may appear from May to November, but sometimes year round. Flowering is very respectable but less frequent when plants are grown as annuals in northern gardens, but will typically bloom from May to September. Flowers are followed by bean-like pods (to 1" long) which explosively dehisce mature seed in all directions.

Considerable confusion has existed over the years as to the correct specific epithet for this plant. It is been given a number of different names, including *R. brittoniana*, *R. coerulea*, *R. malacosperma* and *R. tweediana*. At this time, *Ruellia simplex* is the preferred specific epithet because it has been determined that this was the name first given to this plant in 1870 when it was described in Cuba, and accordingly that name has priority.

Straight species is rarely sold, but several established cultivars (none patented) are regularly sold (pink, purple or white flowers in tall and dwarf forms).

Genus name honors Jean de la Ruelle (1474-1537), French herbalist and physician to Francois I (1494-1547) who was king of France from 1515 until his death in 1547.

Specific epithet of *simplex* is in reference to the leaves being simple.

'Purple Showers' is a vigorous, upright, Mexican petunia (also called Mexican blue bell) that typically grows in a clump to 3-4' tall. Tubular, petunia-like flowers (to 1.5") bloom freely from the leaf axils from late spring to frost (sometime year round in USDA Zones 8-10) on greenish-purple stems clad with linear, willowy, sword-shaped, green leaves. Flowers last only one day, but plants often produce an impressive non-stop succession of bloom. This cultivar that is sterile and will not produce seed, but can still spread aggressively by rhizomes and floating pieces of root. Considered by some experts to be much less invasive than the non-sterile Mexican species. Missouri Botanical Garden Plant of Merit

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Once established in the wild, plants are very difficult to eradicate. Plants may spread invasively by self-seeding and rhizomes. Seeds persist in the soil. Seeds explosively dehisce. Both seeds and bits of rhizome will float in water.

'Purple Showers' is a sterile cultivar.

Garden Uses

Excellent annual flowering plant for areas where it is not winter hardy. For USDA Zones 8-10, it may be effectively grown in bog gardens, as a pond marginal, and in beds and borders. It can be significantly invasive in areas such as the State of Florida where it is has been declared to be a Category 1 invasive species. Excellent free-blooming plant in large containers. May be grown indoors as a houseplant.

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Monarda 'Gardenview Scarlet'



Common Name: bee balm
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Lamiaceae
Zone: 4 to 9
Height: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
Bloom Time: June to August
Bloom Description: Red
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium to wet
Maintenance: Medium
Suggested Use: Herb, Naturalize, Rain Garden
Flower: Showy, Good Cut
Leaf: Fragrant
Attracts: Hummingbirds
Tolerate: Deer, Wet Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=e280>

Culture

Most hybrids are of *Monarda didyma* parentage and are easily grown in average, medium to wet, moisture retentive soils in full sun to part shade. Those of *Monarda fistulosa* parentage are more tolerant of drier soils. Prefers rich, humusy soils in full sun, but appreciates some afternoon shade in hot summer climates such as the St. Louis area. Soils must not be allowed to dry out. Remove spent flowers to improve plant appearance and possibly to prolong bloom. Divide clumps every 3-4 years to prevent overcrowding and to control mildly spreading tendencies (slowly spreads by rhizomes). Provide plants with good air circulation to help combat fungal leaf diseases.

Also spreads by self-seeding.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Monarda is a genus of about 15 species of annuals and herbaceous perennials from prairies and woodlands in North America. They flower from mid-summer to early fall and are loved by bees, hummingbirds and other pollinators.

Genus name honors Nicholas Monardes (1493-1588), physician and botanist of Seville.

Some monardas are commonly called beebalm in reference to a prior use of the leaves as a balm for bee stings.

'Gardenview Scarlet' features tubular, two-lipped, rose red flowers borne in dense, globular, terminal heads (like unkempt mop-heads) atop square stems rising to 3' tall. Each flower head is subtended by (rests upon) a whorl of showy, red-tinged, leafy bracts. Long summer bloom period. Toothed, aromatic leaves can be used for tea and in salads. Attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies and bees, particularly when massed.

Problems

Powdery mildew can be a serious problem with some of the monardas. Susceptibility to foliar diseases in general increases if plants are grown in dry soils or are allowed to dry out. Rust is also an occasional

problem.

This cultivar is reported to have resistance to powdery mildew.

Garden Uses

Perennial borders, cottage gardens, herb gardens, moist sunny areas along streams or ponds. Also effective in containers.

A good plant for attracting hummingbirds to a bird garden.

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Lunaria annua



Common Name: annual honesty or money plant
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Brassicaceae
Native Range: Central and southern Europe
Zone: 5 to 9
Height: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
Bloom Time: April to May
Bloom Description: Purple
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Annual
Flower: Showy
Fruit: Showy
Invasive: [Where is this species invasive in the US?](#)

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=b743>

Culture

Easily grown in moist, organically rich, garden soils in full sun to part shade. Full sun is appropriate in northern areas, but plants appreciate some afternoon shade in the St. Louis area. Although biennial, this plant freely self-seeds in the garden, and once established, will never disappear. Sow seeds outdoors in spring as soon as the ground can be worked. Plants produce only foliage the first year, but bloom and fruit the second year before dying. In USDA Zones 8-10, seed may be sown in fall and plants will flower and seed the following year.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Lunaria annua, commonly called silver dollar, dollar plant, money plant, moonwort, honesty and lunaria, is a tall, hairy-stemmed biennial that is native to southeastern Europe and western Asia. It has been widely planted in North America, and over time has escaped gardens and naturalized in many parts of the U. S. and southern Canada. Plants grow to 2-3' tall clad with alternate to opposite, oval to heart-shaped, serrated, medium green leaves that are pointed at the tip. Upper leaves are sessile. Racemes of 4-petaled purple flowers (to 1/2" across) bloom above the foliage in spring (April-May). Flowers give way in mid-summer to sprays of flattened, paper-thin, silver-dollar sized fruit (silicles to 2" wide) which become translucent with maturity. As the common name suggests, the fruits are the most noteworthy ornamental feature of this plant. *Hortus Third* describes a fruit as "a flat, oblong-elliptic to nearly orbicular silicle with satiny, paper-white septum." Fruit-laden stems are valued for dried arrangements. Remove stems from the garden just as the green fruit color disappears and bring them inside for hanging upside down to dry. *Lunaria annua* var. *alba* features white flowers.

Genus name comes from the Latin word *luna* meaning the moon for the flat rounded seed-vessel suggesting the full moon.

Specific epithet means annual.

Problems

No known serious insect or disease problems. Leaf spot and stem canker may occur.

Garden Uses

Borders. Open woodlands. Naturalized areas. Shade gardens. Cutting garden. Excellent for dried flower arrangements.

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Rosa 'New Dawn'



Common Name: large-flowered climbing rose
Type: Deciduous shrub
Family: Rosaceae
Zone: 5 to 9
Height: 8.00 to 12.00 feet
Spread: 3.00 to 6.00 feet
Bloom Time: May to frost
Bloom Description: Blush pink
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Medium
Flower: Showy, Fragrant
Attracts: Butterflies
Fruit: Showy
Other: Thorns

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=252298&isprofile=0&>

Culture

Best grown in medium moisture, slightly acidic, well-drained garden loams in full sun to very light shade. Best flowering and disease resistance generally occur in full sun, however. Water deeply and regularly (mornings are best). Avoid overhead watering. Good air circulation promotes vigorous and healthy growth and helps control foliar diseases. Summer mulch helps retain moisture, keeps roots cool and discourages weeds. Remove spent flowers to encourage rebloom. Crowns need winter protection in cold winter areas such as St. Louis. Remove and destroy diseased leaves from plants, as practicable, and clean up and destroy dead leaves from the ground around the plants both during the growing season and as part of a thorough cleanup during winter (dormant season). Prune as needed in late winter to early spring.

Avoid pruning for the first two years after planting to allow the long canes of this climber to develop.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Rosa is a genus of about 150 species of deciduous (occasionally evergreen) shrubs and climbers noted for their beautiful, often fragrant, single, semidouble or double flowers which are borne singly or in clusters on often prickly stems clad with 5-9 leaflets often having toothed margins.

Climbing roses usually need support by securing to a pillar, fence or wall but some can be grown more as a shrub. Some are also suitable as a groundcover. Many rebloom throughout summer but some flower just once in spring.

Genus name comes from the Latin name.

'New Dawn' is considered by many to be one of the best of the repeating climbers. This large-flowered climbing rose typically grows 8-12' tall. Features fragrant, blush pink, double flowers (to 3" across). Blooms late spring to frost. Glossy, dark green foliage. Abundant red hips in autumn. A sport of *Rosa* 'Dr. W. Van Fleet'.

Problems

Roses are susceptible to a large number of diseases, the most common of which are black spot, powdery mildew, rust and rose rosette. Although good cultural practices are the first line of defense in disease

control, regular preventative fungicide applications throughout the growing season are usually required, particularly in humid climates with regular summer rainfall such as the St. Louis area. Potential insect problems include aphids, beetles, borers, scale, thrips, rose midges, leafhoppers and spider mites. Local rose associations and extension services are usually able to offer specific recommendations and advice for selecting and growing roses.

'New Dawn' has excellent resistance to the aforementioned diseases.

Garden Uses

Best as a climber rose for walls, arbors, trellises, along fences or around pillars.

May also be grown as a free-standing shrub.

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Epiphyllum oxypetalum

Dutchman's Pipe Cactus, Night blooming Cereus



Epiphyllum oxypetalum (also known as Dutchman's pipe cactus, queen of the night and night-blooming cereus) is a large epiphytic cactus native to Mexico and Brazil. Epiphyllum oxypetalum reaches 20 feet in height. The dark green branches reach 3 feet long. This cactus lacks true leaves; its leaf-like growth is really flattened stems. Its showy blooms appear in late spring or early summer, and its white flowers are 11 inches long and 5 inches wide. This fragrant, nocturnal bloom opens in the late evening and closes again at sunrise. Epiphyllum oxypetalum is commonly grown as a houseplant.

<https://www.gardenguides.com/110724-care-epiphyllum-oxypetalum.html>

Plant your Epiphyllum oxypetalum in moist, well-draining soil. Mix two parts peat moss, one part sand and one part pine bark.

Place your cactus in a site with full sunlight to partial shade exposure. The site should not be an area where temperatures fall below 35 degrees F.

Water Epiphyllum oxypetalum daily or whenever the surface is dry. Reduce the amount of water given in the winter. Do not let the soil dry out all the way.

Feed every month with a 10-10-10 balanced fertilizer diluted to half strength. Do not fertilize the Epiphyllum oxypetalum during its inactive period during the winter.

Stake or tie the vines to a small lattice. This provides the support the cactus branches need to grow upright.

Repot Epiphyllum oxypetalum every two years to keep the cactus healthy. This plant likes crowded roots. Re-pot to replace the soil nutrients, improve water drainage and add air to its roots.

- Propagate Epiphyllum oxypetalum with stem cuttings. This cactus rarely produces seeds. Allow the cut stem to dry for a week in a cool, dry area. Dip the cut end in rooting hormone and plant in loose soil. Do not water for 2 to 3 weeks, which forces the roots to grow.

Warning

- Epiphyllum oxypetalum are targets for mealy bugs which look like tiny white puffs of cotton. Wipe the mealy bugs off with a cotton swab dipped in rubbing alcohol.

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Spathiphyllum (group)



Common Name: peace lily
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Araceae
Zone: 11 to 12
Height: 1.00 to 6.00 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 5.00 feet
Bloom Time: Flowers freely
Bloom Description: White
Sun: Part shade to full shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Flower: Showy
Leaf: Evergreen
Tolerate: Heavy Shade

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=b568>

Culture

The soil for the peace lily should be kept moist but not soggy. Let the soil dry between waterings, but do not allow to wilt; this causes the leaves to yellow. When watering, use water that is at room temperature and has been allowed to sit so that the chlorine can evaporate. *Spathiphyllum* grow very well with sub-irrigation. These plants do well in lower light situations, but prefer bright filtered light. Do not place in direct sun. When grown indoors, *Spathiphyllum* have very low fertility needs. Apply fertilizer at one quarter of the recommended strength. Over fertilizing can produce burning of tips and roots. Peace lilies enjoy warm conditions between 68 and 85F during the day and a 10 degree drop at night. Cold, and drafty conditions in the 40's and 50's will slow growth considerably. Extended periods below 40 can damage leaves, stems and roots. The plant requires a large pot and should be kept somewhat potbound. Repot, if necessary in February or March.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Spathiphyllum is Greek for leaf-spathe, referring to the character of the spathe, which is the bract or leaf surrounding or subtending a thick, protruding flower cluster. This easy care plant has beautiful glossy green leaves and the unusual ability to blossom in medium light. The pure white flower changes to pale green after 10 days and then remains lovely for at least another month.

Genus name comes from the Greek word *spathe* and *phyllon* meaning a leaf from the leaflike spathe.

Problems

Few pest problems are associated with this plant. Mealybugs are probably the most common insect indoors. Because of the wide foliage, cleaning the leaves regularly with a damp cloth to remove dust will help not only in appearance but also in removing some pests which tend to gather under the bottom of the leaves.

Garden Uses

In recent years, peace lilies have gained a reputation for their ability to remove vaporized solvents from the atmosphere. Because of this, along with their ability to flower with fairly low light levels, they are widely used as pot plants in shopping malls and offices.

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Paeonia lactiflora - Peony



Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Paeoniaceae
Zone: 3 to 8
Height: 2.50 to 3.00 feet
Spread: 2.50 to 3.00 feet
Bloom Time: May
Bloom Description: Pink (double)
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Medium
Flower: Showy, Fragrant, Good Cut
Attracts: Butterflies
Tolerate: Rabbit, Deer

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=q400>

Culture

Easily grown in rich, fertile, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Plants need abundant moisture during the early part of the growing season. Plants appreciate some part afternoon shade in hot summer climates. Add compost as needed before planting. Rootstock buds (eyes) should be planted about 2" below the soil surface. Each plant will flower for approximately 7-10 days. *P. lactiflora* is a late blooming species (May-early June). Peony bloom time in the garden can be extended to about 6 weeks (late April-early June) by growing a combination of early, midseason and late blooming cultivars. Remove spent flowers after bloom. Cut foliage to the ground and remove from the garden in fall after frost. Plants are long-lived, do not need to be divided and can be left undisturbed for years. Plants need a cold winter dormant season. Best performance typically occurs in USDA Zones 5-7, but plants often perform well in the northern parts of Zone 8. Cover root areas with mulch in winter, especially in climates where snow cover is minimal. Named cultivars will not come true from seed.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Paeonia lactiflora, commonly known as common garden peony or Chinese peony, is an erect, clump-forming, shrub-like, herbaceous perennial that typically grows to 20-30" tall on stems tinged with red. It is classified as a late-blooming species, featuring flowers in mid- to late spring and continuing attractive foliage throughout the summer and early fall. Stems die to the ground after frost. This species is native to central Asia, ranging from eastern Siberia to Mongolia to eastern Tibet to northern China. It has been grown in China since the 7th century for appreciation of its ornamental flowers. It was introduced into North America in the 1800s. Dark green compound leaves 8-12" long have 9 elliptic leaflets with irregular margins. Leaves may turn rusty orange in fall. Cup or bowl shaped flowers (3-5" across) with 8-10 white,

pink or crimson petals typically feature a conspicuous center boss of yellow stamens. Some double-flowered cultivars are available. Flowers of most cultivars are fragrant. Fruits consist of horizontally spreading follicles that split open at maturity. Plants have thickened tuberous roots.

Genus name comes from the Greek name for Paeon, physician of the gods and reputed discoverer of the medicinal properties of plants in this genus.

Specific epithet means with milk-white flowers.

'Sarah Bernhardt' is a herbaceous (soft stemmed) peony cultivar. It is a shrubby plant that, each year, will typically grow to 3' tall by mid-spring, bloom, display attractive foliage throughout the summer and early fall, and then die to the ground after frost. An old standard that features very large, very fragrant, rose-pink double flowers. Blooms in late season (usually May-June in the St. Louis area). Glossy green foliage is divided into oval to lance-shaped leaflets. Excellent cut flower. (Lemoine, 1906).

Problems

Peonies are considered to be relatively pest free. Botrytis blight and Phytophthora blight are sometimes problems. Ants on peony buds are common and totally harmless. If plants do not flower, possible causes include: (1) planted too deep or too shallow, (2) planted in too much shade, (3) late frost killed flower buds or (4) plant is too young or has been recently moved or disturbed. Large, semi-double blooms may need staking or other support because they tend to arch toward the ground in the best of weather and can be literally driven into the ground by a hard rain. Potential insect pests include thrips, scale, mealybugs, bulb mites and hoplia beetles.

Garden Uses

Peonies are a standard of the perennial border, both as specimens and in groups. They are long-lived perennials, and are effective as accents or herbaceous hedges along fences, sidewalks, driveways or walls. Flowers are extremely showy, and foliage remains attractive throughout the growing season either alone or as a frame or backdrop for other perennials.

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Hymenocallis latifolia



Common Name: Cayman Islands spider-lily/Peruvian Daffodil
Type: Bulb
Family: Amaryllidaceae
Native Range: Florida, Cuba, Haiti, Cayman Islands
Zone: 10 to 11
Height: 1.00 to 3.00 feet
Spread: 2.00 to 4.00 feet
Bloom Time: July to August
Bloom Description: White
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium to wet
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Water Plant
Flower: Showy, Fragrant

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=275734>

Culture

Reliably winter hardy to USDA Zone 10-11. Plants are best grown in humusy, fertile, consistently moist to wet soils in full sun to part shade. Soils must never be allowed to dry out. For outdoor gardens, plant bulbs 4" deep and space 8-12" apart in mid-spring. For containers, plant bulbs in spring with the necks of the bulbs slightly above the soil surface. In St. Louis, bulbs or plants must be overwintered indoors. There are two options for overwintering: (1) Dig the bulbs in fall before first frost, let the surface dry then store them in dry peat at 55-69F, or (2) Bring plants indoors in containers as houseplants before the first fall frost, placing the containers in humid locations of at least 60F with watering reduced to the minimum necessary to prevent foliage wilting.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Hymenocallis latifolia is native to southern Florida and the West Indies. It is grown primarily for its showy white flowers. This is an evergreen bulbous perennial that typically grows to 2-3' tall. Each bulb produces a basal clump of arching, linear, strap-shaped leaves (each leaf to 2 1/2' long). In summer, leafless flowering stalks (scapes) rise from the foliage clump. Each scape is topped by an umbel of 10-16 fragrant, white, spidery flowers that rise well above the foliage. Each flower has six narrow, spidery perianth segments (to 5") and a daffodil-like, 3-inch staminal center cup (corona). Plants in the genus *Hymenocallis* are commonly called spider lily, basket lily and **Peruvian daffodil**.

Genus name comes from the Greek words *hymen* meaning a membrane and *kallos* meaning beauty in allusion to the membrane uniting the stamens.

Specific epithet means with broad leaves.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Snails, caterpillars and mealy bugs are occasional visitors.

Garden Uses

Moist borders, bog gardens or along streams and ponds. Water gardens. May be grown in borders as long as the soil moisture requirements can be met. Containers.

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Hypoestes phyllostachya



Common Name: polka dot plant
Type: Broadleaf evergreen
Family: Acanthaceae
Native Range: Madagascar
Zone: 10 to 11
Height: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
Spread: 0.75 to 1.00 feet
Bloom Time: Seasonal bloomer
Bloom Description: Lilac
Sun: Part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Medium
Suggested Use: Annual
Flower: Showy
Leaf: Colorful

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/visual-guides/problems-common-to-many-indoor-plants.aspx>

Culture

Winter hardy to USDA Zones 10-11. In St. Louis, plants are grown as bedding annuals or in containers. Bedding plants are best grown in organically rich, medium moisture, well-drained soils in part shade. Pinch tips to promote bushiness. Some gardeners remove flower spikes because they are somewhat inconspicuous and tend to detract from the attractive foliage. Overwinter containers and grow houseplants in bright indoor light, but not direct sun. Although bedding plants can be dug and potted up in fall for overwintering, it may be easier to simply purchase new plants each spring.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Hypoestes phyllostachya, commonly called polka dot plant, is native to Madagascar. It is an evergreen tropical subshrub that is noted for its ovate green leaves (to 2" long) which are spotted with rose, pink or lavender. As a bedding plan or houseplant, it typically grows like an herbaceous perennial to 12-20" tall. Tiny lilac flowers in racemes to 6" long bloom sporadically in the summer.

Genus name comes from the Greek *hypo* meaning under and *estia* meaning a house for the calyxes being covered by bracts.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Watch for powdery mildew. For more information see: [Problems Common to Many Indoor Plants](#)

Garden Uses

Annual bedding plant. Containers. Houseplant.

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Portulaca grandiflora



Common Name: rose moss
Type: Annual
Family: Portulacaceae
Native Range: Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay
Zone: 2 to 11
Height: 0.25 to 0.75 feet
Spread: 0.50 to 1.00 feet
Bloom Time: June to frost
Bloom Description: Red, rose, orange, yellow or white
Sun: Full sun
Water: Dry to medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Annual, Ground Cover, Naturalize
Flower: Showy
Tolerate: Drought, Dry Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a602>

Culture

Annual. Easily grown in poor to average, dry to moderately moist, well-drained soils in full sun. Drought tolerant. Sow seed directly in the garden after last frost date, or start indoors 6-8 weeks earlier. Set out seedlings and purchased plants at last frost date. Plants may self-seed.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Portulaca grandiflora is commonly called moss rose, which is quite descriptive of this plant's key ornamental features: ruffled, rose-like flowers (to 1" diameter) appearing on prostrate to slightly ascending stems that form a moss-like foliage mat. This annual is a succulent that typically grows to 6-8" tall and spreads to 12" wide or more. Flowers bloom summer to frost and come in single, semi-double or double forms in colors including red, rose, orange, yellow, white and pastel shades thereof. Flowers do not open on cloudy or rainy days. Cylindrical, fleshy, medium green leaves (to 1" long) appear in clusters along reddish stems.

Genus name comes from the Latin name for *P. oleracea*.

Specific epithet means large-flowered.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Watch for aphids. Crown rot may occur in poorly-drained soils.

Garden Uses

Good for poor dry soils where many other plants struggle. Edging or ground cover for

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Echinacea purpurea



Species Native to Missouri
Common Name: purpler
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Asteraceae
Native Range: Eastern North America
Zone: 3 to 8
Height: 2.00 to 5.00 feet
Spread: 1.50 to 2.00 feet
Bloom Time: June to August
Bloom Description: Purplish pink
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Dry to medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Naturalize
Flower: Showy, Good Cut
Attracts: Birds, Butterflies
Tolerate: Deer, Drought, Clay Soil, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c580>

Culture

Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Best in full sun. An adaptable plant that is tolerant of drought, heat, humidity and poor soil. Divide clumps when they become overcrowded (about every 4 years). Plants usually rebloom without deadheading, however prompt removal of spent flowers improves general appearance. Freely self-seeds if at least some of the seed heads are left in place.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Echinacea purpurea, commonly called purple coneflower, is a coarse, rough-hairy, herbaceous perennial that is native to moist prairies, meadows and open woods of the central to southeastern United States (Ohio to Michigan to Iowa south to Louisiana and Georgia). It typically grows to 2-4' tall. Showy daisy-like purple coneflowers (to 5" diameter) bloom throughout summer atop stiff stems clad with coarse, ovate to broad-lanceolate, dark green leaves. Good fresh cut or dried flower. The dead flower stems will remain erect well into the winter, and if flower heads are not removed, the blackened cones may be visited by goldfinches or other birds that feed on the seeds.

Genus name of *Echinacea* comes from the Greek word *echinos* meaning hedgehog or sea-urchin in reference to the spiny center cone found on most flowers in the genus.

Specific epithet means purple.

Problems

Japanese beetle and leaf spot are occasional problems. Susceptible to aster yellows disease.

Garden Uses

Excellent, long-blooming flower for massing in the border, meadow, native plant garden, naturalized area, wildflower garden or part shade area of woodland garden. Often massed with black-eyed Susans (rudbeckias).

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Lychnis coronaria



Common Name: catchfly or rose campion
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Caryophyllaceae
Native Range: Southeastern Europe
Zone: 4 to 8
Height: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 1.50 feet
Bloom Time: May to July
Bloom Description: Rose magenta
Sun: Full sun
Water: Dry to medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Annual, Naturalize
Flower: Showy
Leaf: Colorful
Tolerate: Deer, Drought, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=p840>

Culture

Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun. Prefers moist soil, but will tolerate poor soils with some dryness. Soils must drain well in winter. Consider raised plantings in climates with little snow cover. Best silver foliage color usually occurs in drier soils. A short-lived perennial that may be best grown as a biennial or annual. Freely self-seeds. Deadheading flowers from plant immediately after bloom will prevent any unwanted self-seeding.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Lychnis coronaria, commonly called rose campion, is a clump-forming perennial which is perhaps grown as much for its basal clumps of ovate, densely woolly, silver-gray leaves (to 5" long) as for its 5-petaled, vivid rose magenta flowers (to 1" diameter). Flowers bloom profusely on smaller-leaved, gray stems rising 2-3' tall. Lengthy late spring to early summer bloom period.

Genus name comes from the classical name said to be derived from the Greek word *lychnos* meaning a lamp possibly referring to the ancient use of leaves of a woolly species for wicks.

Specific epithet means used for garlands or pertaining to garlands.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems.

Garden Uses

This perennial is grown as much for its foliage as for its intense flowers. Leaves and flowers provide excellent color and contrast to perennial borders and beds. Interesting effect as a mass planting. If flower stems are cut back after bloom, the foliage will serve as an interesting ground cover (in somewhat the same manner as stachys) for the remainder of the growing season.

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Leucanthemum × *superbum* 'Becky'



Common Name: shasta daisy
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Asteraceae
Zone: 5 to 9
Height: 3.00 to 4.00 feet
Spread: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Bloom Time: July to September
Bloom Description: White rays with yellow center disks
Sun: Full sun
Water: Dry to medium
Maintenance: Low
Flower: Showy, Good Cut
Attracts: Butterflies
Tolerate: Rabbit, Deer, Drought, Dry Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=r550>

Culture

Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun. Good soil drainage is essential. Wet soils in winter can be fatal. Tolerates some light shade, particularly in hot summer climates or when plants are being grown in dryish soils. Remove spent flower heads to promote additional bloom. Divide clumps as needed (every 2-3 years) to maintain vigor. Plants are somewhat short-lived. Consider cutting stems back to basal leaves after flowering to preserve plant energies and perhaps prolong plant life.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Leucanthemum x superbum, commonly called Shasta daisy, is a hybrid developed by Luther Burbank (1849-1926) in the 1890s near snow covered Mt. Shasta in northern California. Burbank crossed *Leucanthemum vulgare* (European oxeye daisy), *Leucanthemum maximum* (Pyrenees chrysanthemum), *Leucanthemum lacustre* (Portuguese field daisy) and *Nipponanthemum nipponicum* (Japanese field daisy) to produce *Leucanthemum x superbum* which was given the common name of Shasta daisy. This hybrid typically grows to 2-3' tall with a spread to 18" wide.

Leucanthemums were formerly included in the genus *Chrysanthemum*.

Genus name comes from the Greek *leukos* meaning white and *anthemum* meaning flower in reference to the white flowers of some species.

Specific epithet means superb.

'Becky' is larger than most other Shasta cultivars, growing 3-4' tall on rigid stems which do not require staking. Features 3-4" diameter flower heads with the classic white rays and yellow center disks and coarsely-toothed, lance-shaped, medium green leaves. Stems do not require staking. Long bloom period of July through September. Excellent and long-lasting fresh cut flower.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Leucanthemums generally have some susceptibility to verticillium wilt, leaf spots and stem rots. Aphids, leaf miners and mites are occasional visitors.

Garden Uses

Shasta daisies provide long-lasting summer bloom and are mainstays of the perennial border, cottage garden and cutting garden. Rock gardens. Containers.

Iris 'Dance Ballerina Dance' - SAMPLE INFO



Common Name: Siberian iris
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Iridaceae
Zone: 3 to 8
Height: 2.00 to 2.50 feet
Spread: 2.00 to 2.50 feet
Bloom Time: May
Bloom Description: Blue
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium to wet
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Rain Garden
Flower: Showy, Good Cut
Tolerate: Rabbit, Deer, Drought,
Erosion, Clay Soil, Wet Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=269450&isprofile=0&gen=Iris>

Culture

Easily grown in moist, fertile, humusy, organically rich, neutral to slightly acidic, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Siberian iris is an adaptable plant which tolerates a wide range of soils, including boggy ones, but will generally perform well in average garden soils. Avoid soils that are too wet or too dry. In too much shade, plants tend to produce fewer flowers and foliage tends to flop. Best with consistent moisture from the onset of spring growth until several weeks after the flowers fade. Continue irrigation after bloom, however, to keep foliage clumps attractive. Rhizomes should be planted 1-2" below the soil surface and 1-2' apart. In cold winter regions, plant the rhizomes in early spring or late summer. In mild winter regions, plant the rhizomes in fall. Divide plants as needed when overcrowding occurs and decreased flowering is evident. Remove flowering stems promptly after bloom unless the seed pods are considered to be an attractive addition to the garden.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Plants in the Siberian iris group are chiefly of hybrid origin, primarily being derived from two blue-flowered Asian species, namely, *I. sibirica* (central Europe to northeastern Turkey and southeastern Russia) and *I. sanguinea* (Russia, Korea and Japan). Arching, narrow, grass-like, linear, blue-green leaves form a vase-shaped foliage clump to 2' tall. Flowering stems rise above the foliage to 3' tall in May-June, each stem bearing 2-5 flowers in colors which primarily include blue, lavender, purple and white, but sometimes yellow, pink and wine. Each flower features upright standards and flaring to drooping falls. In comparison to bearded varieties, Siberian irises have smaller beardless flowers, narrower grass-like leaves and an absence of thick fleshy rhizomes. After bloom, the foliage clump will retain its blue-green color into the fall, often displaying showy leaves reminiscent of some ornamental grasses.

Genus named for the Greek goddess of the rainbow.

'Dance Ballerina Dance' produces medium blue flowers with light blue style arms in late spring on rigid stems which rise high above a clump of arching, narrow, grass-like, linear leaves. 1970 Morgan Award winner.

Problems

Siberian irises are generally pest-free, with very little susceptibility to the two main problems of bearded iris, namely iris borer and bacterial soft rot.

Garden Uses

Mixes well with other perennials in borders. Also effective when planted along a slope or hillside, along a path or along a stream or pond margin. A good moisture-loving plant for moist garden areas. Massed plantings and well-placed specimens can enhance almost any setting, and the foliage provides lasting beauty after bloom. Excellent cut flower, but usually lasts only two days.

Iris 'America's Cup'



Common Name: tall bearded iris
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Iridaceae
Zone: 3 to 10
Height: 2.50 to 3.00 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
Bloom Time: May
Bloom Description: White
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Medium
Flower: Showy, Fragrant
Tolerate: Deer

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=249242&isprofile=0&gen=Iris>

Culture

Grow in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerates some part afternoon shade, particularly in hot summer climates. Best with consistent moisture from spring to 6 weeks after flowering ends. Some drought tolerance once established. Best performance occurs in light sandy soils with excellent drainage. With clay soils or in areas of high rainfall, plant rhizomes on slopes (growing end uphill) or in raised beds to promote good drainage and discourage the onset of rhizome rot. Plant rhizomes, depending on location, from late July through October (late July–early September in areas with cold winters or September–October in areas with mild winters). Plant rhizomes 12-20" apart. Plant each rhizome shallowly over a baseball-sized mound of soil with 1/3 of the rhizome above the soil and with the roots horizontally spread to support the plant. Growth comes from the leafy end of the rhizome. If overcrowding occurs over time, lift the clump in late summer (August) with a garden fork, divide and replant. Keep the iris bed free of weeds.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Tall Bearded Iris is a rhizomatous iris Group whose numerous hybrid cultivars grow to heights above 27.5" tall featuring two or more branches and 7 or more blossoms per stem with flowers spreading to more than 5" wide. Each flower has upright standards and pendant falls. Flowers bloom in June (St. Louis). Most cultivars produce plants significantly taller than 27.5", with many rising to 38-40" tall. Bearded name comes from the bushy beard which is easily visible in the middle of each fall. Plants typically form clumps in the garden over time. Flowers bloom in an almost unlimited variety of different colors and color combinations. Narrow, linear green leaves are substantially erect.

Genus named for the Greek goddess of the rainbow.

'America's Cup' is a tall bearded iris that typically grows to 40" tall and slowly spreads by rhizomes. Flowers are white and ruffled with white beards. Flowers are fragrant and bloom in spring. Sword-shaped, linear, green leaves. McWhirter, 1989.

Problems

Leaf spot, root rot, bacterial soft rot, crown rot and mosaic viruses may appear. Watch for slug, snails, whiteflies, aphids and thrips. Iris borers can cause significant problems in areas where they are found.

The major insect pest of bearded iris is iris borer. Major disease problems are bacterial soft rot and fungal leaf spot. Good sanitation practices are the most important component of any disease/insect control program: promptly remove and destroy diseased foliage/rhizomes, promptly remove and destroy borer-infected foliage/rhizomes and perform an annual clean-up of all debris and foliage from beds in fall after frost. The most frequent causes of failure to flower or sparse flowering are (1) rhizomes are planted too deep, (2) plants are located in too much shade, (3) plants were given too much fertilizer or (4) plants have become overcrowded and need division.

Garden Uses

Best grouped or massed in sunny areas of perennial beds, borders or foundations.

Polygonatum odoratum var. *pluriflorum* 'Variegatum'



Common Name: Solomon's seal
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Asparagaceae
Zone: 3 to 8
Height: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Spread: 0.75 to 1.00 feet
Bloom Time: April to May
Bloom Description: White
Sun: Part shade to full shade
Water: Medium to wet
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Naturalize, Rain Garden
Flower: Showy, Fragrant
Tolerate: Drought, Heavy Shade, Erosion, Dry Soil, Wet Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=l820>

Culture

Easily grown in moist, humusy, organically rich, well-drained soils in part shade to full shade. Best performance occurs in cool sun-dappled shady areas. Dislikes hot summer conditions. Slowly spreads by thin rhizomes to form colonies in optimum growing conditions.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Polygonatum odoratum, commonly called fragrant Solomon's seal, is a rhizomatous, shade-loving perennial that typically grows to 18-24" tall on low, gracefully arching, angled (as opposed to cylindrical), unbranched stems. It is native to shaded slopes and woodland areas in temperate regions of Europe and Asia. Each stem (to 18" long) rises singly from the rhizome clad with 8-17 alternate, upright, parallel-veined, elliptic to ovate-oblong leaves (to 4" long). Leaves turn an attractive yellow in fall. Greenish-white tubular flowers (to 7/8" long) on short pedicels droop (usually in pairs but sometimes solitarily) from the leaf axils along and beneath the arching stems. Flowers have a sweet, lily-like fragrance. Flowers bloom late spring to early summer (May-June). Flowers are followed by attractive pendulous blue-black berries (each 1/4" diameter) in fall which hang downward from the leaf axils.

Genus name comes from Greek words *poly* meaning many and *gonu* meaning knee joint in reference to the jointed plant rhizomes. Early herbalists believed that plants with jointed rhizomes were helpful in treating human joint disorders.

Specific epithet comes from the Latin word *odoratus* meaning sweet smelling in reference to the fragrance of plant flowers.

Common name is usually considered to be in reference to the large, circular seals (leaf stalk scars) located on the rhizomes. However, some authorities suggest the common name actually refers to “wound sealing properties” of the plant.

‘Variegatum’ is a popular cultivar of var. *pluriflorum*. It features showy light green leaves edged with white. New stems are tinged with maroon red. It is a superior foliage ornamental for shady garden areas. Perennial Plant Association’s 2013 Perennial Plant of the Year. Synonymous with and formerly known as *P. odoratum* var. *thunbergii* ‘Variegatum’.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. All parts of this plant may cause discomfort if ingested by humans (plants contain small amounts of saponin and convallamarin). Watch for slugs, snails, weevils and sawflies. Leaf spot and rust infrequently appear.

Garden Uses

Best in woodland gardens or shady areas of rock gardens or border fronts. Foliage is attractive in flower arrangements.

Stokesia laevis



Common Name: Stokes' aster
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Asteraceae
Native Range: Southeastern United States
Zone: 5 to 9
Height: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 1.50 feet
Bloom Time: May to July
Bloom Description: Blue
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Flower: Showy
Tolerate: Rabbit, Drought

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=i900>

Culture

Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates filtered sunlight, but prefers full sun. Prefers moist, sandy soils, but has surprisingly good drought and heat tolerance. Wet soil in winter is the main cause of death for this plant. A well-drained soil is essential. These plants appreciate winter mulch in the northern parts of their growing range (USDA Zone 5). Deadhead individual spent flowers and remove spent flowering stems to encourage additional bloom. Plants can be cut back to basal foliage after bloom.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Stokesia laevis, commonly known as Stokes' aster, is native to wetlands, bottomlands, wet pinewoods, savannas and ditches mostly along the coastal plain from North Carolina to Florida to Louisiana. It is an evergreen perennial that typically grows to 1-2' tall. It features fluffy, cornflower-like, violet blue flowers (to 2 1/2" across), each with notched rays surrounding a pincushion center of feathery disk florets. Flowers bloom from early to mid-summer (sometimes with a fall rebloom) atop generally erect, leafy stems that rise from a basal rosette of lanceolate to elliptic, medium green leaves (to 6" long). Stem leaves are stalkless and smaller than basal leaves. Leaves are evergreen in warm winter climates.

Genus name honors English physician/botanist Jonathan Stokes (1755-1831).

Specific epithet means smooth.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Watch for caterpillars. Flower stems tend to flop, particularly after a strong Midwestern thundershower.

Garden Uses

Border fronts or cottage gardens. Moist areas along ponds, streams or water gardens. Small groupings or mass.

Helianthus angustifolia



<http://www.newmoonnursery.com/plant/Helianthus-angustifolia>

Swamp sunflower

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: *Helianthus angustifolius* is an upright clumping perennial wildflower. The attractive leaves are bright green thick and glossy. In autumn lovely clouds of golden daisies attract drifts of migrating butterflies. This late blooming sunflower extends the season of yellow flowers until frost. Plants reach a stately 6' or taller in sunny or partly sunny moist sites.

HABITAT & HARDINESS: *Helianthus angustifolius* occurs in the eastern United States from New York to Florida and west to Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. Distribution is greatest in the coastal plain and plants are most common in open or lightly shaded moist sites.

Habitats include floodplains, open bottomland forests, swamps, bogs, wet meadows, savannas, coastal salt marshes, wet flatwoods, pine barrens, roadsides, ditches and disturbed wet areas.

Plants are hardy from USDA Zones 5-9.

PLANT DESCRIPTION: *Helianthus angustifolius* is an erect perennial with sturdy green or purplish pubescent stems.

Leaves are lance shaped or linear. Blades are long and narrow. They average a 6" length with diameter of about ½". They are sessile with no stalks. The smooth margins are usually revolute or rolled under. The leaf surface is often glossy but sometimes dull.

Stems terminate in numerous 2-3" flowerheads. The heads consist of dark globe shaped clusters of disc florets surrounded by 10-20 golden yellow ray florets.

This is the latest flowering of the sunflowers. Flowering begins in September or October and continues until frost. The starry daisies are particularly striking against the intense blue October sky.

Golden brown seed clusters follow and remain into winter to feed the birds.

Plants grow 5-7' and up to 10' tall with 4-6' or greater spread.

CULTURAL & MAINTENANCE NEEDS: *Helianthus angustifolius* is easy to grow in sunny sites with acidic moist or wet soil.

Plants thrive in well drained loamy or clay soils. They tolerate some salt and a bit of drought after establishment.

Avoid fertilization as this leads to stem weakness. Pruning in early summer encourages stronger stems and denser growth. In garden situations, staking or other support may be needed. Or... allow nature to take its course as this gentle giant collapses gracefully under the weight of all those flowers.

Plants are pest resistant and unpalatable to deer and other herbivores.

LANDSCAPE USES: This plant injects spectacular late fall color into a Wildlife Garden or Meadow. Plants are also used as Butterfly Nectar Plants, Butterfly Host Plants or as part of a Grouping or Mass Planting. *Helianthus angustifolius* has Showy Blooms and is a stunning Accent for Cottage Gardens, Deer Resistant Plantings, Rain Gardens, Water-wise Landscapes, Low Maintenance Plantings, Perennial Borders and Roadsides.

COMPANION & UNDERSTUDY PLANTS: Try pairing *Helianthus angustifolius* with *Aster oblongifolius*, *Hibiscus moscheutos*, *Monarda fistulosa*, *Panicum virgatum* and *Schizachyrium scoparium*.

Helianthus decapetalus could be substituted in situations where some shade is present. The two have similar flower appearance and cultural requirements.

TRIVIA: Native bees, honeybees, wasps, pollinating flies, butterflies and beetles seek the nectar and pollen. Plants host caterpillars of Silvery Checkerspot, Gorgone Checkerspot, Bordered Patch and Painted Lady butterflies. Seeds are relished by American goldfinch and many other songbirds.

Sometimes known as Swamp Sunflower due to its habitat preferences. In the South this species is occasionally called Mountain Daisy because in bloom it looks like a mountain of daisies.

Height:

5-7 ft

Spread:

4-6 ft

Spacing:

3-4 ft

USDA Hardiness Zone:

5-9

Bloom Color:

Yellow

Helianthus angustifolia Characteristics

Attracts Wildlife

- Pollinators
- Butterflies
- Songbirds

Exposure

- Full Sun to Partial Shade

Attributes

- Naturalizing
- East-Coast Native
- Drought Tolerant
- Cut Flower
- Clay Soil
- Bog

Deer Resistant

- Deer Resistant

Flowering Months

- November
- October

Foliage Color

- Green

Juglans nigra Tolerance (Black Walnut)

- Yes

Soil Moisture Preference

- Moist to Wet

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Lilium longiflorum – (Easter)



Common Name: trumpet lily
Type: Bulb
Family: Liliaceae
Native Range: Southern Japan, Taiwan, United States
Zone: 4 to 8
Height: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Spread: 0.75 to 1.00 feet
Bloom Time: July to August
Bloom Description: White
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Flower: Showy, Fragrant

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=e953>

Culture

Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Prefers rich, organic soils. Best with upper plant in full sun and roots in shade. Mulch around plants to keep root zone cool. Plant bulbs 4-6" deep in fall or very early spring in sheltered positions in the landscape. Potted plants may be planted any time from spring to fall. Plant in groups of three for best display and space 12" apart. Bulbs need good moisture year-round. Do not allow soil to dry out. After bloom, cut plants back only after leaves and stems turn yellow.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Lilium longiflorum is a Division IX true species lily. It is native to southern islands of Japan and Taiwan. It features large, fragrant, outward-facing, trumpet-shaped, pure white flowers (5-7" long) that bloom in July-August (Easter lilies that are in bloom on Easter have been forced) on rigid stems rising 24-36" tall. Stems are clad with narrow, lance-shaped, dark green leaves (to 5-8" long). Longiflorum lilies are sometime commonly called Easter lilies. Longiflorum hybrids (from *L. longiflorum* and *L. formosanum*) are classified as Division V.

Genus name comes from the Latin name meaning lily.

Specific epithet means long-flowered.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. This lily is usually pest free, but potential diseases include: (1) lily mosaic virus (prompt control of aphids which vector the disease is highly recommended, since there is no cure once infection occurs); (2) bulb rot (particularly in wet, poorly drained soils); and (3) Botrytis. Plants may need staking if grown in too much shade (stems weaken) or in locations exposed to strong winds.

Garden Uses

An excellent, showy, trumpet-shaped flower that provides color and contrast to the summer perennial border. Also may be grown in pots or containers, but plants and flowers will be somewhat smaller. Good fresh cut flower.

Lilium (group)



Common Name: lily, Tiger

Type: Bulb

Family: Liliaceae

Zone: 3 to 8

Height: 1.00 to 8.00 feet

Spread: 0.75 to 2.00 feet

Bloom Time: June to August

Bloom Description: White, ink, red, orange, yellow, lavender, purple often with spotting and/or striping

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low

Flower: Showy

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a462>

Culture

Most hybrid lilies are easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. They prefer rich, organic soils and are often best sited with the upper parts of the plant in full sun and the roots in shade. Mulch around plants to keep root zones cool. Plant bulbs 4-6" deep in fall. Potted plants may be planted any time from spring to fall. Bulbs need good moisture year-round. Do not allow soil to dry out. Remove flowers as they fade to prevent seed from setting. After bloom, cut plants back only after leaves and stems turn yellow.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Lilies are perennial bulbs that grow from 1 to 8' tall and typically feature 6-tepaled flowers in a variety of shapes (trumpet, funnel, cup, bell, bowl or flat), sometimes nodding, sometimes with reflexed petals, atop stiff, unbranched stems clothed with linear to elliptic leaves. Flowers are often fragrant and come in a broad range of colors except blue. For classification purposes, the Royal Horticultural Society and North American Lily Society have organized hybrid lilies into eight (8) divisions based primarily upon parentage, habit and flower type:

Division 1. Asiatic Hybrids. Derived from several Asiatic species. Upward, outward or downward facing flowers on stems 2-5' tall. Usually non-fragrant. Blooms early summer.

Division 2. Martagon Hybrids. Derived from *L. martagon* and *L. hansonii*. Nodding, turk's cap-type flowers with strongly reflexed tepals on stems 3-6' tall. Often unpleasantly aromatic. Blooms early summer.

Division 3. Candidum Hybrids. Derived from in large part from *L. candidum* (madonna lily). Funnel-shaped flowers on stems 3-4' tall. Often sweetly fragrant. Blooms early summer.

Division 4. American Hybrids. Derived from certain native American species lilies. Mostly turk's cap-type but some funnel-shaped flowers on stem 4-8' tall. Most non-fragrant. Blooms late spring to early summer.

Division 5. Longiflorum Hybrids. Derived from *L. longiflorum* (Easter lily). Mostly bowl-shaped flowers

with somewhat reflexed tepals on stems to 3' tall. Fragrant. Blooms mid-summer.

Division 6. Trumpet and Aurelian Hybrids. Derived from certain Asian species (e.g., *L. henryi* and *L. regale*). Classic long trumpets are the division signature, but other shapes exist (flat, bowl, reflexed). Stems to 4-8' tall. Usually fragrant. Blooms in summer.

Division 7. Oriental Hybrids. Derived from certain East Asian species (e.g., *L. auratum*, *L. speciosum*, *L. japonicum*). Mostly bowl- or flat-shaped flowers, some with reflexed tepals on stems 2-8' tall. Usually highly fragrant. Blooms mid-late summer.

Division 8. Other Hybrids. Catchall category of hybrids whose individual parents are otherwise assigned to more than one division.

Genus name comes from the Latin name meaning lily.

Problems

For the average gardener, hybrid lilies are fairly easy to grow. Lilies are usually pest free, but potential diseases include: (1) lily mosaic virus (prompt control of aphids which vector the disease is highly recommended, since there is no cure once infection occurs); (2) bulb rot (particularly in wet, poorly-drained soils); and (3) Botrytis. Taller plants may need staking if grown in too much shade (stems weaken) or in locations exposed to strong winds.

Garden Uses

Showy, often fragrant flowers for borders, cottage gardens or cutting gardens. Also may be grown in pots or containers, but plants and flowers will be somewhat smaller.

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Kniphofia uvaria



Common Name: red-hot poker, torch Lily
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Xanthorrhoeaceae
Native Range: Southern Africa
Zone: 5 to 9
Height: 3.00 to 4.00 feet
Spread: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Bloom Time: May to June
Bloom Description: Top flowers red; lower flowers yellow
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Medium
Flower: Showy
Tolerate: Rabbit, Drought
Invasive: [Where is this species invasive in the US?](#)
[Garden locations](#)

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=i310>

Culture

Grow in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. Prefers rich, humusy soils. Intolerant of wet, heavy soils. Locate in areas protected from wind. Promptly remove spent flower spikes. Crowns benefit from winter protection in USDA Zones 5 and 6 (mulch or tie leaves together forming a canopy over the crown so as to prevent water from settling on the crown and freezing). Established clumps are best left undisturbed.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Kniphofia uvaria, commonly known as red-hot poker or torch lily, is an upright, clump-forming, rhizomatous perennial that is native to South Africa. From an 18-24" tall basal tuft of coarse, linear, sword-shaped, semi-evergreen, bluish-green leaves (to 3' long and 1" wide) arises a succession of thick, naked flower scapes (typically to 3-4' tall) with dense terminal racemes (6-10" long) of drooping, tubular flowers. Buds and emerging flowers are red but mature to yellow, giving each spike a two-toned appearance. Flowers bloom from late spring to early summer.

Common names refer to the purported resemblance of each flower spike to a red hot poker or torch.

Genus name honors Johann Hieronymus Kniphof (1704-1763) German physician and botanist.

Specific epithet means like a bunch of grapes.

Problems

No significant insect or disease problems. Watch for root rot in poorly-drained soils. Thrips may appear in some areas.

Garden Uses

Specimen, small groups or mass in the perennial border. Great for small garden spaces.

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Chelone obliqua



Common Name: turtlehead
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Plantaginaceae
Native Range: United States
Zone: 5 to 9
Height: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
Bloom Time: July to September
Bloom Description: Rosy purple, pink, or white.
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium to wet
Maintenance: Medium
Suggested Use: Naturalize, Rain Garden
Flower: Showy
Tolerate: Erosion, Clay Soil, Wet Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c100>

Culture

Best grown in organically rich, humusy, moist to wet soils in full sun to part shade. Preference is for dappled sun and consistently moist soil conditions. Appreciates a composted leaf mulch, particularly in full sun areas. Consider pinching back the stem ends in spring to reduce mature plant height, especially when growing plants in strongly shaded areas where they are more likely to need some support. In optimum environments, however, staking is usually not required. Although native to swampy areas, this plant generally succeeds in any rich soil in both sunny and shady conditions with some tolerance for brief periods of dry soil. Will self-seed in moist soils. Propagate by division, cuttings or seed.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Chelone obliqua, commonly known as turtlehead, is a stiffly erect, clump-forming perennial that typically grows 2-3' tall. It is native to moist woods, swampy areas, floodplains, alluvial forests and stream margins in parts of the Midwestern and Eastern U.S. from Minnesota to Virginia south to Mississippi and Florida. Hooded, snapdragon-like, two-lipped flowers (each to 1.5" long) ranging in color from red to pink to deep rose bloom in tight, spike-like terminal racemes from late summer into autumn (late July – September). Each flower has a sparse pale yellow beard inside the lower lip. Flowers purportedly resemble the heads of open-mouthed turtles. Pairs of opposite, coarsely-toothed, lance-shaped, dark green leaves appear in pairs along the stem.

Genus name comes from the Greek word *chelone* meaning tortoise in reference to the turtlehead shape of the flowers.

Specific epithet means lopsided or oblique.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Some susceptibility to mildew, particularly if soils are kept on the dry side and/or air circulation is poor. If grown in too much shade, plants may need some support.

Garden Uses

Shade or woodland gardens. Native plant gardens. Bog gardens. Pond or water garden peripheries. Borders as long as the soil moisture requirements can be met.

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Verbena bonariensis

WARNING: LOCALLY INVASIVE SPECIES



Common Name: tall verbena
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Verbenaceae
Native Range: South America
Zone: 7 to 11
Height: 2.00 to 4.00 feet
Spread: 1.50 to 3.00 feet
Bloom Time: June to frost
Bloom Description: Rose-violet, lavender
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Annual
Flower: Showy
Attracts: Butterflies
Invasive: [Where is this species invasive in the US?](#)
[Garden locations](#)

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a111>

Though named a Plant of Merit in 1999 it was removed in 2002 because of concern that the plant could move into native wetland areas and crowd out native species.

Culture

Tender perennial that is winter hardy to USDA Zones 7-10. In St. Louis, grow as an annual in average, moist, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Tolerates poor soils as long as drainage is good. Seed may be sown directly in the garden after last frost date. For earlier bloom, start seed indoors 6-8 weeks before last frost date. Set out seedlings or purchased plants after last frost date. If sited in sheltered locations with southern exposures, plants can survive mild St. Louis winters. Even if plants do not survive winter, they often remain in St. Louis gardens for a number of years through self-seeding. Plants more freely self-seed in the deep South where they have escaped gardens and naturalized in a number of areas.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Verbena bonariensis, commonly called Brazilian vervain, is a rapid-growing, clump-forming tender perennial. In St. Louis, plants typically form a 1-foot tall basal clump of serrate, lance-shaped, dark green leaves (to 5" long) from which rise erect, slender, wiry, branching, sparsely-leaved, 4-angled stems to 3.5' tall bearing clusters (to 2" across) of tiny rose-violet flowers. Blooms mid summer to fall. Synonymous with *V. patagonica*.

Genus name comes from a Latin name used for some plants in religious ceremonies and also in medicine.

Specific epithet means of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Watch for powdery mildew.

Garden Uses

Group or mass in mixed borders, meadows, cottage gardens.

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Hedychium coronarium



Common Name: white garland-lily
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Zingiberaceae
Native Range: India, Himalaya to Java
Zone: 8 to 10
Height: 3.00 to 6.00 feet
Spread: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Bloom Time: Seasonal bloomer
Bloom Description: White
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium to wet
Maintenance: Medium
Suggested Use: Annual
Flower: Showy, Fragrant
Invasive: [Where is this species invasive in the US?](#)

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a521>

Culture

Winter hardy to USDA Zones 8-10. Best grown in organically rich, medium to wet, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Likes hot and humid summers and consistently moist soils. In St. Louis, plant rhizomes in the ground in spring after last frost date. Lift rhizomes in fall and store for winter in slightly moist vermiculite or peat in a cool, dry location. Also may be grown in containers or tubs which should be overwintered indoors in a cool, dry, frost-free location. Containers are best overwintered in greenhouses if available. Containers may be sunk into the ground at the periphery of a water garden or pond.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Hedychium coronarium, commonly called white ginger lily or garland flower, is perhaps native to the Himalayas but it has been widely cultivated in tropical Asia. It is a rhizomatous tender perennial that may grow to 10' tall in its native habitat, but more typically grows 3-6' tall. Features large, lance-shaped, medium green leaves (to 24" long x 5" wide). Fragrant white flowers in dense elliptical racemes (4-8" long) in late summer to early fall. Individual flowers purportedly resemble butterflies, hence the sometimes used common name of butterfly ginger for this species.

Genus name comes from the Greek words *hedys* meaning sweet and *chion* meaning snow. The flower of one species is white and fragrant.

Specific epithet means pertaining to garlands.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Watch for scale, red spider mites, aphids and root rot. For more information see: [Problems Common to Many Indoor Plants](#)

Garden Uses

Borders. Container plants.

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Stylophorum diphyllum



Common Name: celandine poppy
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Papaveraceae
Native Range: Eastern North America
Zone: 4 to 9
Height: 1.00 to 1.50 feet
Spread: 0.75 to 1.00 feet
Bloom Time: April to June
Bloom Description: Yellow
Sun: Part shade to full shade
Water: Medium to wet
Maintenance: High
Suggested Use: Naturalize, Rain Garden
Flower: Showy
Tolerate: Heavy Shade, Wet Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=m450>

Culture

Best grown in medium to wet, humusy soils in part shade to full shade. Plants will go dormant in early summer if soils dry out. Will naturalize easily by self-seeding in optimum growing conditions.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Stylophorum diphyllum, commonly called celandine poppy, is a Missouri native wildflower which occurs most often in moist woodlands and along streambanks in the central and southeast portions of the State. Features 4-petaled, yellow flowers which bloom in spring in small clusters atop stems typically growing 12-18" tall. Blue-green, pinnately lobed foliage is silvery below. Stems contain a bright yellow sap which was formerly used as a dye by Native Americans.

Genus name comes from the Greek words *stylos* meaning style and *phoros* meaning bearing with reference to the long columnar style.

Specific epithet means having two leaves or leaflets.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Self-seeding may be a problem if plants are grown in borders.

Garden Uses

Naturalize in shaded areas of woodland, shade, wildflower or native plant gardens.

Zinnia (group)



Common Name: zinnia
Type: Annual
Family: Asteraceae
Zone: 2 to 11
Height: 0.50 to 4.00 feet
Spread: 0.50 to 1.50 feet
Bloom Time: June to frost
Bloom Description: All but blue and brown
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Annual
Attracts: Birds, Hummingbirds, Butterflies
Tolerate: Black Walnut

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=b942>

Culture

Annual. Easily grown in humusy, evenly moist, well-drained soils in full sun. Sow seed directly in the ground after last frost date and, if desired, at 2-3 week intervals thereafter until the end of June to insure a good season-long bloom. For earlier spring bloom, start seed indoors 4-6 weeks before last frost date. Some varieties are widely available in cell/six packs from nurseries (small plants that have not yet flowered are best). Disease-resistant varieties are good selections for hot and humid summer climates such as the St. Louis area. Set out seedlings and purchased plants after last frost date. Pinch young plants to promote compact, bushy form. Good air circulation helps prevent onset of fungal leaf diseases. Deadhead spent flowers to promote additional bloom and maintain plant appearance.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Although the genus contains about 17 species of annual, perennial and low shrubs native to the southwestern U.S., Mexico, Central America and South America, it is the cultivars of several species that have for years been popular garden favorites featuring colorful daisy-like flowers over a long summer to fall bloom period.

Zinnia elegans (common zinnia) is perhaps the most widely grown species. Plants typically grow 1-3' (less frequently to 4') tall on upright, hairy, branching stems. They feature continuous summer to fall bloom in cool summer climates, but may slow down some at the peak of a typical St. Louis summer, particularly if attacked by fungal diseases. Many flower forms (single, semi-double, double, ruffled, dahlia, cactus or small pompoms) and flower colors (shades of red, yellow, orange, pink, rose, lavender, purple, green and white) are available. Sizes range from small-flowered dwarfs (to 6" tall) to large-flowered giants (to 4' tall). Ovate to lance-shaped, opposite leaves (to 5" long) usually clasp the stems.

A large number of cultivars are commonly available, including:

Button Box Series (double flowers of dwarf and dahlia types to 12" tall)

Dasher Series (dwarf double flowers to 12" tall)

Dreamland Series (large double flowers in dwarf and compact types to 12" tall)

Lilliput Series (small double flowers to 18" tall)

Magellan Series (compact double flowers to 14" tall)

Marvel Series (large flowers to 18" tall)

Peter Pan Series (large flowers of dwarf and compact type)

Phoenix Series (small flowers to 18" tall)

Pinwheel Series (double flowers)

Pulchino Series (double flowers to 15" tall)

Short Stuff Series (dahlia type doubles to 10" tall)

Small World Series (to 6" tall) and
Zesty Series (doubles to 24" tall)

Zinnia angustifolia (creeping zinnia) is also widely grown. It features narrow-leaved plants that are commonly used for mass plantings, edging, naturalizing, containers and hanging baskets. Size ranges from dwarf cultivars (to 6" tall) to taller cultivars (to 3' tall). Flower colors include various shades of red, orange, yellow, lavender and cream.

Cultivars of interest include:

Cascade Beauties Series (white and yellow to 10" tall),
Crystal Series (compact to 10" tall) and
Star Series (star-shaped flowers to 14" tall).

Zinnia grandiflora (Rocky Mountain or prairie zinnia) features small narrow leaved plants to 6" tall with yellow-orange flowers. **Swizzle Series** (double bicolor flowers to 12" tall) is notable.

Zinnia haageana (Haage's zinnia or Mexican zinnia) features narrow leaved plants to 2' tall with 1" diameter flower heads containing yellow rays and orange center disks. 'Old Mexico' and 'Persian Carpet' are notable.

Z. elegans x *Z. angustifolia* hybrid known as the popular **Profusion Series** (2" diameter flowers on 15" tall plants in orange, salmon red and white with no powdery mildew problems).

Genus name honors Johann Gottfried Zinn (1727-1759), professor of botany, Gottingen.

Problems

Z. elegans is susceptible to powdery mildew, leaf spots, root rots and blights. Plants of *Z. angustifolia* generally have better disease resistance than those of *Z. elegans*. Watch for whiteflies, aphids, thrips, Japanese beetles and caterpillars.

Garden Uses

Mixed borders, beds, cottage gardens, cutting gardens and containers. Many are excellent fresh cut flowers.

Hosta ventricosa



Common Name: hosta
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Asparagaceae
Native Range: China
Zone: 3 to 8
Height: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Spread: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Bloom Time: August to September
Bloom Description: Purple to violet
Sun: Part shade to full shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Flower: Showy
Attracts: Hummingbirds
Tolerate: Heavy Shade, Black Walnut

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=d320>

Culture

Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in part shade to full shade. Tolerates full sun in cool summer climates. Elsewhere it is best in part shade (some morning sun). Plants are tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions. Plants perform best in rich, moist, organic soils, with a preference for consistent moisture during the growing season, but plants have tolerance for some dry shade once established. Water is best applied directly to the soil beneath the leaves. Divide plants as needed in spring or autumn. Division is usually easiest in early spring before the leaves unfurl. *Hosta ventricosa* is one of the few hostas that will come true from seed. Seeds are produced without fertilization by pseudogamous apomixis which is a form of vegetative reproduction known as agamospermy. Species plants cannot be used in hybridization as seed parents because the seedlings are simply vegetative clones of the mother plant. Species plants can serve as pollen parents however.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Hosta ventricosa is a large, naturally occurring tetraploid hosta that is native to China and North Korea. It grows in a rounded mound to 22" tall spreading to 36" wide. Thin, smooth, shiny, cordate, broad-ovate, dark green leaves (9" by 8") have widely spaced veins, undulate margins and mucronate tips. Leaves develop strong ribbing as they mature. Bell-shaped, purple to violet flowers bloom in late summer to early autumn on upright, leafy, burgundy-spotted, pale green scapes (32-38"). Stearn.

Genus name honors Austrian botanist Nicholas Thomas Host (1761-1834) and was first established in 1812. The genus was subsequently renamed in 1817 as *Funkia* in honor of botanist Heinrich Christian Funk under the belief at that time that *Hosta* was an invalid name. *Hosta* was finally reinstated as the genus name in 1905 by the International Botanical Congress.

Specific epithet means having a swelling on one side.

Funkia remains a popular common name today in some areas. An additional common name for plants in this genus is plantain lily (foliage is somewhat plantain-like and flowers are somewhat lily-like in some species).

Problems

Slugs and snails are attracted to the foliage, chewing jagged holes in the leaves, and if left unchecked, can cause serious damage over a fairly short period of time. Leaf spots and crown rot are less frequent problems. Otherwise, hostas are virtually pest-free and are considered ideal low-maintenance garden perennials. Leaves, particularly of exposed plants, can be severely damaged by hail storms. Leaves of *Hosta ventricosa* are thin and may scorch along the edges in the hot summers of the deep South even when grown in full shade.

Garden Uses

Hostas are a mainstay of shade gardens. This large mounded hosta makes an interesting garden specimen. It is also effective in groups or massed. It can be mixed with other perennials in shady borders, shade gardens or woodland gardens. Edging.

Brugmansia × *candida*



Common Name: angel's trumpet
Type: Broadleaf evergreen
Family: Solanaceae
Native Range: Ecuador
Zone: 8 to 10
Height: 5.00 to 10.00 feet
Spread: 3.00 to 5.00 feet
Bloom Time: Seasonal bloomer
Bloom Description: White, yellow, pink
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Medium
Suggested Use: Annual
Flower: Showy, Fragrant
Leaf: Evergreen

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a492>

Culture

Winter hardy to USDA Zones 8-10 where plants are typically grown as shrubs or small trees to 15' tall in organically rich, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. In St. Louis, growing options include: (1) grow in large containers or tubs which must be overwintered indoors in bright, sunny locations or in greenhouses or (2) grow in the ground and lift plants in fall before first frost for overwintering in a cool, frost-free location (40 degrees F) with very minimal watering. During the growing season, plants are heavy feeders that need regular fertilization to stimulate new growth and flowers.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Brugmansia × *candida*, an angel's trumpet hybrid (*B. aurea* × *B. versicolor*), is a tropical shrub or tree that, in the St. Louis area, typically matures to 5-10' tall and features huge, nodding, trumpet-shaped flowers (to 12" long) from mid-summer to fall. Flowers come in white, yellow and pale pink, with some double-flowered cultivars available. Flowers emit a strong fragrance in evenings. Ovate to oblong leaves (to 8" long). In the first year, plants will typically grow to 3' tall with minimal flowering. In the second year, plants will grow taller with more profuse flowering.

Genus name honors Sebald Justin Brugmans (1763-1819) a professor of natural history at Leiden.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Watch for caterpillars, spider mites and whiteflies, particularly on overwintering plants. For more information see: [Problems Common to Many Indoor Plants](#)

Garden Uses

Container plant for patios, decks or other sunny locations around the home. If grown in the ground, it makes an excellent accent plant that must be lifted in fall.

Crinum (group)



Common Name: crinum
Type: Bulb
Family: Amaryllidaceae
Zone: 8 to 10
Height: 2.00 to 4.00 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 3.00 feet
Bloom Time: July to August
Bloom Description: White, pink, red and white/red bicolor
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Medium
Flower: Showy, Fragrant

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=264588&isprofile=1&gen=Crinum>

Culture

Bulbs are easily grown in organically rich, moist, well-drained soils in full sun to light shade. North of Zone 8, plants are usually grown in large containers and brought inside in winter. Plant bulbs in a pots/containers that are at least two inches larger in diameter than the bulbs. Bulbs like to be pot-bound. Set bulb in pot with the neck exposed. Keep soils moist and fertilize regularly during growing season. After bloom, reduce watering so that soils dry out between waterings. Bring containers inside in fall before first frost for overwintering in a cool, dry, frost-free location. Propagate by bulblets in spring. Increase watering in spring as plant shows signs of new growth. Although plants can technically be grown in the ground in St. Louis by planting the bulbs in late spring and lifting them in fall in somewhat the same manner as for dahlias, this is generally not considered good practice because crinum roots do not like to be disturbed and once disturbed plants may not bloom for another 2-3 years. It should be noted that some gardeners have been able to successfully grow crinum hybrids year-round in the ground as far north as Zone 6 with a good winter mulch and protected location, however the risk of loss is ever present. When grown in the ground year-round in southern gardens, it will spread by rhizomes to form large colonies.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Crinum lilies are tender perennial bulbs in the Amaryllis family. Lily-like flowers (to 4" wide and long) bloom in clusters in summer atop leafless scapes (to 3-4' tall) above a clump of strap-shaped green leaves. Flower colors in whites, pinks and reds. Most flowers are fragrant. Crinum bulbs are large and taper into elongated necks.

Genus name comes from the Greek word *krinon* meaning lily.

Problems

Mealybugs, nematodes, slugs and snails are occasional visitors. Bulb rot. Leaf scorch.

Garden Uses

Borders, containers, houseplants, pond or water garden peripheries. Good accent. Good cut flower.

Anethum graveolens



Common Name: dill
Type: Annual
Family: Apiaceae
Native Range: Southwestern Asia and India
Zone: 2 to 11
Height: 3.00 to 5.00 feet
Spread: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Bloom Time: August to September
Bloom Description: Yellow
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Annual
Flower: Showy, Fragrant
Tolerate: Deer

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=d682>

Culture

Dill is an annual that is best grown in rich, light, well-drained soils in full sun. Plants are more apt to fall over in part shade. Shelter plants from strong winds. Close-planting, stakes or cages may be used to provide support. Best growth occurs in cool summer climates. Plants appreciate consistent soil moisture. Soils should not be allowed to dry out. Plants tend to bolt when conditions remain dry. Sow seed directly in the ground just before the last spring frost date. Seedlings can be difficult to transplant, so seeds are usually not started indoors. Additional seeds may be planted every two weeks until early summer for purposes of extending the time when fresh leaves may be harvested. Dill seed may be harvested by placing the seed heads in paper bags to dry about 2-3 weeks after flowering (this method will also help prevent self-seeding in the garden). In St. Louis, a patch of dill will usually self-seed and produce new plants each spring. Dill may also be grown in large containers (deep roots of dill need deep containers).

Noteworthy Characteristics

Anethum graveolens, commonly called dill, is an annual that is frequently grown in herb, vegetable and flower gardens not only for harvest of its aromatic leaves and seeds, but also for ornamental display of its attractive foliage and flowers. Although native to Asia Minor and the Mediterranean, dill has now been widely planted around the globe, with naturalization having occurred in parts of Europe and North America. Dill typically grows to 3-5' tall on stiff hollow stems clad with aromatic, lacy, delicate, blue-green leaves that are pinnately divided into fine, thread-like segments. Taller plants may flop and need protection from strong winds. Scented, yellow flowers bloom in mid-summer in large, flattened, compound umbels (each to 10" diameter). Flowers are followed by aromatic seed. Leaves usually have the best flavor around the time when the flowers first open. Although leaves may be dried or frozen for later use, the leaves have by far the best flavor when harvested fresh from the garden. Dill attracts a number of beneficial insects to the garden (e.g., bees, wasps, butterflies, lacewings, tachinid flies, hover flies and lady beetles). Dill is a larval plant for the black swallowtail butterfly.

Genus name comes from the Greek name for dill.

Common name of dill reportedly comes from the Norse word *dilla* meaning to lull or soothe. In colonial America, dill seeds were sometimes called meetinghouse seeds because they were on occasion given to children to chew during long church services.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Blight and aster yellows can cause significant damage. Watch for aphids and tomato hornworms.

Garden Uses

Commonly grown in herb gardens, vegetable gardens or flower borders. Also may be grown in containers. Dill leaves add subtle but distinctive flavor to a variety of dishes including fish, vegetables, soups, salads, sauces, breads, and herb butters. Dill seed is more pungent than the leaves and is the primary flavoring in dill pickles. Dill seed is also used in vinegars, sauerkraut and for flavoring root vegetables. Dill seed can be used to make an excellent tea. Flower heads are excellent in dried arrangements.

Mentha × piperita f. *citrata* 'Chocolate'



Common Name: chocolate mint
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Lamiaceae
Zone: 5 to 9
Height: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
Bloom Time: July to August
Bloom Description: Lavender
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium to wet
Maintenance: Medium
Suggested Use: Annual, Ground Cover, Herb, Naturalize, Rain Garden
Flower: Showy
Leaf: Fragrant
Attracts: Butterflies
Tolerate: Rabbit, Deer, Wet Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=250929&isprofile=0&>

Culture

Best grown in rich, moist soils in full sun to part shade. Adapts to a wide range of soils except dry ones. Large plantings may be sheared after bloom to remove flower spikes and stimulate new vegetative growth. Soil barriers may be used to restrain rhizomatous spread if plants are grown in borders or other areas where spread is unwanted.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Mentha × piperita is a rhizomatous, upright perennial which is most commonly grown as a culinary herb and/or ground cover. It typically grows to 2' tall and spreads by rhizomes to form an attractive ground cover. Features rounded to lance-shaped dark green leaves (1-2" long) and terminal spikes of small lavender flowers in summer. Leaves have a minty orange fragrance and taste and may be used to flavor teas or as a garnish or in potpourris. The *x piperita* hybrids are crosses between *Mentha aquatica* (watermint) and *Mentha spicata* (spearmint).

Forma *citrata* has a fragrance of citrus and is often called orange mint.

Genus name comes from Minthe or Menthe, a water nymph in Greek mythology, who was transformed by Persephone into a mint plant in revenge for Minthe's ongoing affair with Hades (husband of Persephone).

'Chocolate' has a fragrance of chocolate and is often called chocolate mint.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Can be an aggressive spreader.

Garden Uses

Herb gardens. Naturalize as a ground cover in moist informal areas such as pond/water garden margins or low open woodland areas.

Foeniculum vulgare



Common Name: sweet fennel
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Apiaceae
Native Range: Mediterranean
Zone: 4 to 9
Height: 4.00 to 6.00 feet
Spread: 1.50 to 3.00 feet
Bloom Time: June to July
Bloom Description: Yellow
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Annual, Herb, Naturalize
Flower: Showy
Leaf: Fragrant
Attracts: Butterflies
Tolerate: Deer
Invasive: [Where is this species invasive in the US?](#)

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=275990>

Culture

Easily grown in moist, organically rich, well-drained soils in full sun. May be grown from seed that is sown directly in the garden in spring. Freely self-seeds in the garden. Remove spent flowering stems before seed is produced to avoid any unwanted self-seeding.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Foeniculum vulgare, called common fennel, is an upright, branching perennial that is typically grown in vegetable and herb gardens for its anise-flavored foliage and seeds, both of which are commonly harvested for use in cooking. It somewhat resembles a very large dill plant. It grows to 3-5' (less frequently to 6') tall and features feathery, compound, aromatic, yellow-green leaves with needle-like segments and tiny yellow flowers in large, flattened, compound umbels. Flowers bloom in mid- to late summer, and are followed by aromatic seeds. Plants have escaped gardens and naturalized in many parts of North America. Flowers are very attractive to butterflies. Fennel is a larval plant for certain swallowtail butterflies.

Genus name comes from the Latin name for this traditional salad and potherb which, in Italian, is called *finocchio*.

Specific epithet means common.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Stem and root rot may occur, especially in poorly-drained soils. Watch for aphids and slugs. Larvae (caterpillars) of swallowtail butterflies may chew on the foliage.

Garden Uses

Borders, vegetable gardens, herb gardens, cottage gardens or meadows. Good plant for a butterfly garden. Seeds are commonly harvested for use as flavoring in a variety of foods such as bakery products or sausages. Chopped leaves may be used as flavoring for salads, potatoes or fish.

Ruta graveolens



Common Name: rue
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Rutaceae
Native Range: Balkan peninsula, southeastern Europe
Zone: 4 to 8
Height: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Spread: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Bloom Time: June to July
Bloom Description: Dull yellow
Sun: Full sun
Water: Dry to medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Naturalize
Flower: Showy
Tolerate: Deer, Drought, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=b714>

Culture

Easily grown in moderately fertile, dry to medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. Plants tolerate some light shade. Plants also tolerate poor soils as long as they are sharply drained. Drought tolerant once established. Plants perform well in hot and dry sites. Avoid wet soils. Winter mulch is important in the northern parts of this plant's growing range. Prune back plants to old wood in early spring. Propagate by seed or cuttings.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Ruta graveolens, commonly called rue, is native to southern Europe. It is a glabrous, glaucous, woody-based, shrubby perennial with aromatic, fern-like, compound leaves. It typically grows in a mound to 2-3' tall. In some parts of the U.S. (particularly the northeast), it has escaped gardens and naturalized along roads, fields and disturbed areas. Notwithstanding its many historical uses, it is primarily grown today for ornamental purposes. Pinnately divided, blue green leaves (to 3-5" long) have oblong/spatulate segments. Foliage has a pungent aroma when bruised and leaves have a bitter taste. Small, 4- to 5-petaled, dull yellow flowers in clusters (flattened corymbs) bloom above the foliage in early summer. Fruit is a brown seed capsule. Ornamental value lies in the delicate blue green foliage. Rue was historically used for a large number of medicinal purposes, but effectiveness and safety concerns now discourage such uses. Leaves are toxic if ingested. Handling plants may cause dermatitis.

Genus name comes from the Latin word meaning bitterness or unpleasantness.

Specific epithet means heavenly scented.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Root rot may occur, particularly in poorly drained soils. Wear long sleeves and gloves when pruning or handling the foliage.

Garden Uses

Borders, rock gardens and herb gardens. Interesting low edging plant.

Melissa officinalis



Common Name: lemon balm
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Lamiaceae
Native Range: Southern Europe
Zone: 3 to 7
Height: 1.50 to 2.00 feet
Spread: 1.50 to 3.00 feet
Bloom Time: June to August
Bloom Description: White to pale yellow
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Dry to medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Ground Cover, Herb, Naturalize
Flower: Showy
Leaf: Fragrant
Tolerate: Deer
Invasive: [Where is this species invasive in the US?](#)

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c857>

Culture

Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Plants like full sun in northern areas but appreciate some part afternoon shade in hot summer climates. Plants adapt to a wide range of soils including poor ones. Avoid wet soils, particularly in winter. Frequent pruning, including removal of spent flower stalks, tends to (1) encourage growth of new leaves which have the best fragrance, (2) minimize self-seeding and (3) form the most ornamentally attractive plants. Unpruned plants may acquire a somewhat weedy appearance.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Melissa officinalis, commonly called lemon balm, is a bushy herbaceous perennial of the mint family that is typically grown in herb gardens and border fronts for its lemon-scented leaves. It is native to southern Europe, but has escaped gardens and naturalized in many parts of the U.S. (Eastern, Midwestern and Pacific Northwest states). Wrinkled, ovate, medium green leaves (to 3" long) appear in pairs on square stems rising to 2' tall. Tiny, two-lipped, white flowers appear in the leaf axils throughout summer. Although the flowers are ornamentally inconspicuous, honey bees love them. Leaves are edible and may be added to salads, soups, sauces or vegetables. Leaves are also used to flavor teas. Dried leaves may be added to sachets and potpourri. Plants also have a history of herbal medicine usage for a variety of purposes including, inter alia, calming nervous disorders, soothing insect bites and treating colds.

Genus name comes from the Greek word *melissa* meaning a honeybee, also the name of a Cretan princess who first discovered how to obtain honey.

Specific epithet means found in shops. Applied to plants with real or supposed medicinal properties.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Powdery mildew, leaf spot, leaf blight and gray mold may occur. Plants will spread by self-seeding, but are generally not considered to be too aggressive.

Garden Uses

Herb gardens. Border fronts. Naturalize as a ground cover in informal areas.

Chamaemelum nobile



Common Name: chamomile
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Asteraceae
Native Range: Western Europe
Zone: 4 to 9
Height: 0.25 to 0.50 feet
Spread: 0.50 to 1.00 feet
Bloom Time: June to September
Bloom Description: White rays with yellow centers
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Annual, Ground Cover, Naturalize
Flower: Showy
Leaf: Fragrant

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=b144>

Culture

Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Best in well-drained sandy soils. Tolerates some drought. Easily grown from seed. Spreads by creeping stems that root as they go. Can be aggressive in optimum growing conditions. Best in cool summer climates. If grown as a lawn substitute, plant seedlings or divisions 6-12" apart. It can be regularly mowed as a lawn, but tolerates only minimal foot traffic.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Chamaemelum nobile, commonly called chamomile or Roman chamomile, is a low-growing evergreen perennial that forms a spreading mat of aromatic foliage typically growing 3-6" tall and spreading by decumbent stems to 12" wide. Daisy-like flowers with white rays and yellow centers bloom throughout the summer and into early fall. Finely-dissected, fern-like foliage emits a fruity scent when bruised. Flower heads may be dried to make chamomile tea, a soothing herbal tea that has been an historic folk medicine remedy for a variety of ailments including headache, colds, flu, stomach disorders and gastrointestinal disorders. Synonymous with and formerly known as *Anthemis nobilis*. German chamomile (*Matricaria recutita*) is a taller plant with similar flowers that also makes a flavorful herbal tea. The name chamomile comes from Greek meaning "apple on the ground" in reference to the plant's apple-like aroma.

Specific epithet means notable or excellent.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Watch for possible spread.

Garden Uses

Herb gardens. Rock gardens and border fronts. Ground cover. Fill in between flag stones. Lawn substitute.

Cymbopogon citratus



Common Name: lemon grass
Type: Ornamental grass
Family: Poaceae
Native Range: Southern India, Sri Lanka
Zone: 10 to 11
Height: 2.00 to 4.00 feet
Spread: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Bloom Time: Rarely flowers
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Medium
Suggested Use: Annual, Herb, Rain Garden
Flower: Insignificant
Leaf: Fragrant, Evergreen
Tolerate: Black Walnut, Air Pollution

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a504>

Culture

Winter hardy to USDA Zones 10-11 where it is evergreen (roots may be hardy to Zone 8b). In St. Louis, it is grown as an annual in gardens or in containers. It is easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerates light shade, but prefers full sun. Tolerates a wide range of soils, but is best in organically rich loams with good drainage. Seed is difficult to obtain. Nurseries and seed companies generally sell starts in small pots. Fresh stalks of lemongrass (leaves and roots absent) can also be purchased from grocery stores specializing in Southeast Asian cuisine for rooting in a glass of water. Plant outside in spring after last frost date. In fall just before first frost, stalks can be harvested (cut off top leaves and save 6-'' sections of the bulbous shoot bases) and frozen for culinary use during the winter. Several leaf sections with attached roots can also be divided and potted with top leaves removed for overwintering in a bright window. These saved sections can be then used as starts for the following year. Smaller container plants can be overwintered indoors in bright light locations.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Cymbopogon citratus, commonly called lemongrass, is a frost-tender clumping perennial grass that is popularly used as a lemony flavoring in Thai, Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian cooking and is widely cultivated in Southeast Asia for that purpose. It is also an outstanding ornamental grass that lends great beauty to garden areas regardless of whether its culinary uses are to be tapped. In the St. Louis area, it typically forms a dense rounded clump of foliage to 2-3' (less frequently to 4') tall and as wide in one growing season. Gracefully-arching, strap-shaped linear leaves (to 3' long and to 1'' wide) are light green. Leaves emit a lemony fragrance when bruised. It rarely produces flowers. Extracted plant oils have been used for many years in herbal medicines and perfumes.

Genus name comes from the Greek words *kymbe* meaning a boat and *pogon* meaning a beard.

Specific epithet means resembling *Citrus* for the scent.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Spider mites can be a serious pest on indoor plants.

Garden Uses

Rapid-growing ornamental grass for herb gardens, borders, along walkways or for tubs/containers. Harvest bulbous lower leaf sections for cooking. Though tough and inedible (unless finely minced or mashed in a mortar and pestle or food grinder), sections of the mature leaf blades may be used fresh or dried for flavoring teas, soups or stews.

Physostegia virginiana



Common Name: obedient plant
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Lamiaceae
Native Range: North America
Zone: 3 to 9
Height: 3.00 to 4.00 feet
Spread: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Bloom Time: June to September
Bloom Description: Pink, white
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Medium
Suggested Use: Naturalize, Rain Garden
Flower: Showy, Good Cut
Attracts: Hummingbirds
Tolerate: Deer, Clay Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=g620>

Culture

Easily grown in average, moist, acidic, well-drained soils in full sun. Stems tend to flop in rich soils, too much shade or hot summer temperatures. Taller plants may need staking. Tolerates wet soils and some part shade.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Physostegia virginiana, commonly called obedient plant or false dragonhead, is a rhizomatous perennial that is native to North America from Quebec to Manitoba south to Florida and New Mexico. In Missouri, it is commonly found in a variety of habitats including open meadows, prairies, stream banks, gravel bars, wooded bluff bases and railroad track right-of-ways (Steyermark). Tubular, two-lipped, snapdragon-like, pink to pale lilac flowers in upright terminal spikes (each to 12-18") bloom throughout summer (late June-September) atop square stems rising to 2-4' tall. Flowers bloom bottom to top on each spike, with each flower being subtended by a small leaf-like bract. Stems are clad with opposite, narrow-lanceolate, sharply-toothed leaves (to 3-6" long). Species plants are noted for being aggressive spreaders in the landscape by both rhizomes and self-seeding.

Genus name comes from the Greek words *physis* meaning bladder and *stege* meaning covering in reference to the calyces which inflate as they develop.

Specific epithet is in reference to the State of Virginia which is part of the native range for this plant.

Genus members are commonly called obedient plants because each individual flower will, upon being pushed in any one direction, temporarily remain in the new position as if it were hinged. Genus members are also commonly called false dragonhead because the flowers are suggestive of the flowers of dragonhead (*Dracocephalum*).

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Rust is an occasional problem. Watch for aphids and spider mites. Species plants can be an aggressive spreader.

Garden Uses

Borders, cottage gardens, wild gardens, prairies or meadows.

Plectranthus scutellarioides



Common Name: coleus
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Lamiaceae
Native Range: Tropical and subtropical Asia to northern Australia
Zone: 10 to 11
Height: 0.50 to 3.00 feet
Spread: 0.50 to 3.00 feet
Bloom Time: Flowers not showy
Bloom Description: Blue to white
Sun: Part shade to full shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Annual
Flower: Insignificant
Leaf: Colorful, Evergreen
Tolerate: Heavv Shade

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a547>

Culture

Winter hardy to USDA Zones 10-11. In St. Louis, grow as garden annuals or in pots that can be overwintered indoors or as houseplants. Grow in moist, organically rich, loose soils in part shade. Tolerates full shade. Some recently developed cultivars tolerate full sun. Soils must not be allowed to dry out. Remove flower spikes as they appear. Pinch plant stem tips to keep plants compact and to promote bushiness. Seed cultivars can be started indoors from seed 8-12 weeks before last frost date. Inexpensive starter plants (in small pots or flats) can be purchased from most nurseries in spring for beds and containers. Containers may be brought inside in fall before frost for overwintering. Similarly, favorite plants may be dug and potted in fall for overwintering as houseplants. Cuttings from favorite plants (easily rooted in a glass of water or in clean potting soil) can also be taken in fall for overwintering.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Plectranthus scutellarioides, commonly known as coleus, is a tropical evergreen tender perennial that has been a popular foliage plant since at least Victorian times. It is native to Southeast Asia and Malaysia. It has been assiduously hybridized over the years into a very large number of vegetatively propagated and seed propagated strains with an almost infinite number of leaf color combinations including most colors of the spectrum except true blue. Cultivars range in size from dwarf 6" tall plants to large mounded 36" tall plants. Four-sided stems are semi-succulent. Showy multi-colored leaves are generally ovate to oblong and toothed. Leaves frequently feature mixtures of colors in irregular patterns. Blue to white nettle-like flowers (more common on seed strains) bloom in racemes in summer to early fall, but are not showy and tend to visually detract from the symmetry and attractiveness of the plants.

Solenostemon scutellarioides and *Coleus blumei* are both synonyms and former names for this plant.

Genus name comes from the Greek words *plectron* meaning spur and *anthos* meaning flower in reference to the spur-shaped flowers of some members of the genus.

Specific epithet means resembling the genus *Scutellaria* which comes from the Latin word *scutella* meaning a small dish or saucer in reference to the shape of the persistent calyx after the flowers fade.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Watch for aphids, spider mites and whiteflies, particularly on indoor plants. Plants grown in too much sun may wilt. Plants grown in too much shade may become leggy. For more information see: [Problems Common to Many Indoor Plants](#)

Garden Uses

Group or mass as garden annuals in beds and borders. Pots, containers, window boxes, hanging baskets. Houseplants.

<p>For more information and details contact Paulding County UGA Extension Master Gardener Extension Volunteers 530 West Memorial Drive Dallas, GA 30132</p>	<p>Email: uge2223@uga.edu Website: www.ugaextension.org/paulding Subscribe to our Home and Garden email newsletter at our website Phone 770-443-7616</p>
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Herb: Summer Savory



Summer Savory - *Satureja hortensis*

Foto: botani

Description of the plant:



Plant:
Annual



Height:
30 cm
(11 ¾ inch)



Flowering:
July to
August



Scent:
Scented
Annual

<http://naturalmedicinalherbs.net/herbs/s/satureja-hortensis=summer-savory.php>

Latin name: *Satureja hortensis*

Synonyms: *Satureia hortensis*

Family: Labiatae

Medicinal use of Summer Savory:

Summer savory is most often used as a culinary herb, but it also has marked medicinal benefits, especially upon the whole digestive system. The plant has a milder action than the closely related winter savory, *S. montana*. The whole herb, and especially the flowering shoots, is antiseptic, aromatic, carminative, digestive, expectorant and stomachic. Taken internally, it is said to be a sovereign remedy for colic and a cure for flatulence, whilst it is also used to treat nausea, diarrhoea, bronchial congestion, sore throat and menstrual disorders. It should not be prescribed for pregnant women. A sprig of the plant, rubbed onto bee or wasp stings, brings instant relief. The plant is harvested in the summer when in flower and can be used fresh or dried. The essential oil forms an ingredient in lotions for the scalp in cases of incipient baldness. An ointment made from the plant is used externally to relieve arthritic joints.

Description of the plant:



Plant:
Annual



Height:
30 cm
(11 ¾ inch)



Flowering:
July to
August



Scent:
Scented
Annual

Habitat of the herb:

Dry gravelly and stony slopes to 1500 metres.

Edible parts of Summer Savory:

Leaves - raw or cooked. An aromatic, slightly peppery flavour, they are used mainly as a flavouring for cooked foods, especially the more difficult to digest foods such as beans where they compliment the flavour and reduce flatulence. They are also used as a garnish for salads etc. The leaves can be used fresh or dried. A herb tea is made from the leaves. The leaves are harvested just before the plant comes into flower. A tangy, marjoram-like flavour. The flowering shoots contain about 0.5% essential oil, this is used as a food flavouring.

Other uses of the herb:

The essential oil from the flowering shoots is used extensively in perfumery, giving a particular quality to the fragrance. When grown near beans it repels insect pests.

Propagation of Summer Savory:

Seed - sow April in situ and only just cover. Germinates in about 2 weeks. The plant strongly resents root disturbance so do not transplant it. In areas with mild winters an autumn sowing will provide an earlier supply of leaves.

Cultivation of the herb:

Dry gravelly and stony slopes to 1500 metres.

Known hazards of *Satureja hortensis*:

None known

Plant information taken from the [Plants For A Future](#).

Satureja montana



Common Name: winter savory
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Lamiaceae
Native Range: Southern Europe
Zone: 6 to 8
Height: 0.50 to 1.00 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 1.50 feet
Bloom Time: June to August
Bloom Description: White to lilac
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Dry to medium
Maintenance: Medium
Suggested Use: Herb
Flower: Showy
Leaf: Fragrant
Tolerate: Deer, Drought, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=m240>

Culture

Grow in average, dry to medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Best in full sun. Trim back plants in early spring. Needs a protected location in St. Louis area gardens because plants are not reliably winter hardy when temperatures dip below 10 degrees F.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Satureja montana, called winter savory, is a low-growing, woody-stemmed, somewhat-shrubby, spreading perennial which is frequently grown in herb gardens for its stiff, linear to lance-shaped, pungent, glossy, dark green leaves (to 1" long) which can be used fresh or dried as a seasoning in food. Tiny white-to-lilac flowers (typical mint family) appear in terminal **spikes in mid to late summer**. Plants typically grow 6-15" tall.

Genus name comes from the Latin name for this herb which was well known to the ancients.

Specific epithet means pertaining to mountains.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems.

Garden Uses

Best in herb garden. Has ornamental value that can be useful in rock gardens or border fronts. Surprisingly good edging plant which may be clipped for a formal effect.

Thymus praecox 'Minus'



Common Name: thyme
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Lamiaceae
Zone: 4 to 8
Height: 0.25 to 0.25 feet
Spread: 0.25 to 0.50 feet
Bloom Time: June to July
Bloom Description: Lilac pink
Sun: Full sun
Water: Dry to medium
Maintenance: Medium
Flower: Showy
Attracts: Butterflies
Tolerate: Deer, Drought, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil, Air Pollution

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=255977&isprofile=0&>

Culture

Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerates drought and poor soils of somewhat low fertility. Loose, sandy or rocky soils with excellent drainage are best. Dislikes moist to wet soils where it tends to rot. Cut back stems as necessary to maintain plant appearance. Plants are evergreen in mild winters.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Thymus praecox is a creeping, woody-based perennial which is primarily used as a small ground cover, but also has limited culinary value. Numerous somewhat woody stems form a flat mat (2-6" tall) with tiny, rounded, fuzzy, blue-green leaves. Leaves are aromatic, but strength of scent varies according to habitat and season. Clusters of tiny, tubular, whitish to rose-purple flowers appear in summer. Flowers are attractive to bees. Plants are evergreen in mild winters.

Genus name comes from the Greek word *thymos* (name used in ancient Greece for a species of *Thymus* or *Satureja*).

Specific epithet means very early.

'Minus', sometimes commonly called miniature thyme, is a mat-forming, slowly-spreading, woody based perennial which is primarily used as a low ground cover. It has no culinary applications. Forms a flat, dense, cushiony mat (1-2" tall) of tiny, rounded, non-aromatic, hairy green leaves crowded onto numerous, thin, somewhat woody stems. Leaves are probably the smallest of any thyme sold in cultivation. Small clusters of tiny, tubular, lilac-pink flowers appear in summer. This plant is sold under a considerable number of different names, including *T. minus*, *T. praecox* 'Minus', *T. praecox* subsp. *arcticus* 'Minus', *T. serpyllum* 'Minus' and *T. serpyllum* 'Minor'. Regardless of the garbled nomenclature, the cultivar 'Minus' generally refers to this tiniest of thymes. As the old saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problem. Susceptible to root rot, particularly in moist, poorly-drained soils.

Garden Uses

Best as a small area ground cover or filler between stepping stones. Will sprawl over small rocks or over ledges in the rock garden.

Achillea millefolium 'Peachy Seduction'



Common Name: yarrow
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Asteraceae
Zone: 4 to 8
Height: 1.50 to 2.00 feet
Spread: 1.50 to 2.00 feet
Bloom Time: June to September
Bloom Description: Peach-pink
Sun: Full sun
Water: Dry to medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Naturalize
Flower: Showy, Good Cut, Good Dried
Leaf: Fragrant
Attracts: Butterflies
Tolerate: Deer, Drought, Dry Soil, Air Pollution

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=271128&isprofile=0&>

Culture

Best grown in lean, dry to medium, well-drained sandy loams in full sun. Plants do well in average garden soils and tolerate poor soils as long as drainage is good. Plants also tolerate hot, humid summers and drought. If grown ornamentally, plants are best sited in locations protected from strong winds. Plant stems tend to flop, particularly in hot, humid climates such as St. Louis and/or if grown in moist, rich soils. Consider cutting back plant stems in late spring before flowering to reduce overall plant height. Cutting plants back to lateral flower buds after initial flowering will tidy the planting and encourage additional bloom. Plants may also be cut back to basal foliage after bloom. Divide clumps as needed (every 2-3 years) to maintain vitality of the planting. Plants spread aggressively by rhizomes and self-seeding, and can naturalize into substantial colonies if left unchecked.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Achillea millefolium, commonly called common yarrow, is a rhizomatous, spreading, upright to mat-forming perennial that is considered by many to be an aggressive weed. Common yarrow from Europe and Asia was originally introduced to America in colonial times, and has since naturalized throughout the U. S. primarily along roadsides, fields, waste areas and lawns. These species plants are noted for producing deeply-dissected, fern-like, aromatic, medium green foliage and tiny, long-lasting, white flowers that appear in dense, flattened, compound corymbs (to 2-4" across) throughout the summer on stems typically rising 2-3' tall. Foliage has a strong, somewhat spicy aroma that persists when used in dried arrangements. Species plants are uncommonly sold in commerce, however. It is the cultivars and hybrids of common yarrow, most of which have stronger stems, more upright habits and larger flowers, that have become popular flowering plants for ornamental gardens. Cultivars also extend the range of flower colors to include pinks, reds, creams, yellows and bicolor pastels.

Genus name is in reference to Achilles, hero of the Trojan Wars in Greek mythology, who used the plant medicinally to stop bleeding and to heal the wounds of his soldiers.

Specific epithet means thousand-leaved in reference to the foliage.

Common yarrow has a large number of additional common names, including milfoil, thousandleaf, soldier's woundwort, bloodwort, nose bleed, devil's nettle, sanguinary, old-man's-pepper and stenchgrass.

'Peachy Seduction' is a rhizomatous, spreading, upright yarrow cultivar that is noted for its bright peach-pink flowers, ferny aromatic foliage and compact size. Flowers appear in dense, flattened clusters (compound corymbs to 2-4" across) over a long summer bloom period on compact stems rising to 18-24" tall. Deeply-dissected, fern-like, aromatic, medium green leaves have a somewhat spicy aroma which may persist when used in dried arrangements. U. S. Plant Patent Applied For (PPAF). 'Peachy Seduction' is a member of the Seduction Series of yarrows that have been developed in The Netherlands. Other Seduction Series cultivars include 'Strawberry Seduction' (red flowers), 'Sunny Seduction' (pale yellow flowers) and 'Saucy Seduction' (rose-pink flowers).

Problems

Stem rot, powdery mildew and rust are occasional disease problems. Plant stems are weak and lodge easily. If grown ornamentally, plants can develop into a tangled mass of stems and foliage by mid to late summer if not cut back. Strong summer rain storms with high winds can easily flatten exposed plantings. May spread somewhat aggressively.

'Peachy Seduction' has more compact stems and may be better able to deal with nasty summer weather than taller *A. millefolium* varieties.

Garden Uses

Cottage gardens, wild gardens, meadows, prairies and naturalized areas. Good fresh cut or dried flower.

Tradescantia pallida 'Purpurea'



Common Name: spider lily, *Setcreasea*
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Commelinaceae
Zone: 10 to 11
Height: 0.50 to 0.75 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 1.50 feet
Bloom Time: Seasonal bloomer
Bloom Description: Pink
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Flower: Showy
Leaf: Colorful

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c137>

Culture

Tradescantia pallida is a tender perennial that is winter hardy to USDA Zones 10-11. In St. Louis it is grown in the garden as an annual, in containers and as a year round houseplant. In the garden, it is easily grown in rich, moist, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Best purple leaf color occurs in full sun. Plants have good drought tolerance. Shelter plants from strong winds that may break the somewhat fragile stems. Remove flower stems immediately after bloom. Pinch back stems as needed to maintain plant shape and to stimulate new growth. This plant is easily propagated by cuttings (seed is not available). Cuttings may be overwintered for use the following year. Container plants may be cut back and brought indoors for overwintering. Nurseries often sell inexpensive starter plants in spring. Plants do not like temperatures below 50F, and if they are to be brought indoors in fall, it should be well in advance of frost.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Tradescantia pallida (synonymous with *Setcreasea purpurea*) is native to Mexico. In tropical and semi-tropical areas, it is commonly grown outdoors as a popular, albeit weedy, ground cover. It is commonly called purple heart. It has served for a number of years as a vigorous and attractive houseplant, but is now being increasingly used in outdoor garden applications as a ground cover and/or container plant. It typically grows to 8" tall with a trailing habit, and features thick but fragile stems clad with pointed, narrow-oblong, v-shaped leaves (4-6" long) that are sheathed to the stems. Stems will trail to 18" or more. Three-petaled, pink flowers (to 1.5" diameter) bloom in small clusters.

Genus name honors John Tradescant (1570-1638) and his son John Tradescant (1608-1662), botanists and successive gardeners to Charles I of England.

Specific epithet means pale.

'Purpurea' (sometimes sold as 'Purple Heart') is a cultivar that features purple foliage which is superior to that of the species. Stems and leaves are violet purple.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. This is a tough and easy-to-grow plant. On outdoor garden plants, young shoots are susceptible to damage from snails and caterpillars. For more information see: [Problems Common to Many Indoor Plants](#)

Garden Uses

Groundcover or edging that provides color and contrast to other plants. Excellent in containers. Downward-trailing stems are ideal for hanging baskets. Rock gardens, borders fronts, wall plantings.

Zantedeschia aethiopica



Common Name: calla lily
Type: Bulb
Family: Araceae
Native Range: South Africa, Lesotho
Zone: 8 to 10
Height: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
Spread: 1.50 to 2.00 feet
Bloom Time: June to July
Bloom Description: White
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium to wet
Maintenance: Medium
Suggested Use: Annual, Water Plant, Rain Garden
Flower: Showy
Invasive: [Where is this species invasive in the US?](#)

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a475>

Culture

Winter hardy to USDA Zone 8, and may survive some Zone 7 winters with protection. Plant rhizomes 3-4" deep and 12-18" apart in spring after threat of frost has passed. Best in moist soils with full sun to part shade. Prefers part shade in the St. Louis area. Lift rhizomes in fall and store in a damp medium such as peat or immediately replant in containers to overwinter as a houseplant. Calla lilies may be planted in up to 12" of water in mud at the edge of ponds or water gardens. In this case, the rhizomes could arguably survive a St. Louis winter if the covering water does not freeze to the bottom. May also be grown year-round in containers that must be brought indoors in winter before first frost. Overwintering containers placed near a window with bright indirect light can make attractive houseplants.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Zantedeschia aethiopica, commonly called calla lilies, are not true lilies, but are arum (Jack-in-the-pulpit) family members. They are stemless plants whose flowers and leaves rise directly from rhizomes. They typically grow in clumps to 24-36" tall and feature large arrowhead-shaped (sagittate) leaves and extremely showy flowers consisting of a yellow finger-like spadix surrounded by a bright white spathe borne atop a leafless stalk. Commercially grown as a very popular cut flower.

Genus name honors Giovanni Zantedeschi (1773-1846), Italian botanist.

Specific epithet means African, usually South African.

Problems

Rhizome rot. Japanese beetles may feed on the flowers/foliage.

Garden Uses

Borders, containers, pond peripheries, water gardens or houseplants.

Hylotelephium 'Herbstfreude' AUTUMN JOY



Common Name: stonecrop, sedum
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Crassulaceae
Zone: 3 to 9
Height: 1.50 to 2.00 feet
Spread: 1.50 to 2.00 feet
Bloom Time: September to October
Bloom Description: Rosy pink buds turning to red
Sun: Full sun
Water: Dry to medium
Maintenance: Low
Flower: Showy
Attracts: Butterflies
Tolerate: Drought, Clay Soil, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=f560>

Culture

Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun. Thrives in sandy to gravelly soils of moderate to low fertility. Tolerates some light part shade in hot summer climates, but will produce weak floppy growth when grown in too much shade or in overly rich soils. Needs good soil drainage to perform well. Drought tolerant. Propagate by divisions in spring or stem cuttings in summer. Detached leaves can be rooted in soil to form new plants. Plants may be cut back in late spring to control height.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Hylotelephium is a genus of about 33 species of drought-tolerant herbaceous perennials native to Asia, Europe and North America. They are commonly called stonecrop and are excellent plants for fall gardens. Many species and hybrids were formerly placed in the genus *Sedum*.

Genus name probably honor Telephus, King of Mysia and son of Hercules.

Many hylotelephiums and sedums are commonly called stonecrop in reference to the frequent sighting of the genus in the wild growing on rocks or stony ledges.

AUTUMN JOY is a clump-forming perennial that features masses of tiny, star-like flowers which emerge pink, gradually change to deep rose-red and then coppery-rust in autumn as they die. Flowers appear in large, 3-6" across, flattened heads (cymes) atop stems of grayish-green, fleshy, rounded, succulent-like leaves growing in upright to slightly spreading clumps, typically to 2' tall. Commonly called stonecrop in reference to the frequent sighting of the genus in the wild growing on rocks or stony ledges. Attractive to butterflies throughout the growing season. Foliage and dead inflorescences persist well into the winter providing some additional interest.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Slugs, scale, mealybugs, nematodes, aphids and weevils may appear.

Garden Uses

Rock gardens or border fronts. Specimen or groups. Containers.

Narcissus (group)



Common Name: daffodil
Type: Bulb
Family: Amaryllidaceae
Zone: 4 to 8
Height: 0.50 to 2.50 feet
Spread: 0.50 to 1.00 feet
Bloom Time: March to April
Bloom Description: White, yellow, orange, pink, bicolor
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Flower: Showy
Tolerate: Rabbit, Deer, Drought, Clay Soil, Black Walnut

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a465>

Culture

Best grown in organically rich, slightly acidic, medium moisture, well-drained sandy loams in full sun to part shade. Sharp soil drainage is essential. Plant bulbs in early to mid fall. Planting depth depends upon bulb size. In St. Louis, each bulb should be planted 2 to 3 times the height of the bulb, with at least 3" of soil over the top. After the flowers have bloomed in spring, the top portion of each flower stem may be removed, as practicable, to prevent seed formation, but foliage should not be cut back until it begins to yellow. Flowers usually face the sun, so bulbs should be grown with any shade areas at the rear of the planting. Bulbs can be left undisturbed for a number of years. If bloom quality and quantity decline over time, clumps may be divided by digging just after the foliage dies back.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Daffodils are bulbous perennials. Depending upon species or hybrid type, flowers appear singly or in clusters atop stems rising from 6-30" tall. Flowers generally feature a trumpet or cup (the corona) surrounded by six petals (perianth segments), in colors ranging from white to yellow to orange to pink to bicolors. Flowers are sometimes fragrant. Flowers bloom in early spring. Narrow, linear to strap-shaped, green leaves appear in erect to sprawling clumps. *Narcissus* has been organized into 13 divisions:

- Division I - Trumpet *Narcissus*
- Division II - Large-cupped *Narcissus*
- Division III - Small-cupped *Narcissus*
- Division IV - Double *Narcissus*
- Division V - Triandrus *Narcissus*
- Division VI - Cyclamineus *Narcissus*
- Division VII - Jonquilla *Narcissus*
- Division VIII - Tazetta *Narcissus*
- Division IX - Poeticus *Narcissus*
- Division X - *Bulbocodium* hybrids
- Division XI - Split Corona *Narcissus*
- Division XII - Miscellaneous *Narcissus*
- Division XIII - Species, Wild Variants and Wild hybrids

Genus name honors a beautiful youth who became so entranced with his own reflection that he pined away and the gods turned him into this flower.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Bulb rot may occur in poorly-drained soils.

Garden Uses

Taller varieties are best in beds, borders, wild gardens, open woodland areas, in front of shrubs or massed under trees. Smaller varieties are excellent for rock gardens. Best planted in quantity, i.e., from smaller groupings of at least 6 bulbs to large sweeping drifts. All varieties mix well with other spring-flowering bulbs. Some varieties are often forced for indoor bloom in winter.

Campanula takesimana 'Elizabeth'



Common Name: bellflower
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Campanulaceae
Zone: 5 to 8
Height: 1.50 to 2.00 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 1.50 feet
Bloom Time: July to August
Bloom Description: Pale pink
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Naturalize
Flower: Showy
Tolerate: Deer

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=s560>

Culture

Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Prefers part shade in hot summer climates. Plants need regular moisture. They grow well in underplantings around shrubs and trees or in part shade border areas. Foliage is generally semi-evergreen in USDA Zones 8-9. However, plants do not perform well in the hot and humid summer climates of the deep South in areas where night temperatures consistently remain above 70 degrees F. Divide clumps in fall every 3-4 years. Under ideal growing conditions, these plants can be quite aggressive, sometimes spreading vigorously in the landscape by both self-seeding and by underground rhizomes. Plants of this species are closely related to *Campanula punctata*, but are less invasive spreaders.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Campanula takesimana, commonly known as Korean bellflower, is an erect rhizomatous perennial that typically grows in a spreading clump to 2-3' tall. It is native to Korea. Glossy, leathery, heart-shaped, dark green leaves (to 4" long) with toothed margins form basal rosettes. Reddish, leafy flower stems rise from each rosette to as much as 3' tall in late spring, each bearing an inflorescence of tubular-campanulate, pendant, lantern-like, lilac-white flowers (each to 2" long) with maroon interior spotting. Flowers bloom from June to August.

Genus name comes from the Latin *campana* meaning bell in reference to the bell-shaped flowers.

Specific epithet is in reference to an islet in the East Sea which is disputed territory currently claimed by both Japan (as Takeshima Islet) and South Korea (as Dokdo). *Campanula takesimana* grows on this islet as well as some other locations in Korea.

'Elizabeth' features pale pink flowers on stems rising to 2' tall.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Snails and slugs may damage plants.

Garden Uses

Provides color and contrast to perennial borders, rock gardens, cottage gardens or naturalized areas. Also effective in lightly shaded woodland settings. Best planted in groups or massed in areas where plant spread will not pose threats to valued plants.