



GUJARAT UNIVERSITY

“योग: कर्मसु कौशलम्”



Ayurvedic plants

Aloe Vera



The aloe Vera grows only under the sun with well-drained dry or moist soil. Although the plant tastes like a turd, it's still edible. The sap from aloe vera is extremely useful to speed up the healing & reducing the risk of infections for :

wounds
cuts
burns
reducing inflammation

Apart from its external use on the skin, aloe vera is also taken internally in the treatment of :

- ulcerative colitis (drinking aloe vera juice)
- chronic constipation
- poor appetite
- digestive problems

Ashwagandha



Ashwagandha is best known for stress Reduction, Neural Protection, and a Lot More from an Ancient Herb

The benefits of ashwagandha are many; in addition to promoting fertility, aiding in wound care, and boosting the immune system, some other benefits are:

- Diuretic, Sleep aid
- Galactagogue
- Anti-epileptic
- Anti-tumor, Pain relief
- Eye health
- Heart tonic
- Lowers cholesterol & Regulates blood sugar
- Reduces depression and anxiety, Combats stress
- Fights cognitive decline due to brain cell degeneration

Basil



You must have used basil lot many times in food but have you ever tried it to heal flatulence? It has the power to treat:

- Cuts
- Lack of appetite
- Stomach gas
- Scrapes

Bryophyllum, Panfuti



Bryophyllum calycinum, Bryophyllum pinnatum, also known as the Air Plant, Life Plant, Miracle Leaf, Goethe Plant and the Katakataka (Filipino)) is a succulent plant native to Madagascar.

- The leaf or its juice is taken for diabetes.
- Leaf paste application stops bleeding and heals wounds.
- The burnt leaf (mashi) made in to paste with coconut oil cures burn.
- To prevent septic to cuts from sharp instruments, 15 leaves with four pepper corns roasted, powdered and mixed in cow ghee is applied.
- Leaf paste boiled in oil cures sciatica and rheumatic pains.
- One leaf eaten raw with one pepper corn first thing every morning for 3 to 7 days cures urinary stones.
- The leaves can be used raw for making chutneys or tamblis.

Chinese Yum



A type of yam that can be eaten raw, the chinese yam can be easily grown, succeeding in fertile, well drained soil in a sunny position. It is sweet and soothing to the stomach, spleen and has a tonic effect on the lungs and kidneys. It is used internally to treat :

- tiredness, weight loss, loss of appetite, poor digestion, chronic diarrhea
- asthma, dry coughs, uncontrollable urination, diabetes, emotional instability

Externally, it is applied to ulcers, boils, abscesses

- The leaf, on the other hand, is used to treat snakebites and scorpion stings.

Camomile



With a sweet, crisp, fruity and herbaceous fragrance, has long been used medicinally as a remedy for problems regarding the digestive system.

It has a soothing and calming effect in the area of aromatherapy, used to end stress and aid in sleep.

The entire herb is used to treat common aches like toothache, earache, shoulder pain and neuralgia.

Calendula



It grows in almost any type of soil condition. It has no problem with nutritionally poor, very acidic or very alkaline soils, just as long as it's moist. Well known as a remedy for skin problems, the deep-orange flowered pot marigold variety is applied externally to :

- bites
- stings
- sprains
- wounds
- sore eyes
- varicose veins
- Internally it is used to treat fevers and chronic infections.
- The tea of the petals tones up circulation and, taken regularly, eases varicose veins.
- Applying the crushed stems of the pot marigold to corns and warts will soon have them easily removable.

Costus



Costus igneus, commonly known as insulin plant in India, belongs to the family Costaceae. Consumption of the leaves are believed to lower blood glucose levels, and diabetics who consumed the leaves of this plant did report a fall in their blood glucose levels.

The fresh leaves of this plant is chewed two times daily for 1 week after 1 week, 1 leaf should be chewed twice a day this dosage should be continued for 1 month. It is said that this treatment is effective in bringing blood sugar levels under control in diabetes patients.

Echinacea



One of the world's most important medicinal herbs, the echinacea has the capacity to raise the body's resistance to bacterial and viral infections by stimulating the immune system. It also has antibiotic properties that helps relieve allergies. Basically, the roots are beneficial in the treatment of sores, wounds and burns.

It was once used by the Native Americans as an application for insect bites, stings and snakebites. The echinacea grows on any well drained soil, as long as it gets sunlight.

Fenugreek, Methi



Fenugreek seeds are nourishing and taken to :

- encourage weight gain (take note, anorexics)
- inhibit cancer of the liver
- lower blood cholesterol levels
- treat inflammation and ulcers of the stomach and intestines
- drain off sweat ducts
- for body building
- for late onset diabetes
- poor digestion
- insufficient lactation
- painful menstruation
- labor pains
- freshen bad breath
- restore a dull sense of taste

German Chamomile



Delicate, apple-scented chamomile demonstrates that mildness does not mean ineffectiveness. Primarily grown for its small, yellow-bellied flowers, NCCAM reports that chamomile is one of the best children's herbs for treating colic, nervous stress, infections, and stomach disorders.

Great Burdock



It requires moist soil and can grow shadeless. The great burdock is the pretty famous in the area of detoxification in both Chinese and Western herbal medicine. The root is used to treat 'toxic overload' that result in throat infections and skin diseases like :

- boils, rashes, burns, bruises
- herpes, eczema, acne
- impetigo, ringworm, bites
-
- The leaves and seeds can be crushed to poultice it to bruises, burns, ulcers and sores

Globe Artichoke



A bitter tasting plant that requires a lot of sun, the cardoon has become important as a medicinal herb in recent years following the discovery of cynarin. The cardoon leaves, best harvested before flowering, helps to :

- improve liver and gall bladder function
- stimulate the secretion of digestive juices
- lower blood cholesterol levels
- treat chronic liver and gall bladder diseases
- jaundice
- hepatitis
- arteriosclerosis
- early stages of late-onset diabetes

Gotu Kola



The gotu kola acts on various phases of connective tissue development and stimulates healing of :

- ulcers
- skin injuries
- decreasing capillary fragility
- stimulation of the lipids and protein necessary for healthy skin
- Leaves are thought to maintain youthfulness.
- Crushed leaves are poulticed to treat open sores.

The gotu kola can also be used to :

- treat leprosy
- revitalize the brain and nervous system
- increase attention span and concentration
- treat venous insufficiency

Khus



It has anti-inflammatory and antiseptic effects that provide relief from inflammations in circulatory system and nervous system. Khus khus is used to create a tonic bath, which is the reason why it is often included in high quality soaps.

It is a boon for individuals suffering from rheumatism, arthritis, gout, muscular aches, dryness and cracking of skin etc.

The oil obtained from khus khus has sedative effect and aids in the treatment of emotional outbursts, such as anger, anxiety, epileptic and hysteric attacks, restlessness, nervousness, etc.

Lemon Balm



The reason the plant is called lemon balm is because of the lemon minty scent of the leaves. The flowers, which appear during the summer, are full of nectar. The crushed leaves, when rubbed on the skin, are used as :

- mosquito repellent
- herpes
- sores
- gout
- insect bites

Infusion of the leaves with water are known to treat :

- colds
- fevers
- indigestion due to nervous tension
- digestive upsets in children
- hyperthyroidism
- depression
- mild insomnia
- headaches

Lemon Grass



Lemongrass has been reported to have innumerable therapeutic and other health benefits.

- alleviate certain respiratory conditions including laryngitis and sore throats
- anti-pyretic property which reduces high fevers.
- useful for all types of pain including abdominal pain, headaches, joint pains, muscle pains, digestive tract spasms, muscle cramps, stomachache and others
- lemongrass inhibits bacteria and yeast growth.
- beneficial for nervous and stress-related conditions.

Lavender



Long recognized for its sweet perfume, lavender also boasts medical benefits as a nervine and mild antidepressant. UMMC suggests adding it to your bath to alleviate stress, tension, and insomnia. It's also used in creams to treat sunburns and acne.

Woody lavender plants prefer hot, sunny, and dry environments. The fresh flowers are tasty in small doses when added to salads, honey, butter, lemonade, and even shortbread cookies. If you're crafty, try sewing up an herbal heating pad or eye pillow with the fragrant dried flowers.

Marsh Mallow



The plant of which marshmallows were once made of. The root is taken internally to treat :

- inflammations and irritations of the urinary and respiratory mucus membranes
- counter excess stomach acid
- peptic ulceration
- gastritis

Externally, the root is applied to :

- bruises, sprains
- aching muscles
- insect bites
- skin inflammations, splinters
- The leaves are very edible, unlike the aloe vera. They can be added to salads, boiled, or fried. It is known to help out in the area of cystitis and frequent urination.

Peppermint



Peppermint is sometimes regarded as ‘the world’s oldest medicine’, with archaeological evidence placing its use at least as far back as ten thousand years ago. Peppermint are naturally high in manganese, vitamin A and vitamin C. Crushed leaves rubbed on the skin help soothe and relax the muscles. Infused peppermint leaves are used to :

- reduce irritable bowel syndrome
- against upset stomachs
- inhibit bacterial growth
- treat fevers
- flatulence
- spastic colon

Rosemary



Rosemary is the great reviver. This perennial woody herb stimulates energy and optimism and sharpens memory and concentration by bringing more oxygen to your brain, according to UMMC. It's a wonderfully stimulating alternative to caffeine when you need that second wind!

A row of these long-lived and drought-tolerant plants makes a beautiful, bee-friendly, evergreen hedge. You may only need one plant in your garden, as a little bit goes a long way.

Rui



RUVA, Purple (Ekke, Rui,arka) *Calotropis gigantea*

- The leaves and flowers of both the varieties are used for pooja of Shiva, Hanuman and Devi.
- Leaves of both varieties are used for fomentation to paining joints.
- Fomentation of leaves after application of castor oil relieves stomach pain of infants.

Sage



Salvia, the Latin name for sage, means 'to heal'.

Internally, the sage is used for :

- indigestion
- flatulence
- liver complaints
- excessive lactation
- excessive perspiration
- excessive salivation
- anxiety
- depression
- female sterility
- menopausal problems

On the other hand, it is used externally for :

- insect bites
- skin infections
- throat infections
- mouth infections
- gum infections
- skin infections
- vaginal discharge

Stevia



With its steviol glycoside extracts having up to 300 times the sweetness of sugar, stevia has garnered attention with the rise in demand for low-carbohydrate, low-sugar food alternatives.

Because stevia has a negligible effect on blood glucose, it is attractive as a natural sweetener to people on carbohydrate-controlled diets

Sagargota, Bonduc nut



Sagargota, Bonduc nut, Fever nut, physic nut is used as anti diabetic & anti-malarial drug

Medicinal Uses :

- Root : In dysentery and diabetes
- Leaves : Emmenagogue
- Seed : Abortifacient used as anti-malarial drug and also tonic

Siberian Ginseng



The siberian ginseng has a wide range of health benefits, mostly as a powerful tonic herb that maintains good health. Its medicinal properties are used for :

- menopausal problems, geriatric debility, physical and mental stress
- treat bone marrow suppression caused by chemotherapy or radiation
- hypercholesterolemia and neurasthenia with headache
- insomnia, poor appetite, increasing endurance, memory improvement
- anti-inflammatory purposes
- immunogenic purposes
- chemoprotective purposes
- radiological protection

Sea Buckthorn



The sea-buckthorn has been used throughout the centuries in China to relieve cough, aid digestion, invigorate blood circulation and alleviate pain. The branches and leaves are used in Mongolia to treat gastrointestinal distress in humans and animals.

The bark and leaves are used for treating diarrhea, gastrointestinal, dermatological disorders and topical compressions for rheumatoid arthritis. Even the flowers are used as skin softeners.

The berries, on the other hand, are used together with other medications for pulmonary, gastrointestinal, cardiac, blood and metabolic disorders. Fresh sea buckthorn berry juice is known to be taken in the event of colds, fever, exhaustion, stomach ulcers, cancer, metabolic disorders, liver diseases, inflammation, peptic ulcer, gastritis, eczema, canker sores, general ulcerative disorders, keratitis, trachoma

Tea Tree



Even the aborigines have been using the tea tree leaves for medicinal purposes, like chewing on young leaves to relieve headaches. The paperbark itself is extremely useful to them as it serves to line coolamons when used as cradles, as a bandage, like a sleeping mat, as material for building humpies, as an aluminum foil, as a disposable raincoat and for tamping holes in canoes.

The leaves and twigs, eventually made into tea tree oil, is anti-fungal, antibacterial, antiseptic and deserves a place in every household medicine box. Tea tree oil can be used to treat: cystitis, glandular fever, chronic fatigue syndrome, thrush, vaginal infections, acne, athlete's foot, verrucae, warts, insect bites, cold sores, nits, minor burns

The Great Yellow Gentian



The great yellow gentian root is a bitter herb used to treat digestive disorders and states of exhaustion from chronic diseases. It stimulates the liver, gal bladder, and digestive system, strengthening the overall human body. Internally, it is taken to treat :

- liver complaints
- indigestion
- gastric infections
- anorexia

Tulsi



There are four types of tulsi mentioned in ayurvedic texts ie Rama, Krishna, Vana & Kapoor Tulsi

- Tulsi is taken as herbal tea.
- The oil extracted from the Karpooora Tulsi is mostly used in the herbal toiletry. Its oil is also used against insects and bacteria.
- The Rama Tulsi is an effective remedy for Severe acute Respiratory Syndrome. Juice of its leaves gives relief in cold, fever, bronchitis and cough

Thyme



It is mostly known for its strong antiseptic nature. It is wonderful when it comes to the treatment of:

- Congestion
- Stomach gas
- Coughs

Vitex Negundo



Commonly known as the five-leaved chaste tree, is a large aromatic shrub with quadrangular, densely whitish, tomentose branchlets.

Key therapeutic benefits:

- Because of its anti-inflammatory, antibacterial and antifungal properties, the plant is useful in treating sores and skin infections.
- Five-Leaved Chaste Tree relieves muscle aches and joint pains.
- The herb is effective in treating vaginal discharge.

Flower plant

Aconite



Aconites are one of the first bulb flowers to bloom in the spring and are known for their cheerful yellow color. Plant Aconites in a large group together and you'll be able to smell their sweet, honey-like fragrance.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 9

Height

0.25 - 0.5 feet

Blooms in

Early Spring

Features

Deer resistant

AGAVE



Superb as accents, focal points, or in combination with plants of contrasting texture, agaves command attention with their large, fleshy, strap like leaves and tall, unearthly looking blossom spikes. Flowering is sporadic, however, and may not occur for years. The original plant dies after it blooms, leaving offshoots that make new plants.

ALOE



Primarily South African natives, the aloes range from 6 inches miniatures to trees; all form clumps of fleshy, pointed leaves and bear branched or unbranched clusters of orange, yellow, cream, or red flowers. Some species bloom nearly every month, but the biggest show comes from midwinter through summer. Leaves may be green or gray-green, often strikingly banded or streaked with contrasting colors. Showy and easy to grow in well-drained soil in reasonably frost-free areas; need little water but can take more. Most tolerate salt spray and are good beach plants. Seldom browsed by deer.

Ageratum



Ageratums come in blue, pink and white blooms. The taller varieties are best for cutting and displaying in your home, while the dwarf bedding varieties are best kept in the garden.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

5 - 9

Height

0.5 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

APPLE



Our most widely adapted fruit tree, the apple thrives in home gardens and orchards from central Florida all the way north to Canada. The apple blossom is the state flower of Arkansas.

ARBORVITAE



Neat, symmetrical plants often mistakenly trimmed into odd geometrical forms globes, cones, cylinders. Juvenile foliage is feathery, with small, needlelike leaves; mature foliage is scalelike, carried in flat sprays. Foliage in better-known selections is often yellow-green or bright golden yellow. Small (12- to 34 inches-long) cones are green or bluish green, turning to brownish. Although arborvitae will take both damp and fairly dry soils, they grow best in well-drained soil. Bagworms and spider mites are common pests on all species.

ANEMONE, WINDFLOWER



A rich and varied group of plants ranging in size from alpine rock garden miniatures to tall Japanese anemones grown in borders; bloom extends from very early spring to fall, depending on species. Seldom browsed by deer.

Allium



There are five varieties of the Allium, known primarily for their tall stems and large, spherical heads. Blooms are typically violet, but blue and pink varieties can also be found.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 10

Height

1 - 6 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Mid-Summer

Features

Good for cut flowers

Anemone



The Anemone includes 120 species of flowers, but the most common types found in North America come in white, pink or violet hues. The Anemone is dainty and doesn't grow well during summer droughts, overly wet winters or high winds.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained, High fertility

Zones

3 - 9

Height

2.5 - 5 feet

Blooms in

Mid Spring - Mid-Fall

Features

Deer resistant

Angelica



Commonly found in tea and herbal remedies, the stem of the Angelica can even be made into candy. With over 50 species, the Angelica is also good for bees and other pollinators. Known for their large starburst flowers, it comes in white or green.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade / Full Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained, High fertility

Zones

4 - 9

Height

3 - 6 feet

Blooms in

Summer

Features

Deer resistant

Angelonia



Especially good for container gardening, the Angelonia will keep blooming all summer even if old flowers are removed. Once tall enough to cut, bring them inside and you'll notice a light scent that some say is reminiscent of apples.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Damp

Zones

9 - 11

Height

2 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Tolerates heat

Artemisia



For those seeking a drought tolerant plant that doesn't make your yard look like a desert, the Artemisia is for you. Tolerating low amounts of water, you can create a diverse xeriscape with this silvery flower.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

6 - 8

Height

2 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Late Summer

Features

Non-invasive

Aster



Named after the Latin word for "star," Asters will brighten up any garden. It attracts butterflies and comes in a variety of colors including blue, indigo, violet, white, red and pink. Unlike other colorful flowers, Asters will typically stay in bloom into cooler fall months.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 8

Height

0.25 - 4 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Astilbe



Astilbes are deceptively delicate with their long, fern-like flowers. These flowers can actually withstand damp soil and shade, while still growing between one to six feet tall. Perfect to add for a pop of color to a garden that typically gets little sunlight.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained, High fertility

Zones

4 - 9

Height

1.5 - 6 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Aubrieta



Named after Claude Aubriet, a French artist who famously painted them, Aubrietas spread low with small violet, pink or white flowers. If you're creating a rock garden, Aubrietas are ideal as it prefers sandy, well-drained soil.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained, High fertility

Zones

4 - 9

Height

0.5 - 0.75 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Spring - Early Summer

Features

Non-invasive

Azalea



Often referred to as "the royalty of the garden," these elegant flowers are known for their outstanding colors and foliage. With thousands of varieties to choose from, Azaleas require little maintenance once planted and can be brought inside to make a fabulous bouquet.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 6

Height

3 - 4 feet

Blooms in

Spring

Features

Good for cut flowers

BAMBOO



Among Southerners, few plants elicit such strong emotions as bamboo: People seem either to love it or to want desperately to kill it. Though some bamboos grow as tall as trees, all are actually giant grasses. They consist of large, woody stems (culms) divided into sections (internodes) by obvious joints (nodes). Bamboos spread by underground stems (rhizomes) that are jointed and carry buds. The manner in which the rhizomes grow explains the difference between running and clumping bamboos.

BANANA



Popular symbols of the tropics, lush banana trees are not trees at all, but gigantic herbaceous perennials that grow from corms (or pseudobulbs). Thick, fleshy stalks (pseudostems) emerge from the large corms and can increase in height anywhere from 1 to 30 feet in a year, depending on the selection and location. Each stalk carries spectacular broad, 5- to 9 feet-long leaves. Each also produces a single flower cluster, which develops fruit; the stalk dies after fruiting, and new stalks then grow from the corm.

Baneberry, Bugbane



Very desirable woodland plants native to the eastern U.S. and grown chiefly for their showy flowers and berries. To thrive, these plants need moist, rich, acid, well-drained, woody soil and cool roots. In the South, *Actaea pachypoda* and *Actaea rubra* do best in the mountainous regions of West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. The genus *Cimicifuga* has recently been incorporated into spring-flowering *Actaea*, expanding the range of the group into warmer regions and including midsummer and fall bloomers.

BARBERRY



These dense, spiny-stemmed plants, especially the deciduous species, tolerate climate and soil extremes. They require no more than ordinary garden care and are not browsed by deer. Each year, thin out oldest wood and prune as needed to shapelate in the dormant season for deciduous kinds, after bloom for evergreen and semievergreen types. Barberries make fine hedges. Species grown for their foliage can be sheared, but those grown for their spring flowers and the fruit that follows are best pruned informally, because they bloom on the preceding year's growth. To rejuvenate overgrown or neglected plants, cut them to within a foot of the ground before new spring growth begins. Flowers are yellow unless other- wise noted.

BASIL



Native to tropical and subtropical Asia, basil is an annual herb so simple to grow that even first-time gardeners can plant it with confidence. It thrives in hot, humid weather and grows well throughout the South from spring until frost. Deer don't like it.

BEAN



Gardeners can choose from many types of beans, the most common of which are described below. Except for the soybean (from eastern Asia) and the fava bean (from the Mediterranean region), beans are New World plants belonging to the genus Phaseolus. Most are frost-sensitive heat lovers and are easy to grow from seed. Bean flowers are edible.

BEGONIA



Native to many tropical and subtropical regions worldwide. Begonias are grown for their colorful blooms and textured, multicolored foliage. Outdoors, most grow best in containers in filtered shade. In the ground, they need rich, fast-draining soil; consistent but light feeding; and enough water to keep soil moist but not soggy. Most thrive as indoor plants, in greenhouse, or under a lath. Almost all require at least moderate humidity. (In dry-summer areas or indoors during winter, set pots in saucers filled with wet pebbles.) Most begonias are easy to propagate from leaf, stem, or rhizome cuttings.

BIRCH



No tree has more beautiful bark than a white-barked birch the tree that comes to mind when most people think of birches. Trouble is, these trees are often difficult to keep alive in most of the South. Native to mountainous areas, where summers are cooler and winters long, they tend to struggle when faced with the hot summers common to our region. And they often succumb to a serious pest: the bronze birch borer, which causes them to die slowly from the top down.

BLUEBERRY



Graceful, arching shrubs grown for showy fruit. Small lilac or pink flowers in summer are followed by tight clusters of little, round violet-to-purple fruits that last into winter. Effective in woodland gardens or massed in borders. Bloom and fruit occur on current season's growth, so prune in late winter: Remove a third of oldest stems, or lop whole plant low to ground. Plants may freeze to ground in Upper South, but they come back from roots.

Butterfly bush



Colorful spring or summer flowers, sweet fragrance, attractiveness to butterflies, and easy care make these shrubs extremely popular. The vast majority sold are selections of *Buddleia davidii*, but many other species are highly ornamental and deserve their fair share of attention. Most types prefer full sun and fertile, moist, well-drained soil. Not browsed by deer. Removing spent flowers extends bloom.

Balloon Flower



Balloon flowers start as hollow buds and, as it grows, eventually bursts open into a star-shaped flower. In addition to its beauty, Balloon flowers are resilient in the garden and can handle varying sunlight, water and soil.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 9

Height

2.5 - 3.5 feet

Blooms in

Summer

Features

Deer resistant

Balsam



Bring the tropics to your garden with a Balsam plant. Easy to care for, it thrives in shadier spots, can tolerate heat and handle damp soil. Flowers come in almost every color of the rainbow, including red, orange, yellow, violet, white and pink.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 7

Height

1 - 2.5 feet

Blooms in

Early Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Tolerates heat

Baneberry



Perfect for cool, shaded spots, the Baneberry brings a holiday-inspired look to your garden. Before the Baneberry bears ornamental fruit, it features small white flowers. Beware though, the little red berries found on the plant are poisonous to eat!

Sun Needs

Partial Shade / Full Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

1.5 - 3.5 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring

Features

Non-invasive

Basket of Gold



With bright yellow, low-growing flowers, no wonder where the Basket of Gold got its name. Given its short height and golden color, this makes for a perfect addition to a rock garden or xeriscape.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 8

Height

0.5 - 0.75 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Summer

Features

Deer resistant

Bee Balm



With the name Bee balm, this ornamental flower attracts not only bees, but hummingbirds and other beneficial pollinators. Bee balms are highly valued for their deep scarlet color, but also come in blue, violet, white and pink.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Damp

Zones

4 - 9

Height

2 - 4 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Late Summer

Features

Attracts bees, butterflies

Begonia



Known for their attractive blooms, the Begonia is a timeless favorite among gardeners. Consisting of more than 1,700 species, Begonias also make for good indoor plants if kept by a sunny window and watered regularly.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

8 - 10

Height

0.5 - 1.5 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Fall

Features

Deer resistant

Bellflower



With their happy, star-like flowers, the variety of Bellflowers available can fit any gardener's needs. Ranging from short to tall, and featuring almost every color of the rainbow, these cheery flowers are a great fit for your garden or cut to display in your home.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 8

Height

0.25 - 4 feet

Blooms in

Early Summer - Early Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Bergenia



The Bergenia plant looks as sweet as its nicknames—also commonly known as Pigsqueak or Elephant's ears. While short in stature, the Bergenia makes up for it in ornate flowers and leaves that change from green to red or bronze in the cooler months.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Damp

Zones

3 - 8

Height

1 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Spring

Features

Deer resistant

Blackeyed Susan



Known as the official flower for the Preakness, Blackeyed Susans are a member of the sunflower family. In addition to making a beautiful indoor flower arrangement, Blackeyed Susans attract butterflies, bees and other beneficial insects.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

1 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Late Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Bleeding Heart



The Bleeding Heart's appearance is as equally dramatic as its name, bearing heart shaped flowers that hang from a long stem. It also makes for an exquisite cut flower to display in your home.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained, Damp

Zones

3 - 9

Height

1.5 - 4 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Summer

Features

Good for cut flowers

Bloodroot



This flower gets its name from the bright red poisonous sap if you cut into the stem, but on the outside the Bloodroot makes for a great addition to a shaded garden. In addition to a bright white flower, the leaves are scalloped to create an elegant package.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade / Full Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

0.25 - 0.75 feet

Blooms in

Early Spring

Features

Non-invasive

Boneset



The Boneset is a wildflower that is easy to grow in most soil types, but watch out as it can pose a management problem and spread quickly. Well-suited for more natural looking gardens, the Boneset is also a friend among bees and butterflies.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 9

Height

3 - 5 feet

Blooms in

Late Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Attracts bees, butterflies

Browallia



The Browallia will grow in the darkest corners of your garden, preferring full shade and protection from the hot sun. It also makes for a great indoor plant during the summer as long as it's kept damp but not wet.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade / Full Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

2 - 11

Height

1 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Late Summer

Features

Attracts hummingbirds

Bugleweed



Bugleweed is a popular choice to fill a garden with low, colorful greenery, but be sure to maintain it as it can easily spread and take over your garden. Most prefer shade, but if your Bugleweed variety has purple leaves, it'll do well in heat.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade / Full Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

0.25 - 0.5 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Summer

Features

Tolerates heat

Bugloss



Given it's tall height, attractive blooms and unalluring foliage, the Bugloss is often grown as accent border plants. This biennial is short lived and doesn't do well with excess moisture.

Sun Needs

All Sun Types

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 8

Height

3 - 5 feet

Blooms in

Summer

Features

Non-invasive

Buttercup



Who hasn't held a buttercup up to their chin to see it reflect its golden yellow shade? This cheerful plant is a favorite, but requires regular maintenance to keep it from spreading.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 8

Height

1 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Summer

Features

Non-invasive

Butterfly Weed



The aptly named Butterfly Weed is a favorite among butterflies, but also bees and other beneficial insects. Propagation may take some time, but once the Butterfly Weed starts growing this hardy plant can endure full sun and a variety of soil types.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 9

Height

2 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Early Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

CAMELLIA



The South is the heart of camellia country. Indeed, common camellia (*Camellia japonica*) is Alabama's state flower. Although it seems these beautiful plants must have been born here, in truth they hail from eastern and southern Asia. More than 3,000 named kinds of camellias exist, in a remarkable range of colors, forms, and sizes; they are not usually browsed by deer.

CANNA



There's nothing timid about cannas. Native to the southeastern region of the U.S. as well as to subtropical and tropical parts of Central and South America, they loudly proclaim their presence with large, bold leaves and wildly colorful flowers.

In summer and fall, flower stalks (typically 36 feet tall) bear blossoms to 3 inches across, in shades of red, orange, yellow, salmon, coral, pink, and cream; both solids and bicolors are available.

CINQUEFOIL



Hardy plants useful for ground covers and borders, with bright green or gray-green leaves divided into small leaflets. Small, roselike, typically single flowers come in white; cream; and soft to bright shades of pink, red, yellow, and orange. Cinquefoils typically prefer cool nights and cool soils. Deer don't usually bother them.

CLEMATIS



The most familiar clematis species are deciduous vines that clamber into trees and over fences and arbors; exceptions include the evergreen *Clematis armandii* and a few interesting freestanding or sprawling perennials. Flowers are attractive in all kinds, spectacular in many. The clustered true flowers are tiny and inconspicuous; the showy part consists of petal-like sepals that surround them. Blossoms of most are followed by fluffy clusters of seeds with tails, often quite effective in flower arrangements. Leaves of vining kinds are dark green, usually divided into leaflets; leafstalks twist and curl to hold plant to its support.

CLEYERA japonica



Native to Japan and southeast Asia. Handsome foliage shrub related to camellia. It is quite similar in character to Ternstroemia gymnanthera, with which it is often confused. Grows at moderate rate to 15 feet tall and wide, with graceful, arching branches. New leaves are a beautiful deep brownish red. Mature leaves, 36 inches long, are glossy dark green with reddish midrib. Plant produces small clusters of fragrant, creamy white flowers in summer, followed by small, puffy dark red berries that last throughout winter. Flowers and berries are attractive but not showy. Foliage of 'Tricolor' is variegated in yellow and rose.

COLEUS



Coleus hybrids were all the rage when they were first introduced into Europe from Java in the 1700s and their popularity has remained high. The dizzying array of electrifying colors and foliage shapes enthralled the Victorians, and more than 100 years later, these seed-grown, shade-loving plants are still the most widely sold types. Useful for adding color to beds, in window boxes, and in pots used indoors or out. They need constantly moist, fertile, well-drained soil and should be fed every other week from spring to fall with a general-purpose, water-soluble fertilizer. Pinch out flower spikes as soon as they appear (they are not attractive, and, if allowed to develop, they'll cause plants to look leggy and untidy).

CORAL BELLS, ALUM ROOT



Few plants in recent years have seen as many new introductions with such dazzling new colors as Heuchera. These refined, well-behaved plants offer both attractive bell-shaped blossoms and handsome evergreen foliage. Slender, wiry, 1- to 212 feet stems bear loose clusters of nodding flowers that are typically no more than 18 inches across. These dainty blooms, which often lack petals, make an interesting and long-lasting addition to arrangements; they also attract hummingbirds and other pollinators. Colors include carmine, crimson, red, coral, rose, pink, greenish, pale yellow, and white.

COREOPSIS



Easily grown members of sun-ower family, yielding a profusion of yellow, orange, maroon, or reddish owers over a long bloom season. Easy to propagate annuals from seed sown in place or in pots, perennials from seed or division of root crown. Tend to self-sow; seeds attract birds. Not browsed by deer.

CORN



Nothing beats the taste of sweet corn picked fresh from the garden. Trouble is, corn takes considerable space to produce a decent crop, so it's better suited to large country gardens than to small suburban plots. Another potential drawback is that once sweet corn is picked, its sugar changes to starch nearly as fast as you can run the ears inside to a pot of boiling water. Still, many folks yearn for traditional kinds of sweet corn, such as 'Early Sunglow' (yellow, 62 days from planting to harvest), 'Golden Queen' (yellow, 92 days), 'Merit' (yellow, 80 days), and the all-time favorite 'Silver Queen' (white, 92 days). For information on new hybrids that stay sweet much longer after they're picked, see Improved sweet corn (below).

CRANESBILL



The common indoor/outdoor plant that most people know as geranium is, botanically, Pelargonium. Considered here are true geraniums, which are hardy plants. Many types bloom over a fairly long period, bearing flowers that are attractive, though not as showy as those of Pelargonium. Carried singly or in clusters of two or three, flowers have five overlapping petals that look alike. (Pelargonium blossoms also have five petals, but two point in one direction, the other three in the opposite direction.) Colors include rose, blue, and purple; a few are pure pink or white.

CREPE MYRTLE



Most crepe myrtle trees planted today are selections of *Lagerstroemia indica* or hybrids between this species and *Lagerstroemia faurei*. New selections pop up all the time. One thing we've learned over the past two decades is that the mature size of many selections, particularly those named for tribes of Native Americans, such as 'Natchez,' grow bigger than first advertised. When planted in small yards or near the house, they may quickly outgrow their welcome, resulting in a winter-spring pruning ritual known as crepe murder, in which innocent trees are chopped back into ugly, knuckled trunks.

CRINUM, X AmArcrinum



Among the South's most classic and cherished passalong plants, crinums combine bold, fragrant flowers, imposing foliage, and a bulldog constitution. Seldom seen in newer suburbs, they are now found largely in country gardens, at old home sites, and in cemeteries, where they thrive with little care. Indeed, they tolerate adversity so well that some say no crinum has ever died.

Caladium



Caladiums are known for their heart or arrow shaped leaves and are a good addition to a garden needing some dramatic foliage. In addition to green, leaves are known to include hues of red, white, maroon, pink and cream.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade / Full Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained, Damp

Zones

10 - 11

Height

1 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Early Spring - Mid-Fall

Features

Non-invasive

Calendula



Add a pop of color to your garden with the garden-friendly Calendula. This flower tolerates the cooler months and is even edible—it's spicy leaves are often found as a garnish in salads and soups.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

9 - 11

Height

1 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Mid-Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

California Poppy



The California poppy is ideal for gardens in dry, sandy areas with full sun. Coming in a variety of colors including red, orange, yellow, white and pink, be sure to cut this wildflower to display inside.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

5 - 10

Height

0.5 - 1 feet

Blooms in

Early Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Canterbury Bells



Reminiscent of an old English cottage, Canterbury Bells represent gratitude and faith. Their charming violet bells make for a beautiful bouquet.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

5 - 8

Height

1.5 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Mid-Summer

Features

Good for cut flowers

Cardinal Flower



Recognized for its deep scarlet red blooms, the Cardinal flower grows as high as 4 feet and attract beneficial insects like butterflies. While once in bloom the results are dazzling, this perennial's lifecycle is short lived.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Damp

Zones

2 - 9

Height

3 - 4 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Early Fall

Features

Attracts butterflies

Carnation



The bright cluster of petals make the Carnation a playful choice for any garden or bouquet. Depending on the color you pick, a Carnation can be used as a symbol of friendship, love or fascination.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 8

Height

1.5 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Early Spring - Late Summer

Features

Good for cut flowers

Castor Bean



This massive plant—known to grow up to 10 feet tall—is a good addition if you're looking to add height or a backdrop for smaller plants. Watch out, the seeds, leaves and stem are poisonous!

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

8 - 10

Height

4 - 10 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Late Summer

Features

Deer resistant

Catmint



Cat owners rejoice! This popular feline plant's grey-green leaves and lavender flowers make a beautiful garden addition. It's also easy to care for, tolerating drier climates and full sun.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Dry

Zones

3 - 8

Height

1 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Early Summer - Early Fall

Features

Attracts beneficial insects

Celosia



These ornamental plants get their name from the Greek word keleos, meaning "burned." Their flame-like flower heads come in a variety of colors, including red, orange, yellow, violet, white and pink.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained, High fertility

Zones

2 - 11

Height

0.5 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Chives



While this herb may be best known sprinkled over potatoes, Chives' pink flowers also make for an attractive edging for flower gardens. Fairly tolerant of many soil types, Chives are easy to care for.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

0.5 - 1 foot

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Chrysanthemum



The name Chrysanthemum comes from the Greek words for "gold" and "flower," but come in a variety of colors besides yellow. With vibrant hues of white, yellow, red and pink, the Chrysanthemum features decorative pompom tops that can be beautifully displayed indoors.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

1 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Late Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Clary Sage



This annual comes in violet, white or pink and thrives in outdoor containers. As their bloom season comes to an end, you can either cut them to display proudly in your home or dry them as keepsakes.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

5 - 11

Height

1.5 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Mid-Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Cleome



Also known as spider flower for its lacy foliage, the Cleome quickly fills any spare space in a garden. Deer resistant and drought tolerant, Cleomes also attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 11

Height

3 - 5 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Early Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers



Coleus

This shade tolerant annual is known for its boldly patterned leaves and makes for a great border along gardens. Depending on the specie, the Coleus' leaves can come in shades of red, pink, orange, yellow, green, purple or white.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

2 - 11

Height

0.5 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Late Summer

Features

Non-invasive

Columbine



Also known as Granny's Bonnet, the name Columbine comes from the Latin word "dove" because the shape of the inverted flower resembles doves clustered together. The Columbine is also a major source of food for a species of bumblebee call the *Bombus hortorum*.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 8

Height

1.5 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Spring - Early Summer

Features

Good for cut flowers



Comfrey

In addition to making a great garden, the Comfrey has topical medicinal and herbal uses. Comfrees like moist, somewhat shady locations and freely self-flowers, so it's more suited for ornamental plantings.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Damp

Zones

3 - 9

Height

1 - 5 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Summer

Features

Non-invasive

Coneflower



A member of the daisy family, the Coneflower features rich hues of violet, white and pink. These easy to grow flowers are heat and drought tolerant, and make for a wild bouquet once cut.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

1.5 - 5 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Early Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Coreopsis



Looking for a wildflower that's more manageable than the tall sunflowers? Look no further than the Coreopsis. With down by the prairie charm, the Coreopsis blooms brightly with shades of yellow, red and orange.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

1 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Late Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Corydalis



From the Greek word "crested lark," the Corydalis is not for the novice gardener. Hardy to very few zones (mostly zone 5), the Corydalis bloom season is short-lived with the right combination of sun, moisture and drainage.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade / Full Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

5 - 7

Height

1 - 1.5 feet

Blooms in

Early Summer - Early Fall

Features

Deer resistant

Cosmos



Hailing from the sunflower family, the Cosmos are beautiful wildflowers that bloom in shades of red, orange, yellow, violet, pink and white. Growing up to 6 feet tall, this flower makes for an excellent addition to a bouquet.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

2 - 11

Height

1 - 6 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Crocus



The cup-shaped Crocus blooms vary widely in color, often seen in shades of orange, yellow, violet or white. Their ease of care make for great outdoor containers, but they also excel indoors as a houseplant.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 8

Height

0.25 - 0.3 feet

Blooms in

Early Spring

Features

Non-invasive

Crown Imperial



As majestic as its name, the Crown Imperial features one tall stem with a loop of tubular blooms. Blooms are commonly found in red, yellow or orange and will last longer if planted on its side so as to avoid rot.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

5 - 9

Height

2 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Spring

Features

Deer resistant

Cushion Spurge



The drought tolerant Cushion Spurge actually get their bright yellow color not from the flower, but floral bracts found underneath. Foliage can also range in color, from green to purple to red.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 8

Height

1 - 1.5 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Spring - Late Summer

Features

Non-invasive

Cyclamen



With its glossy, heart-shaped leaves, the Cyclamen is a darling perennial. The Cyclamen is also a popular food source for a variety of insects and animals, from caterpillars to pigs.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

5 - 9

Height

0.25 - 0.5 feet

Blooms in

Early Spring

Features

Non-invasive

DAYLILY



When talk turns to surefire perennials for the South, it doesn't take long for the word daylily to come up. Few plants offer so many flowers in so many colors for so little care. Tuberos, somewhat fleshy roots give rise to large clumps of arching, sword-shaped leaves that may be evergreen, semievergreen, or deciduous, depending on selection.

DOGWOOD



For many Southerners, there's only one dogwood: flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), widely considered the region's finest ornamental tree. But many types of dogwood exist, from good-sized, single-trunked trees to small, multistemmed, stoloniferous shrubs; there's even a ground-covering perennial dogwood. Some are spectacular in bloom, others barely noticeable. Some sport dazzling fall foliage; others don't. And even dogwoods lacking showy flowers or foliage have their strong points. Some flaunt colorful bark; others produce attractive fruits that feed birds and other wildlife.

Daffodil



One of the most recognizable perennials, you know its spring time once a Daffodil is in bloom. Their iconic trumpet flowers typically come in yellow, but are also grown with red, orange, yellow, white and even pink blossoms.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

0.25 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Spring

Features

Good for cut flowers

Dahlia



There are 42 species of Dahlia, but most popular versions are known for its bushy, tuberous flower. Dahlias can be difficult to grow, requiring well-drained soil and full sun, but the payoff is great with a colorful garden ranging in hues from red to violet to pink.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

8 - 10

Height

2.5 - 5.5 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Early Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Dais



The iconic, playful daisy is most recognized for its bright yellow center and white petals. Daisies are easy to grow and not fussy when it comes to soil types, although it does thrive in full sun.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

2 - 11

Height

0.8 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Early Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Dame's Rocket



Dame's Rocket is an aggressive growing biennial and is known to attract moths. Commonly found in white or violet, Dame's Rocket spread particularly quickly in rich, wet soil.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 9

Height

2 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Summer

Features

Good for cut flowers

Delphinium



Also commonly known as "larkspur," the Delphinium is highly toxic to both humans and animals. While dangerous to eat, Delphinium's tall, bell-like blooms and tall stems make for beautiful additions to gardens or cut for bouquets.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 7

Height

3 - 8 feet

Blooms in

Early Summer - Early Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Diascia



The low growing Diascia makes for a great filler in outdoor containers, hanging baskets, window boxes and indoor pots. They are also relatively easy to grow, requiring only full sun and cool weather.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

8 - 9

Height

0.5 - 1 foot

Blooms in

Early Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Non-invasive

Dusty Miller



This hardy drought and frost tolerant plant makes for an ideal filler for outdoor containers and gardens. Its silver-grey foliage provides a nice backdrop to any bolder colored blooms.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

8 - 10

Height

0.75 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Late Summer - Early Fall

Features

Good for pressed flowers

Dutchman's Breeches



These sweet flowers get their name from the up-side-down hanging blooms that resemble pants. Dutchman's Breeches are one of the few flowers whose seeds are spread by ants, so don't fret if you see a colony nearby!

Sun Needs

Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 8

Height

0.5 - 1 foot

Blooms in

Mid-Spring

Features

Non-invasive

EUONYMUS



Maybe the reason so many people mistakenly call euonymus anonymous plants is that they can be hard to recognize the evergreen and deciduous kinds look nothing alike. The colorful seed capsules common to both provide the only obvious hint that they're related. Deciduous types are valued for their brilliant fall leaf color or showy fruit.

Evergreen types which include some of the most cold-hardy, broad-leafed evergreens are employed as hedges, screens, and foundation plants. Foliage is quite variable in shape, but leaves of most are pointed-oval to lance-shaped. Most species tolerate either sun or shade, but deciduous types need sun for good fall color. Scale is a likely problem on any euonymus; treat with horticultural oil.

EUPHORBIA



Large genus of about 2,000 species. What is called a flower is technically a cyathium, which consists of fused bracts that form a cup around the much-reduced true flowers. Cyathia may appear singly or in clusters. In some cases, as with poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*), additional bracts below provide most of the color. Fruit is usually a dry capsule that releases seeds explosively, shooting them up to several feet away. Many euphorbias are succulents; these often mimic cacti in appearance and are as diverse in form and size. Only a few succulent types are listed here, but specialists in cacti and succulents can supply scores of species and selections.

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Epimedium



With green foliage and pink, yellow or purple flowers, the Epimedium makes for good groundcover in shady, moist gardens. As the seasons progress, their green leaves can have tints of bronze, copper and red.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade / Full Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 8

Height

0.25 - 1.5 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Spring - Late Spring

Features

Deer resistant

Evergreen Candytuft



Known for its small, cloud-like blooms, this sun-loving flower makes for a great addition to rock gardens. Often cascading over rocks or walls, the Evergreen Candytuft is ideal for a filler in containers or to act as a border.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

5 - 9

Height

0.5 - 1 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Spring

Features

Tolerates heat

Fennel



When not harvested, this edible perennial herb can grow up to 6 feet tall and feature dark foliage. It also attracts beneficial insects, including swallowtail butterflies.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 9

Height

3 - 6 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Late Summer

Features

Attracts beneficial insects

Fountain Grass



This ornamental grass shows off flowy, plumed flowerheads and provide a unique contrast to any garden. They are most commonly found in white, but for more of a "wow" factor, look for shades of red, violet and pink.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

6 - 11

Height

2 - 4 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Fall

Features

Deer resistant

Foxglove



This elegant flower requires a bit of patience, as it typically takes two seasons before its iconic blooms appear. But the wait is worth the payoff and the hardy Foxglove can handle a wide range of sun and soil types.

Sun Needs

All Sun Types

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 8

Height

1 - 6 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Summer

Features

Good for cut flowers

GARDENIA



No plant expresses the grace of the South better than gardenia. Intensely fragrant white blossoms contrast beautifully with shiny, leathery, dark green leaves. Double forms are a classic choice for corsages.

Gardenias are lovely in flower borders and also do well in large pots on decks and patios; gardeners in cold-winter areas can grow them in cool greenhouses.

GAS PLANT



Native from Europe to northern China. Sturdy, long lived, practically immortal in colder climates, needing little care once established. Forms clumps 2 4 feet high, 3 feet wide. In early summer, produces loose spires of blossoms at branch tips; each flower resembles a wild azalea, with narrow petals and prominent greenish stamens. Pink is the basic color, but nurseries offer lilac-purple 'Purpureus' and white 'Albiflorus'. Seedpods that follow can be left in place for fall. Glossy, olive-green leaves with 9 to 11 leaflets, each 13 inches long, are handsome throughout growing season. Not browsed by deer.

GAZANIA DAISY



Native to South Africa. The daisy flowers put on a dazzling display of color during peak bloom in late spring and early summer and they continue to bloom inter- mittently throughout the year. Gazanias grow well in almost any well-drained soil. Feed once in spring with slow-acting fertilizer. Divide plants every 3 to 4 years.

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Gaillardia



Ideal for hot, dry landscapes, the Gaillardia adds some extra spice to any garden. In bright hues of red, orange, yellow and violet, the Gaillardia makes for a dramatic wildflower bouquet.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

5 - 9

Height

0.66 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Early Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Gas Plant



Gas plants can take a few years to cultivate, but are easy to care for and, once flowering, give off an aromatic scent. Be careful though, the flowers and foliage are known to cause skin rashes for some.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 8

Height

2 - 4 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Summer

Features

Deer resistant

Gaura



The elegant Gaura features dainty white or pink blooms. Thriving in a variety of soil types, the Gaura is known to quickly take over gardens and be difficult to trim down—so don't let your garden go unmanaged for too long!

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

5 - 10

Height

3 - 4 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Early Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Gazania



Growing large, daisy-like flowers, the Gazania is commonly used as colorful groundcover in sun soaked gardens. It can also be brought inside during the fall as long as it's kept near bright light and few waterings.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

8 - 10

Height

0.5 - 1.5 feet

Blooms in

Early Summer - Early Fall

Features

Attracts butterflies

Geranium



Geranium includes 422 species, known for its five colorful petals commonly found in white, pink, purple or blue. Geraniums are a favorite amongst gardeners given their ease of care and ability to thrive in outdoor containers.

Sun Needs

All Sun Types

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 8

Height

0.75 - 2.5 feet

Blooms in

Early Summer - Early Fall

Features

Deer resistant

Geum



The fickle Geum prefers full sun, but doesn't thrive in extreme weather changes. Moderately difficult to cultivate, their tall, striking spring blooms last only a few months.

Sun Needs

All Sun Types

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

5 - 8

Height

1 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Summer

Features

Non-invasive

Globe Thistle



The Globe Thistle, with its tall stem and spherical flowerhead, screams for attention. Coming in shades of blue and violet, the Globe Thistle attracts bees and butterflies, as well as making for a gorgeous cut bouquet.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

2 - 4 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Early Fall

Features

Attracts butterflies

Glory of the Snow



Glory of the Snow is an early bloomer, making it a popular choice for gardeners looking for a low growing plant to carpet their landscaping. Be sure to maintain their growth, as once established they tend to quickly form large clumps.

Sun Needs

All Sun Types

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 9

Height

0.3 - 0.5 foot

Blooms in

Early Spring

Features

Non-invasive

Goatsbeard



These feathery white or yellow blooms grow as tall as 6 feet, providing a striking backdrop to any garden. Goatsbeard performs best in partial shade and prefers a moist environment.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade / Full Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

4 - 6.5 feet

Blooms in

Summer

Features

Non-invasive

Golden Marguerite



The daisy-like Golden Marguerite is short lived, so take in its aromatic foliage and sweet flowers while its around. Towards the end of the season, you can collect them and use the flowers as a natural fabric dye to produce shades of yellow.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 7

Height

2 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Summer

Features

Good for cut flowers

Gomphrena



The globe-like flowerheads of the Gomphrena brighten any garden. Hardy and easy to grow, the Gomphrena is a popular choice in dried flower bouquets and Hawaiian leis given it'll hold its compact shape after being cut.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

7 - 10

Height

0.5 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

HACKBERRY



These big, tough, fast-growing shade trees are similar to elms (Ulmus) but smaller. All have virtue of deep rooting; old trees in narrow planting strips expand in trunk diameter and nearly fill strips without surface roots or any sign of heaving the sidewalk or curb. Good choice for street or lawn tree, even near buildings or paving. Canopy casts moderate shade in spring and summer; leaves turn yellow in fall. Mature trees have picturesque gray bark with corky warts and ridges. Small, berrylike fruit attracts birds.

HAIR GRASS



Ornamental clumping grasses with narrow, rough leaves obscured by clouds of yellowish over panicles in late spring or early summer. Use in mass plantings. Best suited to Upper South. Evergreen in warmer part of range, semievergreen in colder part.

Hardy rubber tree



From central China. Rubber can be made from this tree's sap, but the process isn't economically feasible instead, the plant is grown for its ornamental qualities. Attractive rounded habit; can reach 4060 feet tall, with equal or greater spread. Leaves resemble those of elm (Ulmus) but are glossier and more leathery. When a leaf is slowly torn in two, sap from the veins congeals into threads of rubber, holding the two halves together. Tolerates a wide variety of soils but requires good drainage. Not troubled by pests. 'Emerald Point' has a more upright, narrow, oval habit and smaller leaves. Useful street tree.

HAWAIIAN TREE FERN



These evergreen ferns are superb for creating tropical effects. A solitary brown trunk the upper portion of which is thickly covered with silky hairs supports arching, intricately divided, feathery-looking fronds. Provide reasonably fertile, well-drained soil and shelter from strong winds. Prune to remove old or injured fronds. The two Hawaiian natives listed here are hardy to 30F; beyond their hardiness range, they can be grown in a large greenhouse or sunroom in bright light.

HAWORTHIA



Small, rosette-forming succulents from South Africa. Many types produce offsets to form dense, spreading colonies. Fleshy leaves may be slender and rough textured or pillowlike and smooth; some have small white bumps or ridges. Tiny flowers are held on long, whiplike stems from spring to late fall; these may be clipped off as they fade to keep plants tidy.

HAY-SCENTED FERN



Native from eastern Canada to the Midsouth. Deciduous fern with finely divided yellow-green fronds to 2 feet tall arising from creeping rhizomes. Plant spreads quickly to make an attractive ground cover. Crushed fronds smell like freshly cut hay. If given adequate water, thrives even in poor, rocky soil. Can form mats that cover rocks. You may see it growing along the roadside or under rail fences in partly shaded areas.

HEATH



Usually associated with the Scottish highlands, heaths are delightful little shrubs. They combine fine-textured, short, needlelike leaves with masses of showy flowers in winter, spring, or summer; blooms may be shaped like tiny bells, urns, or tubes. Flower color ranges from white to pink through lavender to red; foliage colors include bright green, gray-green, yellow, orange, and bronze. Heaths are most effective when massed on berms and banks or used as a ground cover. Deer don't browse them.

HEDGEHOG CACTUS



Nearly 50 species of hedgehog cactus are native to the Southwest, including Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico. Some grow at fairly high elevations, where they survive freezing temperatures. All have cylindrical, ribbed stems in clumps; showy flowers in spring to early summer; and fleshy fruit that is edible in some species. Blooms come in red, yellow, purple, pink, or white and have many rows of petals; they typically close at night. Plant in masses for best effect. Excellent choices for dry-land gardens. Give them maximum sun and gritty, well-drained soil.

HELICHRYSUM



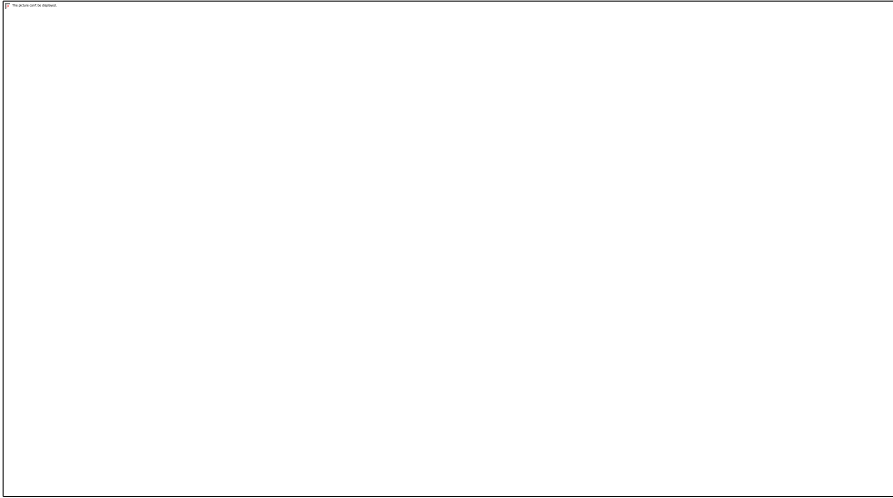
Best known are the annual strawflowers (*Helichrysum bracteatum* and *Helichrysum subulifolium*) used in fresh and dried arrangements. Others, though less familiar, are choice plants for landscape use. Seldom bothered by deer.

HELIOTROPIUM



Grown mainly for their fragrant summer flowers, which are individually tiny but borne in striking clusters 34 inches across. Attract both butterflies and hummingbirds. Although most often treated as annuals, they can be grown as short-lived perennials in the Tropical South. Plants can be massed in flower beds; they also look great in window boxes and planters. Provide well-drained soil.

HELLEBORE



Distinctive, long-lived plants that add color to the garden for several months in winter and spring, hellebores are also appreciated for their attractive foliage. Each leaf consists of a long leafstalk ending in large, leathery leaflets grouped together like fingers on an outstretched hand.

HEMLOCK



These are mostly big trees with horizontal to drooping branches and an unusually graceful appearance. Needlelike leaves are banded with white beneath, flattened and narrowed at the base to form distinct, short stalks. Small, oval, medium brown cones hang down from branches. Bark is deeply furrowed, cinnamon colored to brown.

Hen and Chicks



Mexican natives that form rosettes of fleshy leaves, often marked or overlaid with deeper colors. Baby plants (offsets) form around the mother plant, hence, the common name. (For other plants called hen and chicks, see *Sempervivum*.) Bell-shaped, nodding flowers, usually pink, red, or yellow, in long, slender, sometimes branched clusters. Good in rock gardens. Some make good houseplants if sited in a south- or west-facing window; they benefit from being moved outdoors to a lightly shaded spot during the warm months. Feed houseplants monthly with a general-purpose liquid houseplant fertilizer diluted to half-strength; reduce feeding and watering in winter.

HERALD'S TRUMPET, EASTER LILY VINE



From the Himalayas. Rampant vine with arching, twining branches; climbs as high as 30 feet and spreads just as wide. Large (6- to 9 inches.), oval to roundish dark green leaves, smooth and shiny above, slightly downy beneath, give lush tropical look. From spring through summer, bears fragrant, trumpet-shaped, 5 inches-long, green-veined white blossoms that look like Easter lilies (*Lilium longiflorum*).

HESPERALOE



Clumps of narrow, evergreen leaves with threadlike fringe along edges give rise to tall, branching inflorescences set with many tubular flowers that attract hummingbirds. Foliage clumps resemble yucca or coarse grass. Plants require little maintenance aside from removal of spent flower clusters. Established plants can get by with little summer water and aren't fussy about soil as long as it is well drained.

HIBISCUS



Among the showiest flowering plants in Southern gardens, hibiscus typically bear funnel-shaped blossoms sometimes as big as dinner plates and often with prominent stamens. The many species offer an astonishing range of flower colors, and most bloom over a long season. Flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Whiteflies and aphids are common pests; insecticidal soap is a good control for both.

HICKORY



These large, grand, picturesque hardwoods combine long life with handsome bark and colorful fall foliage. Many forms of wildlife depend on the nuts for food. Unfortunately, hickories are seldom sold, because long taproots make them hard to transplant. But if hickories grow on your property, by all means conserve them. Leaves divided featherwise into leaflets. Inconspicuous flowers are followed by nuts enclosed in husks that usually break away at maturity. Trees are too large for smaller yards but are attractive where space is available. All develop deep taproots, so they should be planted while young and not moved later.

HOLLY



Few plants are as dependable, versatile, and popular as hollies. More than 400 species and countless hybrids exist. Although a number of deciduous kinds have spectacular winter berries, Southerners generally prefer evergreen types that feature handsome foliage year-round and showy fruit as a bonus. In size, hollies range from foot-high mounds to trees 4050 feet tall. Smaller, shrublike plants are useful as foundation plantings and low hedges. Large evergreen hollies make attractive tall screens and informal hedges, and they're also good in corner plantings or as single specimens in a spacious lawn. Small-leaved types can be sheared into formal hedges or used for topiary.

HOLLY FERN



These sturdy, adaptable ferns are so undemanding, they have naturalized in parts of the South. Not browsed by deer.

Hollyhock



Hollyhocks are cultivated for their big, colorful, funnel-shaped summer flowers. Need rich, well-drained soil.

HONEY LOCUST



Native to central and eastern North America. Fast growing, especially when young, with upright trunk and spreading, arching branches. To 3570 feet tall and 2535 feet wide. Bright green, fernlike leaves to 10 inches long are divided into many oval, 34- to 112 inches-long leaflets. Late to leaf out; leaves turn golden yellow and drop early in fall. Inconspicuous flowers are followed by broad, 1- to 112 feet-long pods filled with sweetish pulp and hard, roundish seeds.

HONEYSUCKLE



Most honeysuckles are valued for their clustered or paired, often fragrant flowers. Blossoms are tubular in form. Some have two flaring, unequal lips; others are trumpets or straight tubes, sometimes flaring at the mouth into five equal lobes. Flowers attract hummingbirds, and the red or purple berries that follow provide food for many other kinds of birds. Blossoms typically deepen in color after opening, so clusters contain both pale and darker blooms. Vining species climb by twining and need staking until they are tall enough to reach a trellis or other support. As they grow, they may need to be tied to the support here and there to distribute the branches well.

HOP



These fast-growing, twining vines are attractive for summer screening on trellises or arbors and one species yields the hops used in beer. Leaves to 6 inches long are deeply lobed and toothed. Bloom in late summer. Male plants produce flower panicles; females bear blossoms in greenish spikes resembling pinecones. Squarish, hairy stems are set with deeply lobed, toothed leaves to 6 inches long. Stems twine vertically; to get horizontal growth, twine stem tips by hand. Cut stems to ground after frost turns them brown; regrowth comes the following spring.

HOREHOUND



Slow-growing, small to medium- size trees (seldom more than 40 feet high and wide), hop hornbeams get their common name from the female flowers and fruit, which are enclosed in bractlike husks that form 112- to 212 inches clusters resembling those of hop (Humulus). Oval, pointed, 4- to 5 inches-long leaves turn from dark green to yellow in fall. Inch-long male catkins are attractive in winter. Wood is hard, heavy, and dense. Grow best in well-drained, slightly acid soil; perform well in city plantings.

HORNBEAM



These are well-behaved, long-lived, relatively small shade trees; make fine street or lawn trees. Growth rate is slow to moderate. Very hard, tough wood. Dark green, sawtooth-edged leaves color up agreeably in fall in the Upper, Middle, and Lower South, hang on late in season. Fruits (small, hard nutlets in leaflike bracts) are carried in attractive drooping clusters to 5 inches long. Mature trees need little or no pruning.

Horsechestnut, Buckeye



These trees sport long, showy, typically upright clusters of flowers atop their branches in springtime. Some develop good fall color. Leathery capsules release glossy, dark brown, chestnutlike seeds (buckeyes) in autumn. Prune established horsechestnuts only to remove dead branches. Summer leaf scorch is common when the plants are grown in poor, dry soil; severe cases result in defoliation.

HORSERADISH



Botanically known as *Armoracia rusticana*. Native to southeastern Europe. Large (to about 3 feet), coarse, weedy-looking plant grown for its large white roots. Does best in rich, moist, acid, well-drained soils. Grow it in some sunny, out- of-the-way corner. In late winter or early spring, set in a hole 68 inches deep so that top of root is even with soil surface. Fill hole with soil and then mound 35 inches of soil over the top. One plant should provide enough horseradish for a family of four. For multiple plants, space 2123 feet apart. Keep soil slightly moist during summer months; drought results in bitter roots.

HOWEA



These slow-growing feather palms are native to Lord Howe Island in the South Pacific. They are the kentia palms of florists and are usually sold under the name Kentia. With age, leaves drop to show clean, green trunk ringed with leaf scars. When using these palms outdoors, plant them beneath another tree to provide cold protection (they are very sensitive to frost) and to shield them from strong winds. Give them well-drained soil high in organic matter. They do not tolerate salt.

HYACINTH BEAN



Probably from, twining vine to 10 feet Leaves are made up of three broad, oval leaflets to 36 inches long. Fragrant, sweet peashaped, purple or white flowers appear in late summer or autumn, borne in loose clusters on long stems that stand out from foliage.

Blossoms are followed by velvety, beanlike pods to 2 inches long, in a stunning shade of bright magenta-purple. Grow like string beans for quick, dense screening. Provide trellis or other support. Needs good drainage. Asia.
Fast-growing

HYDRANGEA



Hydrangeas have exploded in popularity in recent years, thanks to their spectacular, long-lasting flowers in blue, purple, pink, red, or white. Close inspection reveals that each flower cluster is composed of tiny, fertile, seed-producing flowers on the inside, and large, showy, sterile flowers on the outside. 'Mopheads' feature large, rounded or conical clusters of sterile flowers that hide the fertile flowers inside. 'Lacecaps' display flattened clusters of fertile flowers ringed by showy sterile flowers. Fertile and sterile flowers may be two different colors depending on soil.

HYSSOP



This compact southern European herb grows 2 feet high, 3 feet wide, with narrow, glossy, dark green leaves on woody-based stems. Foliage has a pungent scent and a peppery taste; sometimes used in cooking. Profusion of dark blue flower spikes appears throughout summer and into autumn; not a dramatic show but pleasing. 'Rosea' has pink blooms; selections with white and lavender blooms also exist.



Heliotrope

Derived from the Greek words for "sun" and "turn," the Heliotrope actually performs best when planted in partial shade. Their tiny, delicate cluster of blue, violet or white blooms make for good outdoor containers and can even be brought indoors in a cool, sunny spot in your home.

Sun Needs

All Sun Types

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

10 - 11

Height

1.5 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Early Fall

Features

Attracts butterflies

Hepatica



The small woodland Hepatica features blue, violet, pink or white blooms. Named after the Greek word for "liver," Hepatica foliage is a clump of three-lobed leaves that resemble a human liver.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade / Full Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones`

5 - 8

Height

0.25 - 0.5 foot

Blooms in

Early Spring - Mid-Spring

Features

Non-invasive



Hollyhock

Hollyhocks are known for their tall spikes of trumpet-like flowers, commonly found in bright red, yellow, violet, white or pink. Hollyhocks can grow as tall as 8 feet, so have some stakes handy to prop them up and encourage growth.

Sun Needs

All Sun Types

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

4 - 8 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Early Fall

Features

Non-invasive

Hosta



These shade tolerant plants are most popular for their large foliage shape and color. Acting as groundcover, Hosta foliage is commonly found in dark green and white, but can also feature blue and yellow.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade / Full Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

1 - feet

Blooms in

Summer

Features

Non-invasive

Hyacinth



This popular bulb plant produces bulbous-like flowers in vibrant shades of blue, indigo and violet. An easy to grow plant, Hyacinths can be grown for for a variety of uses, such as outdoor containers, rock gardens or indoors.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 9

Height

1 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Early Fall

Features

Non-invasive

Hyssop



The versatile Hyssop is grown in a variety of ways, including containers, around garden borders or clumped together. Hyssops can grow in poor soil and tolerate drought.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 10

Height

1 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Late Summer

Features

Good for cut flowers

ICE PLANT



Along with a few other genera, these low-growing succulents are all known as ice plants. *Delosperma* species, most of which hail from South Africa, are the best ice plants for the South (they do particularly well in the Southwest). They never grow more than a few inches high but spread to form ground-hugging mats ideal for covering a bank or slope. Daisylike flowers (about 2 inches across) appear above the small, succulent leaves, which may be cylindrical or flattened. Need full sun, good drainage, and just enough water to keep them looking fresh. Mulch with gravel to keep base of plant dry. Withhold water in fall to harden off plants for winter.

impatiens, sultana, BALSAM



Of the hundreds of species, only the following are usually seen in gardens. Most of these are annuals or tender perennials treated as annuals; all are valuable for long bloom period (most flower in summer, and a few continue into fall). When lightly touched, ripe seed capsules burst open and scatter seeds.

INCARVILLEA



Native to the Himalayas and China, these plants have showy trumpet-shaped flowers similar to those of their trumpet vine relatives (Bignonia, Campsis, and the like). Flowers are large for the size of the plant. Many species are coming into cultivation, but only the following two have reached North American gardens in any numbers. Leaves are 28 inches long, divided featherwise into leaflets. Plants are deep rooted and need reasonably deep soil and excellent drainage. In Upper South, mulch plants after the soil has frozen (to prevent ground from heaving). Protect from slugs and snails.

INCENSE CEDAR



You wouldn't think that a conifer native to Oregon and California would tolerate the heat and humidity of the South. But incense cedar does. It has been grown successfully from one end of the South to the other from Stillwater, Oklahoma, to Athens, Georgia.

Growing 7590 feet tall and only 1015 feet wide, this symmetrical tree forms a dense, narrow, pyramidal crown. It features flat sprays of rich green foliage and handsome reddish brown bark. Small yellowish- to reddish-brown cones resembling duckbills ripen in autumn. The foliage produces a pungently sweet fragrance in warm weather, hence the tree's common name.

IRIS



A large and remarkably diverse group of 200 to 300 species, varying in flower color and form, cultural needs, and blooming periods (although the majority flower in spring or early summer). Leaves are swordlike or grasslike. Flowers (fragrant, in many kinds) are showy and complex in structure. The three inner segments (the standards) are petals; they are usually erect or arching but, in some kinds, may flare to horizontal. The three outer segments (the falls) are petal-like sepals; they are held at various angles, from nearly horizontal to drooping.

IOCHROMA



From the forests of Central and South America. These fast-growing, vining shrubs have drooping, tubular or trumpet-shaped flowers in clusters of up to 20 near ends of branches. Blooms from early spring through fall or year-round in frost-free areas. Leaves 58 inches long, 13 inches wide. Fruit is pulpy berries.

INULA



Large group of plants native to Europe and Asia grown for their showy, daisylike, yellow flowers. Imposing and erect, they have large basal leaves and progressively smaller leaves higher up on the stems. Medium green, oval, pointed leaves are often hairy or downy. Good for open, casual gardens or against a dark-colored background. Soil should be well drained. Deer resistant.

INDIAN PINK



This charming woodland plant is among the showiest and easiest Southern wildflowers. Grows 12 feet high, with stiff, erect stems bearing pairs of glossy, green, 4 inches., broadly lance-shaped leaves. Clusters of 2 inches., trumpet-like flowers; blossoms are red on the outside and yellow inside, facing upward to show a yellow five-pointed star at the mouth. Early summer bloom; attracts hummingbirds. Easy to grow if given light shade and moist, acid soil. With enough moisture, will tolerate much sun. Tolerates dry soil in shade. 'Little Redhead' grows just 15 inches tall.

Impatiens



Impatiens make for great container plants, either indoors or outdoors, given their ability to tolerate damp soil and shady areas. Their low, dark foliage will spout a range of colors, including red, orange, violet, white and pink.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade / Full Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

8 - 10

Height

0.5 - 2.5 feet

Blooms in

Early Summer - Early Fall

Features

Non-invasive

Iris



Known for its ornate flowers, the Iris is from the Greek word for "rainbow." The Greeks had it right, as this popular flower appears in every color spectrum. Made up of more than 250 species, the Iris ranges in height and bloom times.

Sun Needs

All Sun Types

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

0.25 - 6 foot

Blooms in

Early Spring - Early Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

JACARANDA mimosifolia



Native to Brazil, Bolivia, and Argentina, this is surely one of the world's prettiest flowering trees. Quickly grows to 4560 feet tall and 2540 feet wide, with rounded, spreading form. Large, bright green, much-divided leaves up to 20 inches long are soft and fernlike, resembling those of mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*), hence the species name *mimosifolia*. Leaves drop in late winter. New leaves may emerge quickly or branches may remain bare until tree comes into bloom, usually in mid- to late spring. Tubular, 2 inches-long, blue or lavender-blue blossoms with white throats appear in many 8 inches-long clusters. Flat, mahogany-colored seedpods look great in arrangements but are messy on the ground. 'Alba', a white-flowered selection, is sometimes offered; it has lush foliage and sparser blooms. 'Bonsai Blue' grows 6 feet tall with deep purple blooms.

Jack-in-the-pulpit, cobra lily



Curious rather than beautiful relatives of calla (*Zantedeschia*), attractive both to children and to fanciers of the unusual. Flowers are tiny, crowded on a club-shaped spadix surrounded by an overarching, typically green or dull purple spathe (flower bract) that is often striped in a contrasting color. In late spring, tubers send up one to three leaves, each divided into three or more leaflets. Inflorescences appear on a separate stalk in spring or early summer. As the flowers fade, the spathe withers and the spadix forms orange to red seeds.

JACOB'S LADDER



These shade-loving perennials form lush rosettes of finely divided, ferny, typically light to medium green foliage; clusters of bell-shaped flowers appear in spring or early summer. Good under trees. Lovely in combination with bellflower (Campanula), bleeding heart (Laprocarnos), ferns, hellebore, hosta, lilies. Grow from seed or from divisions made after bloom or in spring; give well-drained soil. The following species and hybrids are among those most commonly available in nurseries.

JAPANESE AUCUBA



Native from the Himalayas to Japan. Seedlings vary in leaf form and variegation; many selections are offered. Standard green-leaved aucuba grows at a moderate rate to 610 feet (sometimes to 15 feet.) high and almost as wide; can be kept lower by pruning. Buxom shrub, densely clothed with polished-looking, tooth-edged, dark green leaves 38 inches long, 112 3 inches wide.

Minute, dark maroon flowers in earliest spring are followed by clusters of bright red, 34 inches berries in fall and winter. Both sexes must be planted to ensure fruit. 'Rozannie', however, is self-fruitful, producing a heavy crop of berries without a pollinator.

JAPANESE CLEYERA



Large, slow-growing, carefree shrub to 10 feet tall, 6 feet wide (easily kept smaller through pruning). Good substitute for the overused and disease-prone Fraser photinia (*Photinia x fraseri*). Often confused with true Japanese cleyera (*Cleyera japonica*), page 246.

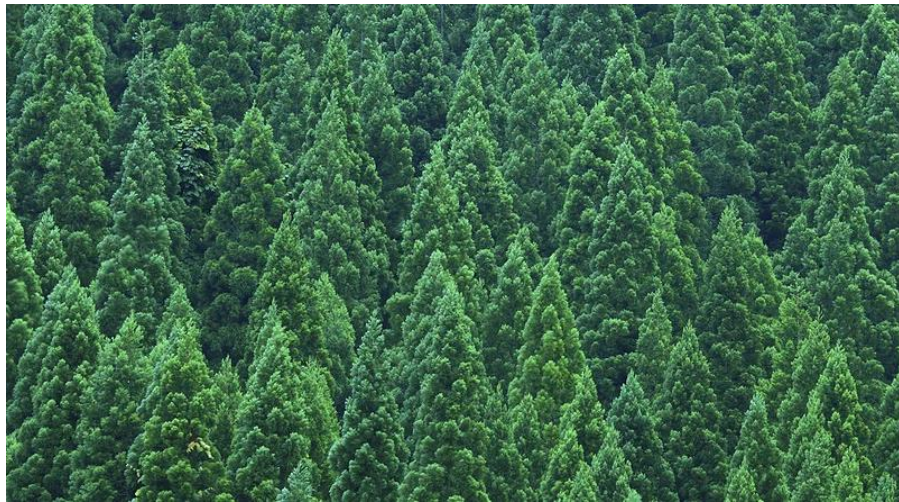
Glossy, leathery, rounded oval to narrowly oval leaves are 1123 inches long, borne on red leafstalks; they are bronzy red when new, maturing to deep green, bronzy green, or purplish red depending on season, exposure, and the particular plant. Red tints are deeper in cold weather.

JAPANESE COLTSFOOT, FUKI



Giant perennial for constantly moist locales near ponds, streams. Creeping rhizomes give rise to big (212 feet-wide), round leaves on edible, 3 feet-long stalks that are used by the Japanese as a vegetable (called fuki). Short, thick spikes of fragrant white daisies appear in early spring before the leaves emerge. Locate this plant with care; it has thick, invasive rhizomes and can be difficult to eradicate. P. j. giganteus has leaves to 4 feet wide on 5 feet stalks. Its selection 'Variegatus', with 3- to 4 feet stalks, has 2- to 3 feet-wide leaves with bold white markings.

JAPANESE CRYPTOMERIA



Graceful conifer, fast growing (34 feet a year) in youth. Eventually skyline tree to 100 feet tall, 30 feet wide at base, with straight, columnar trunk, thin red-brown bark peeling in strips. Slightly pendulous branches are clothed with needlelike leaves 121 inches long; foliage is soft bright green to bluish green during the growing season, brownish purple in cold weather. Roundish, red-brown cones 341 inches wide. Trees are sometimes planted in groves for Japanese garden effect; they also make a good tall screen. For holiday decorations they are soft and do not shed. Good substitute for Leyland Cypress. Not browsed by deer.

japanese kerria



Though it hails from China and Japan, this shrub has become a true Southern passalong plant, often seen gracing older cottage and country gardens. Grows 36 feet tall and somewhat wider, with an open, rounded habit. Bright green, 2- to 4 inches-long, tooth-edged leaves are oval and pointed, with prominent veining; they emerge early in spring and may turn soft lemon-yellow in fall. Showy yellow flowers are single or double, 1142 inches across; they appear mainly in spring but continue sporadically throughout the summer. Flowers are solitary and resemble small roses in fact, Japanese kerria is sometimes mistakenly called the yellow rose of Texas. In winter, the leafless bright green stems lend welcome color to the garden.

JAPANESE SKIMMIA



Handsome shrub from Japan and China. Compact, slow grower to 25 feet or taller, 36 feet wide. Glossy, rich green leaves are oval and pointed, to 34 inches long and 1 inches wide, most often clustered toward the twig ends. In spring, 2- to 3 inches clusters of tiny, fragrant white flowers open from pinkish buds held well above foliage. Flowers are larger and more fragrant on male plants. If a male plant is present, female plants produce bright red fruit resembling holly (*Ilex*) berries in fall and winter; these are attractive enough to make planting both sexes worth the effort. Plants tend to be sold as simply male and female rather than by selection name. A form with ivory-white berries is available. *S. j. reevesiana* (sometimes sold as *S. reevesiana*) is looser and more open in habit, growing slowly to 1123 feet high, 23 feet wide; it is self-fertile, producing dull red berries.

JASMINE



Think of fragrant plants, and jasmine is one of the first to come to mind. Yet not all jasmines are fragrant; and despite its common name, the intensely sweet Confederate jasmine is not a true jasmine at all, but a member of the genus Trachelospermum.

Growth habits of jasmines range from vining to vining-shrubby to decidedly shrubby. True vining types climb by twining stems. Vining shrubs do not twine, but rather put out long, slender, lax stems that must be tied into place if the plants are to function as vines.

JESSAMINE



These fast-growing, twining vines are beloved for their showy yellow flowers. They'll quickly cover a lamppost, trellis, or arbor, but their thin, twining stems won't damage the support. May be semievergreen in the Middle South. Deer usually leave them alone.

JEWEL ORCHID



If you think all orchids are hard to grow indoors, you haven't tried this one. Native to the forest floors of Indonesia and Malaysia, jewel orchid is prized more for its foliage than for its flowers. The handsome bronze leaves, up to 3 inches long and 1 inches wide, are streaked with parallel red veins. Creeping stems send up leafy rosettes, each of which produces a foot-tall spike of tiny white flowers in winter.

JUSTICIA



These New World natives are grown chiefly for their tubular, tightly clustered flowers or, in the case of *Justicia brandegeana*, for showy spikes of bracts. Blossoms of all species attract hummingbirds. Leaves are paired, opposite each other on the stems.

Jack-in-the-Pulpit



Given its equally playful name, the Jack-in-the-Pulpit foliage grows unexpectedly, creating a hood-like shape once fully grown. Before the flower appears, it's often confused as poison ivy.

Sun Needs

All Sun Types

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 9

Height

1 - 1.5 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Spring - Late Spring

Features

Non-invasive

Jacob's Ladder



Jacob's Ladder doesn't get its name not from its blooms, rather the arrangement of the leaves going up the stem that resembles a ladder. The dainty, bell-like flowers of the Jacob's Ladder make for a beautiful garden favorite.

Sun Needs

All Sun Types

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

1 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Mid-Summer

Features

Non-invasive

KALANCHOE



From Old World tropics. Kalan- choes have fleshy, typically green leaves and bell-shaped flowers; they are used principally as houseplants but can be grown outdoors year-round where winters are mild and frost free. Site indoor plants in a south-facing window and let them go fairly dry between waterings. Feed with a general-purpose liquid houseplant fertilizer monthly from spring until fall. Reduce watering in winter, but don't let soil dry out so much that leaves wither.

KALE and COLLARDS



These knee-high, cool-season cabbage relatives are grown for their leaves, which can be steamed, stir-fried, sauted, or added to soups. Both are high in vitamins A and C and calcium. Hardy to 5F, these vegetables are winter staples. Kale grows 1430 inches high, and collards average 23 feet high.

Curly-leafed kales (such as red-veined, purple-tinged 'Redbor' and blue-green 'Winterbor') form compact clusters of tightly curled leaves. 'Toscano' ('Lacinato') is a noncurly green kale also known as dinosaur kale and considered by many to be the best tasting. 'Red Russian' is a noncurly red kale whose leaves are gray-green with purple veins.

KALIMERIS



An underused group of flowering perennials from eastern Asia. Easy to grow and colorful over a long season from summer into fall. Flowers resemble asters. Thrive in heat and humidity. Shear to encourage rebloom.

KALMIA



Elegant shrubs related to rhododendron, with showy flower clusters. Each long flower stalk bears a small bud resembling a fluted turban; buds open to chalice-shaped blooms with five starlike points. Plants share rhododendron's need for moist air and rich, well-drained, acid soil. Tolerate shade but bloom much better in part sun (provided soil does not dry out). Challenging for most people to grow.

KATSURA TREE



In youth, this fine-textured native of China and Japan is upright and pyramidal, but it becomes more rounded with age. It tops out at around 40 feet. At all ages, it has a light, dainty branch and leaf pattern. Brown bark is somewhat shaggy on old trees. Heart-shaped, 24 inches-long leaves emerge reddish purple, become bluish green in summer, then turn yellow to apricot in autumn. To enhance fall color, water less frequently in late summer. Foliage of some katsura trees smells like brown sugar on warm autumn days when leaves are falling and when new growth opens in spring.

KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE



Native to eastern U.S. Grows very fast as a sapling but slows once it hits 810 feet Give it plenty of room, since it will ultimately reach 60100 feet tall and 4550 feet wide. Provides year-round interest, featuring attractive foliage as well as striking branch structure. Leaves are 1123 feet long, divided into many 1- to 3 inches leaflets; they are pinkish when emerging late in spring, deep bluish green by summer. In leaf, the tree casts light shade. Fall color usually not effective, but foliage sometimes turns bright yellow. The relatively few, heavy, contorted branches and stout twigs make the bare tree picturesque in winter.

KIWI



These East Asian twining vines are remarkably vigorous and beautiful, producing fruit whose flavor is a combination of melon, strawberry, and banana. Fuzzy- skinned kiwifruit (the type sold in markets) has a delicious piquancy; the other kinds are sweeter. Unless you have a self-fruitful selection, you will need to grow a male plant nearby to pollinate the female (fruit- bearing) plant. Supply sturdy supports, such as a trellis, an arbor, or a patio overhead. You can also train kiwi vines to cover walls and fences; guide and tie vines to the support as necessary.

KNAUTIA



These mid-height perennials are covered with pincushion flowers in summer. Basal leaves are barely lobed, but those on upper stems are deeply divided. Undemanding meadow plants, they are at home in cottage gardens, wild gardens, perennial borders, and roadside plantings. Cut flowers are good for fresh or dried arrangements. Resist deer.

KNOTWEED



Sturdy plants with jointed stems and small white or pink flowers. Some kinds tend to get out of hand and need to be controlled.

KOELREUTERIA



Native to Asia, these small trees are admired for large, loose clusters of yellow flowers followed by fat, papery fruit capsules resembling little Japanese lanterns. Capsules are used in both fresh and dried arrangements. Good patio, lawn, or street trees. Very adaptable to different soils as long as drainage is fairly good. Self-sown seedlings can be invasive.

Kohlrabi



Resembling a tennis ball sprouting kale leaves, kohlrabi looks odd but tastes great. Leaves and leafstalks of this cabbage relative are edible, but most gardeners grow it for the enlarged, bulblike part that forms just above the soil surface. Probably native to Europe's west coast. Plants go from seed to harvest in 50 to 60 days; the quality declines if harvest is delayed.

Lady Bells



These showy perennials bear fragrant, bell-shaped flowers on their upper stems. Uncommon in the South and difficult to find at nurseries, they prefer moist, fertile, well-drained soil. Once established, they resent being moved. Not browsed by deer.

LADY PALM



These choice, slow-growing fan palms are beautiful, extremely versatile, and easy to grow. Cultivated in China since the 17th century, they achieved star status in Japan, where the samurai collected multitudes of prized forms. The two species described here, both hardy to 18F, feature large, deep green leaves on sturdy canes like those of bamboo. In the Tropical and Coastal South, they may be grown outdoors in the shade, where they make excellent additions to foundation and understory plantings. Perfect for a large container in a Florida room. Elsewhere, they're wonderful, low-maintenance houseplants and patio plants (bring them indoors during cold weather). Because they take many years to reach a large size, lady palms command a premium price.

Lady's Mantle



Rounded, pale green, lobed leaves have a silvery look; after rain or watering, they hold beads of water on their surfaces. Summer flowers are yellowish green in large, branched clusters, attractive as a frothy mass. Use for edgings in shady places, as ground cover, and as contrast to brighter flowers. Not browsed by deer.

LANTANA



Few plants supply as much long-lasting, dependable color as these tough-as-nails tropical American natives. Tiny flowers in tight clusters that resemble miniature nosegays appear continuously in warm weather. Foliage gives off a pungent odor when brushed against or crushed. Small fruit usually follows the flowers, maturing from green to bluish black; some selections are fruitless. Lantanas thrive in hot, dry weather and tolerate just about any well- drained soil, growing well even near the beach. They're a magnet for butterflies. Plant them in masses, let them cascade over a wall, or display them in window boxes, hanging baskets, or planters. Deer don't usually care for lantana species, but they may browse hybrid types.

LARKSPUR



The colorful spires of larkspur punctuate many a Southerner's garden in spring. Unlike their regal cousins, the delphiniums, these natives of southern Europe flourish in the hot Southern climate. They die after flowering but reseed so readily that they might as well be perennials. The blooms attract butterflies and make superb cut flowers. Larkspurs look great in combination with Shirley poppies (*Papaver rhoeas*).

LAVENDER



Native to the Mediterranean region, lavender is prized for its showy, fragrant, lavender or purple flowers. The blossom spikes of some species are used for perfume, aromatic oil, soap, sachets, medicine, and flavoring. Narrow, aromatic, blue-green or gray-green foliage is a hallmark.

LEATHERLEAF FERN



From many tropical and subtropical areas of the Southern Hemisphere. To 3 feet high and wide, spreading wider by rhizomes. Deep glossy green, triangular, finely cut fronds are firm textured, last well in arrangements. Easy to grow in rich, well-drained soil. Hardy to 24F. Often sold as *Aspidium capense*.

LEEK



Botanically speaking, the leek is *Allium porrum*, an onion relative. Unlike onions, though, leeks don't form distinct bulbs. Plants grow 23 feet tall; edible, mild-flavored stem resembles long, fat, green onion. Leeks need very rich soil. Plant them to grow and mature in cool weather. In most areas, late summer to early fall planting is best. Sow seed or set out transplants. 'Arkansas' (108 days) and the heirloom 'American Flag' (120 days) are proven selections. Leeks are quite cold hardy and can overwinter in ground; in fact, cold temperatures improve flavor. When plants have considerable top growth, mound up soil around fat, round stems to blanch them white. Harvest when stem bases are 12 inches in diameter. Offsets may be detached and replanted. If leeks bloom, small bulbils may appear in flower clusters; plant these for later harvest. Leeks are free of many of the pests and diseases that attack onions.

LEMON BALM, SWEET BALM



From southern Europe. A single plant grows to about 2 feet tall, 112 feet wide but plants self-sow and spread rapidly, sometimes becoming pests. Leaves are used fresh in cold drinks, fruit cups, salads, fish dishes; dried leaves give lemon perfume to sachets, potpourris. Likes rich soil. Shear occasionally to keep compact. Lemon-scented, heavily veined foliage is light green in the species. Check catalogs to find 'Aurea' and 'All Gold', 'Variegata', intensely fragrant 'Citronella', and the hardier and more intense 'Quedlinburger Niederliegende'.

LEMON GRASS



All parts of this plant from India are strongly lemon scented and are widely used as an ingredient in Southeast Asian cooking. Clumps of inch-wide leaves grow 34 feet tall (or more) and 3 feet wide. The base clump, composed of overlapping leaf bases, is nearly bulbous in appearance. Lemon grass can live over in the mildest-winter regions, but it's safer to pot up a division and keep it indoors or in a greenhouse over winter. Easily planted from divisions.

LEOPARD'S BANE



Summer is the season for most yellow daisies, but this European native bears its profuse showy flowers in mid- to late spring. Golden yellow, 1- to 2 inches-wide blossoms are borne singly on 2 feet stems. Good cut flower. Dark green, 2- to 5 inches-long leaves are rounded to heart shaped, with toothed edges; clumps may spread to a width of 3 feet. Selections may be of hybrid origin. 'Finesse' has larger flowers (to 3 inches.) on sturdy stems; excellent for cutting. 'Little Leo' is compact, growing just 1215 inches high and wide. 'Magnificum' is a compact grower to about 20 inches tall.

LETTUCE



Classified botanically as *Lactuca sativa*. A short browse through a seed catalog, seed display rack, or selection of nursery seedlings will reveal enough variety to keep your salad bowl crisp and colorful throughout the growing season. There are four principal types of lettuce: crisphead, butterhead or Boston, loose-leaf, and romaine.

LEUCANTHEMUM



Three species of these popular flowers were formerly listed under *Chrysanthemum*.

- Annual, sometimes living over for a second bloom season.
- Zones US, MS, LS, CS, TS; USDA 6-11.
- In summer, this western Mediterranean native bears white daisies 11 inches wide on 8- to 10 inches stems above dark green, deeply toothed leaves.
- Flowers look like miniature Shasta daisies.

LEUCOTHOE



These arching shrubs have leathery leaves and clusters of small, urn-shaped white flowers reminiscent of lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria*). They need acid, well-drained, woody, deep soil; do best in woodland gardens. Best used in masses, since they are not especially attractive individually. Bronze-tinted winter foliage is a bonus. Not easy to grow; short lived in most gardens.

LEYLAND CYPRESS



Hybrid of *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* and *Cupressus macrocarpa*. Grows very fast (from cuttings to 1520 feet in 5 years). Usually reaches 6070 feet tall and 815 feet wide in gardens. Widely planted as a quick screen; becoming quite popular as a cut Christmas tree in Lower and Coastal South. Long, slender, upright branches of attenuated gray-green foliage sprays give youthful tree a narrow pyramidal form, though it can become open and oppy. Can be pruned into tall (10- to 15 feet) hedge but will quickly get away from you without regular maintenance.

LILAC



If there is one shrub Northerners wish they could bring with them to the South, this is it. No plant is more cherished than lilac for big, flamboyant, fragrant flowers. Most popular are the common lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) and its scads of selections, but many other species and hybrids merit attention. Most are medium-size to large shrubs with no particular appeal when out of bloom. Leaves are typically oval and pointed or rounded, with smooth edges. Floral show (always after leaf-out) comes from numerous small flowers packed into dense clusters shaped like pyramids or cones.

LILY



The most stately and varied of bulbous plants, offering large, colorful, and often fragrant blooms equally effective in the garden or vase. For many years, only the species the same plants growing wild in parts of Asia, Europe, and North America were available, and many of these were difficult and unpredictable. Around 1925, however, lily growers began a significant breeding program. They bred new hybrids, strains, and selections that were healthier, hardier, and easier to grow than the original species. Today, hybrids and strains are typically the best garden lilies, but it is still possible to get some desirable species.

Lily-of-the-Nile



Native to Japan and China. Useful, low-maintenance plant for massing in a shade garden. Thick, arching or erect tufts of evergreen, leathery leaves, each to 2 feet long, 23 inches wide. Pale yellow flowers bloom on small spikes in early spring; they're barely noticeable amid the foliage but are followed by showy red berries. Grows slowly. Space plants about 1 foot apart. Withstands neglect and is not fussy about soils. Combines well with ferns, hostas, hellebores.

Lady's Mantle



With foliage loosely resembling cabbage, the Lady's Mantle is most well known as a medicinal herb. If you're looking to add some green to your bouquet, the Lady's Mantle looks elegant once cut.

Sun Needs

All Sun Types

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 7

Height

1 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Summer

Features

Good for cut flowers



Lantana

Also known as Yellow Sage, the Lantana blooms in combinations of red, orange, yellow, violet, white and pink. While popular for outdoor containers and houseplants, some have found the subtle citrus scent to be off putting.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

2 - 11

Height

2 - 6 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Late Summer

Features

Tolerates frost

Lavender



Popular in gardening, fragrance and cooking, you can't go wrong with a Lavender plant. In addition to its versatility, Lavender is easy to grow, requiring very little water and full sun.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

5 - 9

Height

1 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Summer

Features

Good for cut flowers

Lavender Cotton



Despite its name, the flowers on Lavender Cotton have an unpleasant scent, but perfumeries will extract its oil to use in colognes and perfumes. For gardening, this shrubby evergreen tolerates many soil types and full sun.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

6 - 8

Height

1 - 2.5 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Late Summer

Features

Non-invasive



Leadwort

Starting in the late summer, but lasting until early fall, Leadwort features dainty, dark blue flowers. While you may have to wait a while to see blooms, Leadworts are fine when left with morning sun and afternoon shade.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

5 - 8

Height

0.75 - 1 foot

Blooms in

Late Summer - Early Fall

Features

Non-invasive

Lemon Balm



Love the smell of citrus? The bright lemony scent of this plant is perfect for you. Easy to grow and quick to spread, Lemon Balm is ideal for filler and background in a garden or outdoor container.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 7

Height

2 - 4 feet

Blooms in

Early Summer - Early Fall

Features

Attracts bees

Lily



With more than 100 species, the Lily is known for its large, prominent flowers and long filaments. These fragrant flowers come in a range of colors including white, yellow, orange, pink, red and purple and some include markings such as spots or brush strokes. These beauties shine indoors, just be sure to cut their filaments to avoid pollen stains!

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 8

Height

2 - 6 feet

Blooms in

Spring -

Early Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Lobelia



Lobelia is an excellent choice for hanging gardens or window boxes given their ability to create a long trail. Lobelias love intense heat and will bloom delicate flowers in shades of red, blue, violet and white.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

2 - 10

Height

0.33 - 0.75 foot

Blooms in

Early Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Attracts butterflies

Lupine



Also known as blueonnets or quaker bonnets, the Lupine has grey-green leaves coated in silvery hairs. The blue or purple flowers grow along the tall stems, while the seeds are often harvested as a substitute for soybeans.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

2.5 - 5 feet

Blooms in

Summer

Features

Good for cut flowers

MADAGASCAR JASMINE



**Native to Madagascar. Twines to 1530 feet
Waxy, glossy green, oval leaves to 4 inches
long. Valued for the intense fragrance of its
funnel-shaped, 1- to 2 inches-long, waxy
white blossoms. Borne in open clusters, the
flowers are a favorite for bridal bouquets and
are also used in leis. Blooms from June until
summer's end. Provide support; train on
trellis or fence or along eaves. Give good
drainage.**

MADAGASCAR PERIWINKLE



Native to Madagascar. Not a palm, though it looks something like one. Attractive, easy-to-grow shrub with impressive silhouette: spiny, succulent, unbranched trunk topped with a circle of strap-shaped leaves to 1 feet long and 14 inches wide. Usually seen at 24 feet high and 2 feet wide, though it can grow to 18 feet tall and 8 feet wide under ideal conditions. Large, old plants may bloom in summer, bearing fragrant, saucer-shaped white flowers to 4 inches across; smaller, younger plants seldom bloom. May take up to 10 years or more to fully mature.

Magnolia



This large group of magnificent flowering trees includes species native to the South as well as many imported from Asia. They range in size from shrubby to enormous. Some are evergreen, while most are deciduous. Showy flowers appear in late winter, spring, or summer. Colors include white, pink, rose, red, purple, yellow, and coral. Many are powerfully fragrant. New selections and hybrids arrive every year. You'll find many at local nurseries, but mail-order nurseries have a wider selection.

MAHONIA



These useful and easy-to-grow plants remind many people of holly (Ilex), though they're closely related to barberry (Berberis). Handsome, typically spiny leaves are divided into leaflets. Showy yellow flowers are borne in dense, rounded or spikelike clusters in late winter or spring. Blooms are followed by berrylike blue, blue-black, or red fruit that attracts birds. Prune to reduce size or lankiness, cutting selected stems to the ground or to a node. Avoid planting too close to walkways and sitting areas, where prickly foliage might snag passersby. Generally pest free and seldom browsed by deer. Provide well-drained soil.

MAIANTHEMUM



These perennials spread by creeping rhizomes to form dense colonies. Need rich, loose, moist, slightly acid soil. Good for naturalizing in wild garden; commonly seen in moist woods and roadside ditches. The fruit is favored by wildlife. Formerly called Smilacina.

Maidenhair Fern



It would be hard to imagine daintier, more graceful ferns than the maidenheads. Most hail from the tropics, but some originate in North America. Dark, thin, wiry stems hold delicate, finely cut fronds. In most types, the individual leaflets are bright green and fan shaped. Most resist deer.

Maidenhairs typically need rich organic soil, steady moisture, and shade. Tender species are useful as houseplants. Provide bright filtered or indirect light and apply a general-purpose liquid houseplant fertilizer diluted to half strength once a month in spring and summer.

MAIDENHAIR TREE



Ancient survivor from prehistoric times (200 million years ago), when it grew worldwide; now native only to two small areas in China. Related to conifers but differs in having broad (1- to 4 inches-wide), fan-shaped leaves rather than needlelike foliage. In shape and veining, leaves resemble leaflets of maidenhair fern, hence the tree's common name. Attractive in any season especially in fall, when the leathery light green leaves suddenly turn gold (they practically glow when backlit by the sun). Leaves hang on for a time, then drop quickly and cleanly to make a golden carpet where they fall.

MALLOW



From Europe; naturalized in U.S. These plants are related to and somewhat resemble hollyhock (Alcea), but they are bushier, with smaller, roundish to heart-shaped leaves. They are easy to grow from seed and usually bloom the first year. Need good drainage, average soil. Use in perennial borders or for a quick tall edging. Not long lived.

MANGO



Tropical Asian native known botanically as *Mangifera indica*. Now cultivated in warm-weather regions around the globe. One of the easiest fruit trees to grow but since it won't take frost, its cultivation in the South is limited to south Florida and South Texas. Trees range in size from 50 feet giants with a 30 feet spread to 6- to 10 feet specimens better suited to the average backyard. Handsome, large (8- to 16 inches-long) leaves are often coppery red or purple when new, later turning dark green. Tree size is heavily dependent on selection and pruning. Almost all trees will get over 40 feet without pruning, but some can be kept at 8-12 feet with selective annual pruning. Larger selections can be kept at 15-20 feet with pruning.

Maple



As a group, only oaks rival maples for usefulness in the garden and there's hardly a place in the South where some kind of maple won't grow. The major limiting factors are extended summer heat or drought and lack of winter cold. Maples come in many shapes and sizes; among them, you'll find large and midsize shade trees, small specimen trees and dwarf, weeping kinds the size of a shrub. What really sets these trees apart, though, is their spectacular autumn foliage in warm shades of red, orange, and yellow. Color can be quite variable, especially among seedling trees, so shop while the trees are showing their fall color.

MARGUERITE, PARIS DAISY



Formerly known as *Chrysanthemum frutescens*, this is a short-lived, shrubby perennial where it is hardy; grown as summer annual elsewhere. Canary Island native has bright green, coarsely divided leaves and abundant daisies 112212 inches across in white, yellow, or pink. Plant reaches about 212 feet tall and wide. 'Pink Lady' and 'White Lady' produce buttonlike flower heads; 'Silver Leaf' has gray-green leaves and masses of very small white flowers. 'Snow White', double anemone type, has pure white flowers, more restrained growth habit. Dwarf selections also available.

MARIGOLD



In the 1940s and 50s, annual marigolds were America's favorite bedding plants, prized for their extended show of yellow, orange, or maroon flowers. Marigolds are the traditional flowers used in Day of the Dead celebrations. Their popularity in the South has since declined, as many newer annuals that offer more colors and better performance have come on the scene. French and African marigolds, however, are still appreciated for their mass displays in late summer and fall, when other annuals are finished blooming. And the perennial species listed here remain excellent garden plants.

MARSH MARIGOLD



Native to Eurasia and from Newfoundland to Alaska, south to North Carolina and Tennessee. Vigorous, lushly foliated plant, well adapted to life at the edges of pools, ponds, streams, and other moist locations. Given sufficient water, it can also be grown in borders; it looks good with bog irises and moisture-loving ferns. Reaches 2 feet tall and wide; rounded, 2- to 7 inches-wide, glossy green leaves are heart shaped at the base, give an almost tropical effect. Clusters of cheery yellow flowers to 2 inches across bloom in spring; a double-flowered form is available. Increase by divisions, or sow seed in boggy soil. Not favored by deer.

Masterwort



Flowering stems rise from leafy clumps in summer, bearing dense, tight clusters of blossoms surrounded by papery bracts. Flower heads look something like pincushions; they make attractive, long-lasting cut flowers and can also be dried for winter arrangements. Useful plants for woodland or cottage gardens. Native to alpine woods and meadows of Europe. Spread by underground runners. Die back in winter, even in mild climates. Best where summer nights dip below 70F. Need good drainage. Deer resistant.

May apple



Odd-looking yet striking plants, these herbaceous barberry (*Berberis*) relatives grow from thick underground rhizomes that send up stalks crowned with large, shield-shaped, deeply lobed leaves. Shoots with a single leaf are barren; those with two leaves bear a single, 2 inches-wide flower (set between the leaves) in mid- to late spring. Blossoms are followed by juicy, 2 inches berries; these are edible when fully ripe (poisonous until that stage) but can have a powerful laxative effect. Make attractive, slowly spreading deciduous ground covers for shady areas with rich, moist, woody soil.

MEADOW RUE



Foliage clumps resemble those of columbine (*Aquilegia*). Plants typically bloom in late spring or summer, sending up sparsely leafed stems topped by puffs of small flowers, each consisting of four sepals and a prominent cluster of stamens. Superb for airy effect; offer a pleasing contrast to sturdier perennials. Delicate tracery of leaves and flowers is particularly effective against dark green background. Foliage is good in arrangements. Most meadow rues need some winter chill; all thrive in dappled sunlight at woodland edges. Protect from wind. Divide clumps every 4 or 5 years. Deer resistant.

MEADOW SAFFRON, AUTUMN CROCUS



This group of delightful Mediterranean natives includes many species. They are sometimes called autumn crocus but are not true crocuses. Shining, brown-skinned, thick-scaled corms send up clusters of long-tubed; flaring; lavender-pink, rose-purple, or white flowers to 4 inches across in late summer or early autumn, whether corms are sitting in a dish on a windowsill or planted in soil. When corms are planted out, broad leaves 6-12 inches long emerge in spring, last for a few months, and then die long before flower cluster rises from ground. Corms are available during a brief dormant period in the summer. Common selections include 'The Giant', single lavender, and 'Waterlily', double violet. Resists rodents and deer.

MELAMPODIUM



These tough, drought-tolerant plants produce masses of small daisies over a long period. Provide well-drained soil

MELON



Nothing says summer better than a sweet, juicy melon and the South's long, warm growing season gives melons the time they need to develop their sweetest flavor. Known botanically as Cucumis melo, they probably originated in India. This entry covers cantaloupes (with orange flesh) and honeydews (with green flesh) and includes a list of selections recommended for the South. For information on watermelons, see Watermelon.

MERRYBELLS, BELLWORT



Delightful wildflowers native to eastern and central North America. Grown for their handsome foliage and bell-shaped yellow blooms. Easy to grow in shady places with rich, moist, acid soil. Plants grow about 1 foot wide and spread by rhizomes to form colonies; propagate by division. Good companions to hostas and ferns.

MEXICAN BUCKEYE



Native to Texas, New Mexico, and northern Mexico. Shrub or small, multitrunked tree, usually 12-15 feet (occasionally 30 feet.) tall and not quite as wide as high. Easy-to-grow plant with appealing flowers, interesting seedpods, and lush foliage. Clusters of showy, fragrant blossoms with purplish pink petals and red anthers appear in early spring, before or with the new leaves. Flowers are followed in fall by leathery dark brown, buckeyelike seed capsules that split and drop black, shiny, 12 inches seeds. Dark green, 5- to 12 inches-long leaves with three to seven leaflets turn golden yellow in fall. Tolerates a wide range of soils, including dry, limy ones.

Mexican Flame Vine



Native from Mexico to Honduras. Twines to 810 feet Light green, rather fleshy leaves are 14 inches long, 121 inches wide, coarsely toothed. Large clusters of 34- to 1 inches., startling orange-red blooms with golden centers appear at branch ends; 'So Paulo' is deeper orange, almost brick-red. Plants bloom all year where winters are mild. Provide light soil Full sun or light shade. Use on trellis or column, let cascade over bank or wall, or plant in hanging basket. Formerly known as Senecio confusus. We wish it still wasthe new botanical name is nearly impossible to pronounce.

MEXICAN ORANGE



Grown for white or cream- colored, usually fragrant flowers that bloom in late spring or early summer. Blossoms are four petaled, typically 12 inches wide; they range from single to fully double and may be borne singly or in clusters, depending on species. Mock oranges are generally large and vigorous, with fountainlike form. Oval, 2- to 4 inches-long leaves (typically medium green in color) are arranged in pairs along the stems.

MEXICAN SUNFLOWER



Native from Mexico to Central America. Husky, rather coarse plant with velvety green leaves, spectacular gaudy flowers. Grows rapidly to 6 feet tall, 4 feet wide. Blooms from summer to frost, bearing 3- to 4 inches-wide blossoms with orange-scarlet rays and tufted yellow centers. Use taller selections for temporary screens or hedges. All have hollow stems, so cut carefully for bouquets to avoid bending stalks. Sow seed in place in spring, in well-drained soil that's not too rich. Tolerates intense heat and some drought; attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. Will self-sow.

MINT



These Mediterranean natives spread rapidly by underground stems and can be quite invasive; to keep them in bounds, grow them in pots or boxes. Tough and unfussy, they grow almost anywhere but perform best in light, moist, medium-rich soil. Not favored by deer. Plants disappear in winter in colder part of range. Replant about every 3 years; propagate by division or runners.

MONARDA



Native to eastern North America. Bushy, leafy clumps to 24 feet high spread rapidly; can be invasive. Dark green leaves grow 46 inches long, have strong, pleasant odor like a blend of mint and basil. In summer, upright stems are topped by tight clusters of long-tubed flowers much visited by hummingbirds. Plant 10 inches apart. Divide every 3 or 4 years. Not long lived. Prone to mildew and other leaf diseases in dry, humid weather. Deer resistant.

MONEY PLANT, honesty



Native to Europe. Old-fashioned garden plant grown for the translucent, 1 inches-wide circles that hang onto flower stalks; these coins are all that remains of the ripened seedpods after the outer coverings have dropped with the seeds. Reaches 13 feet high, 1 foot wide, with coarse, heart-shaped, tooth-edged leaves. Showy spring flowers resemble wild mustard blooms but are purple or white and larger in size. Plant in an out-of-the-way spot in poor soil, or use in a mixed flower bed where the shining pods can be admired before they are picked for dried arrangements. Tough and persistent; can reseed and become weedy.

MONKEY FLOWER



This uncommon annual gets its common name from its colorful, velvety flowers, which people with overactive imaginations liken to grinning monkey faces. Smooth, succulent, medium green leaves form mounds about 1 foot high and wide. Two-lipped, funnel-shaped blooms, 2212 inches long, range in color from cream to rose, orange, yellow, and scarlet, usually with brownish maroon spots. Magic Mix series features largely unspotted flowers in warm, vibrant colors. Monkey flower is among the better annuals for shade; use it in borders, hanging baskets, or window boxes. *Mimulus alatus* 'Curious Orange' is a good performer, reaching 18 inches tall with bright orange flowers.

Monkey grass, LILY TURF



Forming tufts of grasslike leaves, these popular, tough-as-nails ground covers from Asia are known by a number of names but to most Southerners, they're plain old monkey grass. One species grows in clumps; the other spreads aggressively. Summer flowers, often quite showy, appear atop the foliage in spikes or branching clusters and come in lavender, blue, pink, purple, or white.

MONSTERA



Tropical American natives related to philodendrons and resembling them in the glossiness and texture of their foliage. Most have cut and perforated leaves. Need rich soil. They can be grown outdoors only in the Tropical South. Indoors, direct sun in winter and bright reflected light the rest of the year are ideal; in dim light, leaves will be small and widely spaced on long, droopy stalks. If a tall potted plant gets bare at the base, replant it in a larger container along with a younger, lower plant to fill in; or cut it back and let it regrow from new shoots. Plants benefit from frequent misting.

MORNING GLORY



In this genus, ornamentals and edibles abound, from edible sweet potatoes (see Sweet Potato) to trellis-climbing morning glories and the sweet potato vines that fill out container plantings so well. Native to tropical and subtropical regions of the world.

MOTH ORCHID



These are tropical orchids with thick, broad, leathery leaves and no pseudobulbs. Leaves are rather flat, to 1 foot long. From spring to fall, plants bear long (to 3 feet) sprays of 3- to 6 inches-wide flowers in white, cream, pale yellow, or light lavender-pink; some are spotted or barred or have lips in a contrasting color. Many lovely hybrids are sold. Very popular orchid commercially.

MOUNTAIN ASH



These mountain natives are valued for their showy flowers and even showier fruit. Blossoms are grouped in broad, flat clusters that are scattered over the foliage canopy in spring; they develop into hanging clusters of small, berrylike fruit that colors up in late summer or early fall. Most species have red or orange-red fruit, but white, pink, and golden forms are occasionally available. Birds feed on the fruit, but usually not until after leaves have fallen. Foliage is typically finely cut and somewhat fernlike, though some less widely planted species have undivided leaves.

MUHLY GRASS



Showy and easy to grow, these native U.S. grasses combine handsome, slender leaves with eye-catching flower plumes that typically appear in late summer and fall. Foliage is semievergreen to evergreen in mild-winter areas, deciduous elsewhere. Plants tolerate heat and drought, but they look better and grow larger if given supplemental water. Good drainage is a must. Most are well adapted to Texas and the Southwest but will also succeed in many other areas, including Florida. Cut plants nearly to the ground in late winter to encourage fresh new growth.

MULBERRY



Deciduous trees with leaves of variable size and shape, often on the same tree. Yellow fall color ranges from subdued to bright. Fruit resembles miniature blackberries and is eagerly gobbled by birds.

MULLEIN



Large group of rosette-forming, summer-blooming plants that send up spikes closely set with nearly flat, five-petaled, circular flowers about an inch across. Both foliage and stems are often covered in woolly hairs. Taller mulleins make striking vertical accents. All mulleins self-sow freely and some are downright weedy, such as the attractive roadside wildflower *Verbascum thapsus*. Perennial species are short lived in hot, humid climates.

MUSTARD



Eating mustard greens in spring and fall is a time-honored Southern tradition. Loaded with Vitamins A and C, the nutritious greens reach full size just 4 to 6 weeks after sowing.

Two types of mustard are widely grown. Curly-leaved mustard has leaves with crinkled edges; they take some time to clean, as grit tends to collect in the crinkles. Smooth-leaved mustard (also called tendergreen mustard or mustard spinach) has smooth, dark green leaves. It matures earlier than the curly-leaved type and is more tolerant of warm, dry weather. Use young leaves of either as a salad green; older leaves can be cooked like spinach.

MYRTLE



Native to the Mediterranean, this venerable shrub has never quite made its mark in the South. It's a bulky, dense, rounded plant with fine-textured foliage: glossy, bright green, oval, pointed leaves to 2 inches long, pleasantly aromatic when brushed or bruised. Typically reaches 56 feet high and 45 feet wide (though old plants may reach 15 feet high, 20 feet wide). White, sweet-scented, inches flowers with many stamens bloom in summer; they are followed by small, bluish black berries. Good for a foundation planting or informal hedge or screen; requires little or no pruning. Also takes well to shearing into a formal hedge or topiary; can be pruned like a small tree to reveal attractive branches. Best in fertile, well-drained soil. Fairly common in Florida but does not tolerate salt spray. Not usually bothered by deer.

Maiden Pink



These sweet flowers produce fringed petals in bright shade or red, pink or white. Maiden Pink is hardy but also known to be an aggressive plant that self seeds, so its often used for groundcover or garden borders.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

0.25 - 1 foot

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Summer

Features

Non-invasive

Malva



As the origin for the name of the color "mauve," the Malva features pink and purple blooms with stripes that radiate outwards. Malva is a vigorous plant and often seen growing freely in fields and hedges.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 9

Height

0.5 - 4 feet

Blooms in

Summer

Features

Good for cut flowers

Marigold



Marigolds are an easy way to add rich color to your garden. Aromatic and inviting to butterflies and hummingbirds, the Marigold comes primarily in shades of red, orange and yellow. Bring inside and arrange to make a beautiful golden bouquet.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

2 - 10

Height

0.5 - 1.25 feet

Blooms in

Early Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Mazus



Mazus is excellent for rock gardens or growing alongside stepping stones, as these small perennials grow to only two inches tall. Watch out though, Mazus will spread quickly if not kept in check.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

0.04 - 0.16 foot

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Summer

Features

Non-invasive

Mirabilis



Also known as Four O'Clocks, the Mirabilis produces bright yellow, pink, purple, red and white flowers. Tolerating droughty soil, the Mirabilis is an easy to grow plant that will continue to bloom into mid-fall frost.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

7 - 11

Height

1.5 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Attracts hummingbirds

Moonflower



The Moonflower looks as sweet as it sounds. This vine only blooms at dusk and closes back up just after dawn. Attracting beneficial insects like hummingbirds and nocturnal moths, the Moonflower is the perfect addition to a garden trellis, gate or fence.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

10 - 11

Height

6 - 15 feet

Blooms in

Early Summer - Early Fall

Features

Attracts hummingbirds

Morning Glory



The Morning Glory is most well known for their unraveling bloom that occurs in the early morning and shrivel back up in the hot afternoon sun. Once in bloom, flowers come in shades of red, blue, violet, white and pink and also feature star markings.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

2 - 11

Height

6 - 10 feet

Blooms in

Early Summer - Early Fall

Features

Attracts hummingbirds

Nasturtium



Nasturtium's vibrant red, orange and yellow flowers not only add a pop of color to gardens and outdoor containers, their flowers also make for a zesty addition to salads.

Nasturtiums are tough and thrive in droughty and low fertile soils, making it ideal for warmer climates.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

9 - 11

Height

0.8 - 1.5 feet

Blooms in

Early Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Nierembergia



Also known as Cupflower, the Nierembergia prefers rich, moist soil and comes in blue, violet and white shades. Growing into early fall, the Nierembergia can handle some frost and make for great late-season bouquets.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

7 - 10

Height

0.5 - 1 foot

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Early Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers



Orchid

As one of the top two largest flower plant families, the Orchid consists of about 27,800 accepted species. The most common genus, Phalaenopsis, is what is typically seen in home gardens and containers. They come in a variety of tropical colors, including violet, pink, orange, red and white.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

2 - 8

Height

1 - 2 ft

Blooms in

Early Spring - Early Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Osteospermum



Also known as the African Daisy, Osteospermums come in yellow, blue, violet, white and pink. While difficult at first to cultivate, Osteospermums tolerate a variety of soil conditions and can grow during frost into mid-fall.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

9 - 11

Height

2 - 5 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Pansy



These delightful, friendly flowers are early bloomers and often one of the first signs of springtime. With brightly lit faces in shades of red, orange, yellow, blue, violet, white and pink, Pansies will bloom in single, bicolors or tricolors.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

2 - 11

Height

0.5 - 0.75 foot

Blooms in

Spring

Features

Tolerates frost

Pearly Everlasting



Pearly Everlasting blooms into mid-fall, making a perfect fit for the frost prone garden. Requiring damp soil, Pearly Everlasting is easy to grow but must be maintained to avoid overgrowth.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Damp

Zones

3 - 8

Height

1 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Early Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Perennial Flax



The Perennial Flax has a short lifespan and is moderately difficult to care for, requiring well-drained soil and full sun. Once in bloom though, it will self seed and grow to a large, cushion clump.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

5 - 9

Height

1 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Summer

Features

Tolerates heat

Periwinkle



This long lasting plant (known to grow over three seasons) is simple to manage and produces vibrant flowers in violet, white or pink. Keep the bloom lasting into the winter by bringing it indoors and placing it in full sun.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Droughty

Zones

2 - 11

Height

1 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Spring - Mid-Fall

Features

Tolerates heat

Petunia



Equally hardy as they are precious, Petunias are a popular choice among beginner gardeners given their ease of care and adaptability to harsh climates. With a long bloom season, Petunias are most commonly found in violet, white or pink colors.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

8 - 11

Height

0.66 - 1 foot

Blooms in

Early Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds

Pincushion Flower



The Pincushion Flower gets its name from the long, grey stamens that resemble pins growing out of the cushion of the flowers. Coming in red, yellow, blue, violet, white and pink, Pincushion Flowers attract bees and hummingbirds.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 11

Height

2 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Early Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Polka Dot Plant



This spotted plant is equally as popular as an indoor plant, preferring filtered sun, well-drained soil and frequent misting to retain moisture. Outside, the Polka Dot Plant grows with vivid white, red or pink spots on its dark green leaves.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

10 - 12

Height

0.5 - 1.5 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer

Features

Deer resistant

Primrose



The cheery Primrose comes in many bright colors, including red, orange, yellow, blue, indigo, violet, white and pink. While popular for indoor containers, it isn't meant to be a long lasting houseplant, so be prepared for a short lifespan similar to Orchids or Poinsettias.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 8

Height

0.75 - 1.5 feet

Blooms in

Spring

Features

Non-invasive

Ranunculus



These lustrous flowers include more than 60 species, including the popular Buttercup. Other varieties come in red, white, purple, orange and pink colors, known for their bulbous, closely formed petals.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 7

Height

0.5 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Early Spring - Mid-Summer

Features

Good for cut flowers

Red Valerian



This low maintenance plant handles a variety of soil types and excels in full sun. Featuring dense, fragrant flowers, Red Valerian doesn't only come in red, but also blue, white and pink blooms.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

5 - 8

Height

1.5 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Late Summer

Features

Good for cut flowers

Rock Soapwort



Used primarily as an ornamental plant in rock gardens, the Rock Soapwort features small blooms in shades of red and pink. Despite its tolerance of droughty and low fertile soil, it doesn't perform well in hot, humid weather.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

2 - 9

Height

0.25 - 0.75 foot

Blooms in

Early Spring - Late Summer

Features

Deer resistant

Rose



With more than 100 species, the Rose is most commonly categorized for its trailing stems with sharp prickles. Roses vary in size and shape, but are vibrant in colors ranging from red, yellow, orange, blue, white and pink. Given the many species, Roses also hybridize easily, allowing you to explore the many varieties.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

2 - 11

Height

1 - 10 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Rue



Rue is an evergreen plant often found as accent foliage or manicured into hedges. It tolerates just about any sun and soil type, but be aware that the leaves are toxic and can cause a skin rash if you make contact.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 9

Height

1.5 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Late Summer

Features

Good for pressed flowers

Sanvitalia



If you're a Sunflower fan seeking a shorter substitute, look no further. The small Sanvitalia resemble their taller cousins with dark brown centers and golden yellow petals. Add them to windowboxes or other outdoor containers where they can get a lot of sunlight.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

10 - 11

Height

0.5 - 1 feet

Blooms in

Early Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Non-invasive

Scarlet Sage



Spotted easily with their flaming red flowers, newer Scarlet Sage plant hybrids can also come in pink, purple or white flowers. Easy to grow and generally low maintenance, it's a popular choice for public gardens and areas.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 10

Height

1 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Deer resistant

Sea Lavender



Despite the name, Sea Lavender has no relation to the Lavender plant, but do have similar growing properties. Preferring full sun and can tolerate droughty soil, Sea Lavender comes in shades of blue, violet and pink.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

1.5 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Late Summer

Features

Good for cut flowers

Sea Thrift



Small and clustered, the Sea Thrift comes in red, violet, white and pink colors. Preferring full sun and sandy soil, do not plant in wet or humid conditions so as to avoid plant rot.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 8

Height

0.5 - 1 foot

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Summer

Features

Non-invasive

Shirley Poppy



The ruffled, delicate flowers of the Shirley Poppy come in a range of red, orange, yellow, violet, white and pink hues. You can cut Shirley Poppies to bring inside, but they must be carefully prepped by sticking the cut stem in boiling water for 30 seconds in order to close the cut.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

2 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Summer

Features

Good for cut flowers

Shooting Star



Resembling a star shooting through outer space, this dazzling wildflower prefers moist soil and partial to full shade. In addition to the popular white, Shooting Stars come in violet and pink shades too.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade / Full Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 8

Height

1 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Summer

Features

Non-invasive

Silvermound



Its name is not misleading, the Silvermound's fine silver leaves and dense clump make for a showy addition to your garden. While small yellow flowers are known to bloom, they're often removed to keep its silvery-green foliage.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 8

Height

1 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer

Features

Tolerates heat

Skunk Cabbage



If you guessed the Skunk Cabbage gives off a less than favorable scent, you guessed right! It blooms very early in the season—as early as late January—but should be grown further from the home if you're concerned about the smell.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Damp

Zones

4 - 9

Height

1 - 2.5 feet

Blooms in

Early Spring - Winter

Features

Non-invasive

Snapdragon



These easy to grow flowers are known for their mouth-like petals that can open and close by pressing gently between your fingers. Enjoy the Snapdragon while its around, as it has a short lifespan, but make for great bouquets and indoor arrangements.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

9 - 10

Height

1 - 3.5 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Good for

Snow in Summer



The Snow in Summer is exactly that—dotted star-like white flowers that bloom even in sandy, drought prone soils. Spread it along rock gardens and xeriscapes to add as a simple backdrop.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 7

Height

0.5 - 1 foot

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Summer

Features

Deer resistant

Snowdrop



Resembling little droplets of snow, this early flowering bulb features delicate, pure white blooms. It performs well in containers, indoors or outdoors, as long as its kept in cool and moist.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

0.25 - 0.5 feet

Blooms in

Early Spring

Features

Non-invasive

Solomon's Seal



Coming from the Greek word for "many knees," the multi-jointed Solomon's Seal is easy to care for. If you live in a cool, moist region, you can enjoy the rows of white bell flowers that hang from its stem.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade/Full Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

1 - 7 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Spring - Late Spring

Features

Deer resistant

Spring Snowflake



These small, bell-like flowers prefer rich, well-drained soil and partial shade. Growing upright with a dainty bloom, Spring Snowflakes work for outdoor containers as well as indoor houseplants.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 8

Height

0.25 - 1 foot

Blooms in

Early Spring

Features

Non-invasive

Summer Savory



Similar in taste to oregano and used as a popular herb in French cuisine, the Summer Savory is also good for gardens for their ease of care and hardiness. When left to bloom, it'll feature small white, violet or pink flowers that can be cut and dried for display.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

5 - 8

Height

1 - 1.5 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Late Summer

Features

Good for pressed flowers

Sunflower



Known for their tall stalks and bright yellow petals, the Sunflower is an all time classic wildflower. They most commonly come in yellow, but Sunflowers can also be found in rich orange and red hues.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 10

Height

1 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Early Summer - Early Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Sweet Alyssum



The genus name for Sweet Alyssum comes from the Greek word "small pod," referring to the shape of its fruits. Its flowers come in violet, white or pink hues and its creeping habit make it useful for filling gaps in pathways or stone walls.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Damp

Zones

7 - 11

Height

0.2 - 1 foot

Blooms in

Late Spring - Mid-Fall

Features

Attracts butterflies

Sweet Woodruff



The Sweet Woodruff gives of a slight fragrance that is less sweet and more fresh, similar to freshly cut grass. It spreads easily, but isn't as aggressive as other quick growing plants and other flowers can grow through its foliage.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade / Full Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

5 - 8

Height

0.5 - 1 foot

Blooms in

Late Spring - Mid-Summer

Features

Deer resistant

Tansy



Also known as Golden Buttons, the Tansy features bright yellow, button-shaped flower heads that dot the tall, slender stems. Commonly found in cottage gardens and meadows, the Tansy is easy to care for and can spread if not maintained.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 8

Height

2 - 4 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Late Summer

Features

Good for pressed flowers

Thunbergia



Similar in shape to a Blackeyed Susan, the Thunbergia comes in orange, yellow and white colors. They perform best when shaded from intense afternoon sun and can also make great indoor plants.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

9 - 10

Height

5 - 8 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Non-invasive

Tithonia



The tall, colorful Tithonia is similar to the Sunflower, but can thrive in poorer soil conditions and intense heat. Tithonias attract butterflies and hummingbirds, but will really shine once cut and displayed in a bouquet.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

10 - 11

Height

3 - 6 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Torenia



Also called the Wishbone Flower, the Torenia gets its nickname from the two stamens that meet at the top to form a wishbone shape. Coming in yellow, violet, white and pink blooms, it also makes for a good houseplant.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

2 - 11

Height

0.66 - 1 foot

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Attracts hummingbirds

Trillium



Add this perennial to a woodland garden for a naturalized effect. With trumpet-like blooms and dark green foliage, the Trillium can be a challenge to cultivate and care for.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

1 - 1.5 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring

Features

Non-invasive

Tulip



With about 75 species, the Tulip is known for its bright, bulbous flowers and elegant stems. Producing one flower per stem, Tulips come in a dazzling array of colors from reds to pinks to violets and make for gorgeous bouquets inside your home.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 8

Height

0.5 - 2.5 feet

Blooms in

Spring

Features

Good for cut flowers



Verbena

With easy maintenance and a selection of bright colors, the Verbena is a classic outdoor or hanging container plant. It attracts butterflies and hummingbirds, in addition to making for a beautiful cut arrangement to bring indoors.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

7 - 9

Height

0.3 - 1.5 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Violet



The Violet is an easy to maintain perennial with blooms ranging from pale violet to peach. Violets will blanket the ground with its foliage and often bloom once in the spring or summer, then re-bloom in early fall.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

0.25 - 1 foot

Blooms in

Early Spring - Early Fall

Features

Non-invasive

Virginia Bluebell



These dainty, horn-like flowers grow best in moist, partly shady gardens. The Virginia Bluebell mostly attracts butterflies, but you will get the occasional bumblebee if they can hover long enough to reach nectar.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Damp

Zones

4 - 9

Height

1 - 1.5 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Spring - Late Spring

Features

Non-invasive

Wild Senna



If your garden soil has clay, the Wild Senna is a perfect fit. Growing up to 4 feet tall, Wild Senna also attracts bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Caterpillars are also known to make Wild Senna their home before they turn into butterflies!

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 7

Height

2 - 4 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Late Summer

Features

Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds

Windflower



Similar in shape and size to the Anemone, Windflowers come in blue, indigo, violet, white and pink colors. It's daisy-like flowers bloom in early spring, a time when little else is in season.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

4 - 8

Height

0.25 - 0.5 foot

Blooms in

Early Spring

Features

Deer resistant

Yarrow



The finely-textured Yarrow comes in an array of colors including red, yellow, white and pink. It also has a pleasing scent that resembles chamomile and makes for beautiful dried flowers for display.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 10

Height

1.3 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer

Features

Deer resistant

Yellow Archangel



The shade-loving Yellow Archangel can grow quickly and aggressively if left unmaintained. Also, be careful not to crush this plant while growing, as the leaves can give off a faint odor.

Sun Needs

Partial Shade / Full Shade

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

3 - 9

Height

1 - 2 feet

Blooms in

Late Spring - Early Summer

Features

Deer resistant

Yellow Loosestrife



The Yellow Loosestrife loves moisture and damp soil, but be careful not to let this plant go ignored. It's known to self seed and spread rapidly. When maintained, Yellow Loosestrife adds a bright pop of yellow and grows as tall stalks.

Sun Needs

Full Sun / Partial Shade

Soil Needs

Damp

Zones

3 - 9

Height

1.5 - 3 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Late Summer

Features

Good for cut flowers

Zinnia



The classic Zinnia is easy to grow and provides vibrant red, orange, yellow, violet white or pink blooms. Lasting from the summer into mid-fall, Zinnias attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

Sun Needs

Full Sun

Soil Needs

Well-drained

Zones

2 - 11

Height

0.5 - 2.5 feet

Blooms in

Mid-Summer - Mid-Fall

Features

Good for cut flowers

Reference

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