

Summer Powerhouse Perennials

Summer is the perfect time to sit back and enjoy all the color that perennials provide to our gardens. When we plant the right perennial in the right spot, you have a lifetime garden companion that will come back year after year to say ‘Hello’ each and every season! These plants can provide seasonal interest in literally any area of the landscape, even in containers. Perennials offer pollen and nectar sources for all of our insects and bees, and birds often love their seeds for fall and winter nourishment. They are also easy to divide and share with gardening friends as they age. Plant them in masses, use them along borders, or layer them in open spots in the landscape. In general, perennials are easy to grow and care for when you choose the proper one for your proper location.

Things to consider in your garden...

- Sun, part sun and shade locations in the garden
- Know your soil composition – is it well-drained or boggy?
- Pay attention to plants that will clump and stay tidy versus others that “naturalize”
- Do you need to stake or support that perennial? There are some tall ones!
- Will you actually spend time deadheading (removing spent blooms)? Or let them ride?
- Utilize repeat bloomers for extended season for flower power
- Feeling risqué? What about Temperennials?
- Utilize them to attract pollinators – bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies
- Pay attention to drought tolerance in sunny areas and especially slopes

Suggestions for summer blooming perennials for SUN...

- *Agastache* (Hyssop) – Hummingbird favorite and drought tolerant
- *Alstromeria* (Inca Lilies) – Naturalize easily, need good drainage
- *Asclepias* (Butterfly Weed) – Needs good drainage, watch hardiness on some
- Asters – Classic late summer/fall bloomers
- *Chelome* (Turtlehead) – Interesting flowers late summer/fall, will take some wet
- Coneflowers (*Echinacea*) – Available in a huge array of colors and heights
- *Coreopsis* (Tickseed) – Available in a wide variety of color combinations, easy to grow
- Daylilies (*Hemerocallis*) – Reliable, long-blooming and available in many colors
- Delphiniums – Classic cottage garden favorite in pastel colors
- *Gallardia* (Blanket Flower) – Easy border in hot colors, naturalizes easily
- *Gaura* (Wand Flower) – Long-blooming butterfly/pollinator favorite
- Geraniums – Easy filler for woodland garden, long blooming season
- Goldenrod (*Solidago*) – Nice height and bright yellow, pollinator favorite
- *Helenium* (Sneezeweed) – Long-lasting flowers, good cut and bees love them
- Helianthus/Heliopsis – Perennial sunflowers, nice height for summer

- Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium*) - Nice height and late summer bloomer, takes some wet
- Lavenders – Easy, fragrant, drought tolerant for borders
- *Liatris* (Gayfeather) – Nice frilly flowers for the butterflies and bees
- *Nepeta* (Catmints) – Nice low border filler, long blooming season
- Penstemons – Classic perennial in lots of colors, good pollinator plant
- *Pervoskia* (Russian Sage) – Bushy grower, nice blue/lavender color, drought
- Plumbago – Awesome fall color and cobalt blue blooms
- Red Hot Pokers (*Kniphofia*) – Hot summer color, bright red/orange/yellow
- River Lilies (*Schizostylus*) – Nice fall bloomers, will take some wet too
- *Rudbeckias* (Black-Eyed Susans) – Easy to grow, few different types
- Salvias – Many to choose from, watch for Temperennial ones though!
- Sedums/Sempervirens – All kinds including Sunsparkler series, drought, lots of color
- Yarrow (*Alchillea*) – Great color palette and butterfly/pollinator favorites
- Zauschneria – Great hot colors, naturalizes, hummingbird magnet, drought tolerant

Suggestions for summer blooming perennials for SHADE...

- Anenomes – Easy to grow fall late summer fall bloom, naturalize well
- Astilbes – Great color for late spring/early summer – loves some wet as well
- Beesia – Nice foliage and light flowering late summer and fall, even for deep shade
- Cimicifuga (*Actaea*) – Nice dark cast foliage and interesting fragrant white snake flower
- Golden Aralia – Awesome yellow foliage and gets nice and big each season
- Hardy Fuchsia – Hummingbird magnet, long season of blooms, various heights
- Hostas – Always easy, drought tolerant, some fragrant bloomers, bold foliage
- Saxifrages – Cool foliage and late summer color, I love mine!
- *Thalictrum* (Meadow Rue) – Nice height and fragrance, great in woodland garden
- Toad Lillies (*Tricyrtis*) – These bloom strong Aug.-Nov. and are perfect for woodlands

Suggestions for year around/Evergreen Perennials for use in garden and containers.....

- Euphorbias (Spurge) – Good foliage color, interesting bloom, drought tolerant
- Ferns – Many useful evergreen types (and perennial ones as well) with great texture and form, for shade and part shade – and honestly even more sun on some if watered
- Hellebores – Nice summer foliage and winter blooms, for part shade and shade
- Heucheras (Coral Bells) – Exquisite foliage and long bloomers, some for sun/some for shade – a rainbow of colors to choose and flowers attract hummingbirds

Deer Resistant Plants: There are perennials that are resistant to browsing deer/rabbits, some of these are spring bloomers, others are summer/fall - sometimes resistant does not mean immune!

- Aconitum (Monkshood)
- Agastache (Hyssop)
- Aquilegia (Columbine)
- Bergenia (Pigsqueak)
- Campanula (Bellflower)
- Corydalis (Fumewort)
- Delphinium (Larkspur)
- Dicentra (Bleeding Heart)
- Digitalis (Foxglove)
- Epimedium (Barrenwort)
- Erysimum (Wallflower)
- Euphorbia (Spurge)
- Geraniums – Some Perennial Geraniums
- Hellebore (Lenten Rose/Christmas Rose)
- Iris – all kinds, especially Bearded
- Kirengshoma (Yellow Wax Bells)
- Lavender – All kinds
- Leucanthemum (Shasta Daisies)
- Ligularia (Leopard Plant)
- Lupine – all kinds
- Monarda (Bee Balm)
- Narcissus (Daffodils)
- Nepeta (Catmint)
- Oregano – all kinds
- Papaver (Poppies)
- Peonies – all kinds
- Perovskia (Russian Sage)
- Phlomis (Jerusalem Sage)
- Pulmonaria (Lungwort)
- Rodgersia (Roger's Flower)
- Salvia (Sages)
- Stachys (Lamb's Ear)
- Thalictrum (Meadow Rue)
- Verbascum (Mullein)
- Veronica (Speedwell)