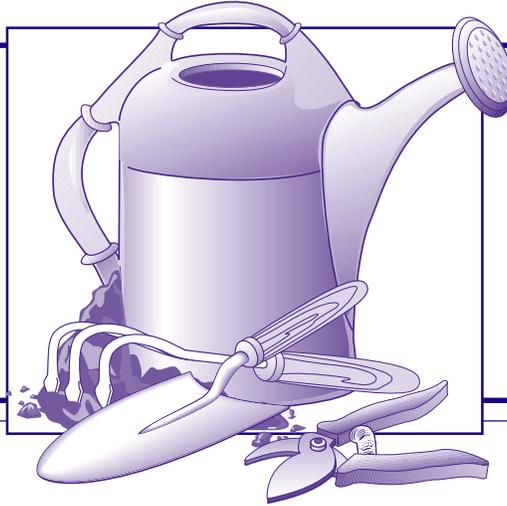


GARDEN CENTER GUIDE

A PERENNIAL FLOWER BED DESIGN



Perennial plants play an important function in landscape design. They provide a broad variety of color, form and flower types unavailable in annual flowers. Bloom periods for most perennials are relatively short—from two to four weeks. A well-designed perennial bed, planted with a variety of plant species, may provide continuous bloom from spring through fall. The perennial bed described in this publication is a basic planting plan. It is designed to be placed along a property line or against

the south or west side of a building or fence. The bed may be planted as designed or can be adapted to greater length by repeating it as a unit. Repeating the design by planting its mirror image, end-to-end, will provide a delightful, longer flower bed. The design is intended to be a starting point, the plants can be changed in future years as your appreciation and knowledge of perennial flowering plants changes. Enjoy the floral variety of perennials in your landscape.

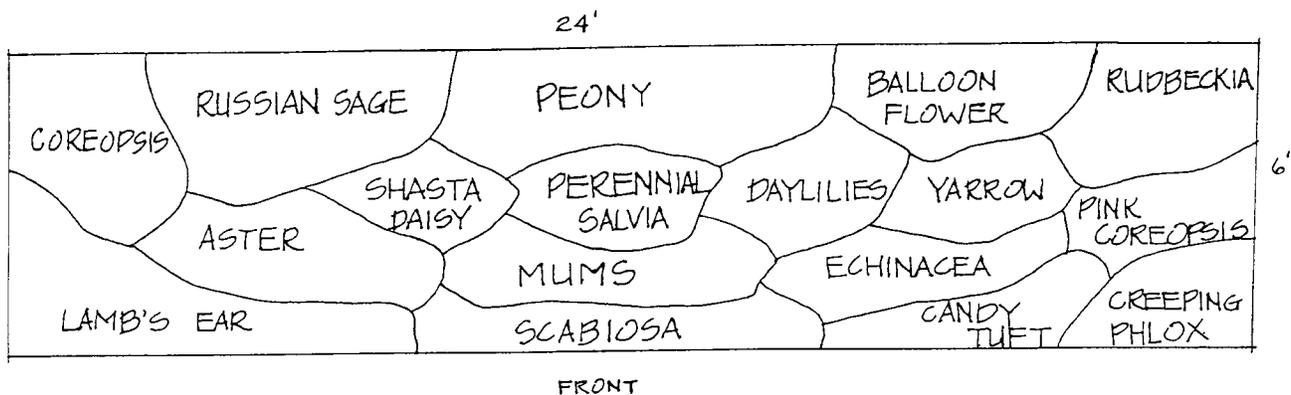


Figure 1. The bed is designed to be viewed from one side with a full sun exposure—minimum of 6 hours per day—moderate soil moisture. Perennial flower bed was designed by Alice LeDuc, Assistant Professor, Horticulture.

Table 1. Plant List

| No. Plants | Scientific Name | Common Name | Color | Height | Spacing |
|------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------|---------|---------|
| 4 | <i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i> | Coreopsis | Yellow | 2–3' | 18" |
| 2 | <i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i> 'Filigram' | Russian Sage | Lavender | 3–5' | 30–36" |
| 3 | <i>Paeonia</i> 'Shawnee Chief' | Peony | Red | 3' | 24" |
| 3 | <i>Platycodon grandiflorus</i> | Balloon Flower | Blue | 18–30" | 18" |
| 3 | <i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> 'Goldstrum' | Orange Cone Flower | Yellow | 2–3' | 18" |
| 3 | <i>Aster novi-belgii</i> | Aster | Pink | 18–20" | 18" |
| 2 | <i>Leucanthemum x superbum</i> | Shasta Daisy | White | 1–2' | 18" |
| 3 | <i>Salvia x superba</i> 'Blue Queen' | Perennial Salvia | Blue | 18–24" | 18" |
| 3 | <i>Hemerocallis</i> 'Happy Returns' | Daylily | Yellow | 2' | 24" |
| 2 | <i>Achillea filipendulina</i> 'Coronation Gold' | Fernleaf Yarrow | Gold | 3–4' | 18" |
| 3 | <i>Coreopsis rosea</i> | Pink Coreopsis | Pink | 12" | 16–18" |
| 3 | <i>Dendranthema x grandiflora</i> | Garden Chrysanthemum | Red | 18" | 18" |
| 3 | <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> | Purple Cone Flower | Pink | 2–4' | 18" |
| 7 | <i>Stachys byzantina</i> | Lamb's Ear | Pink/lavender | 18–20" | 18" |
| 5 | <i>Scabiosa caucasica</i> | Perennial Pincushion flower | Blue | 12"–20" | 16" |
| 3 | <i>Iberis sempervirens</i> | Candytuft | White | 12" | 18" |
| 3 | <i>Phlox subulata</i> | Creeping Phlox | Pink | 6" | 18" |
| 50 | <i>Narssisus</i> | Daffodil | Yellow | 12" | 10–12" |

Plant Descriptions

Achillea filipendulina 'Coronation Gold'—Fernleaf Yarrow, (June to August). Fernleaf yarrow, with its blue-gray foliage and large golden flowers (up to 5 inches across), can be used in fresh or dried arrangements. Removing the heads will prolong the blooming season, prevent seed set and increase the plant's vigor.

Aster novi-belgii—Michaelmas Daisy, (August to October). Asters, such as the Michaelmas Daisy, serve as companion plants to the Garden Mums. Choose one of the new compact cultivars (2 foot high) to compliment the new cushion-type garden mums. The flowers can be used in fresh arrangements. The plants should be divided every two to three years to retain plant vigor.

Coreopsis grandiflora (syn. *C. lanceolata*)—Tickseed, (June to September). Tickseed, also known as coreopsis, has brilliant yellow flowers, making it a showy plant after many of the other perennials have finished blooming. To prevent reseeding, remove old blooms after flowering; this also encourages continued flower production.

Coreopsis rosea—Pink Coreopsis, (June to September). Delicate pink flowers above a mound of fine foliage make this native southeastern United States plant an outstanding addition to the perennial garden. A reintroduction, pink coreopsis, has become very popular. Mark

the location of these plants as they are slow to emerge in the spring. The plants should be divided frequently as they spread quickly.

Dendranthema x grandiflora (syn. *Chrysanthemum x morifolium*)—Hardy Garden Chrysanthemum, (August to October). The last perennial to flower in autumn, the chrysanthemum symbolizes the end of the growing season. The cushion-type forms mounds of flowers on plants 1½ feet tall and 2½ feet across. Avoid the florist chrysanthemum, it is generally not winter hardy, and will require staking if not frequently pruned throughout the summer.

Echinacea purpurea—Purple Coneflower, (June to August). This native prairie plant provides vibrant pink color above very structured, rigid foliage. Removing the dead flower heads will prolong the blooming season and prevent seed set. 'Magnus' is an exceptional cultivar.

Hemerocallis 'Happy Returns'—Daylily hybrid, (July to September). The daylily is one of the most commonly planted perennials. Recent cultivars have been developed that are recurrent bloomers, 'Stella De Oro', with golden flowers, is the most popular, but 'Happy Returns', with clear yellow flowers, is a taller plant.

Iberis sempervirens—Perennial Candytuft, (April to May). A semi-evergreen plant, candytuft is a perfect

companion plant for creeping phlox. While in bloom, the white flowers cover the entire plant, and the dark green foliage is a pleasing accent all summer. Prune after flowering to encourage branching and remove seed pods. During the winter, the foliage benefits from a light covering of evergreen branches (a good way to recycle the Christmas tree).

Leucanthemum x superbum (syn. *Chrysanthemum x superbum*)—Shasta Daisy, (July to October). The large daisy flowers can be used in flower arrangements. Alaska, the most commonly grown variety, bears large 2-inch flowers on 2-foot stems. Shasta daisy will flower throughout the summer if grown in full sun. Under proper conditions, vigorous plants will need division every two years.

Narssisus—Daffodil, (April). A drift of naturalizing daffodils through the perennial bed, from the asters and mums to the echinacea and pink coreopsis, will provide spring interest and is the perfect contrast for the white candytuft and pink creeping phlox. Choose from several cultivars such as, ‘Carlton’ (yellow), ‘Peeping Tom’ (yellow), ‘Ice Follies’ (white with yellow trumpet), or ‘Thalia’ (white). Plant the bulbs once and they will come back year after year.

Paeonia ‘Shawnee Chief’—Garden Peony Shawnee Chief, (late May). The garden peony is usually 3 feet tall with large flowers (up to 6 inches across). The key to successful peony culture is proper planting: the eyes or young buds should be set 1 inch below the soil surface. Most varieties are slow to develop after planting, so frequent transplanting or division of the plants is not recommended.

Perovskia atriplicifolia ‘Filigram’—Russian Sage, (June to September). Lavender-blue spikes of flowers top the lacy silver-gray foliage all summer. The flowers and fragrance of the foliage make Russian sage a nice cut flower. The basal woody stems of the plant should be cut back to about 6 inches or less in the spring to encourage good plant form and growth.

Phlox subulata—Creeping or Moss Phlox, (April to May). The spring-flowering moss phlox bears flowers in shades of pink, lavender, lilac, purple, rose, red and white. The plant will form a dense mat of needle-like foliage that is covered with flowers in early spring. This plant tends to be evergreen in protected areas.

Platycodon grandiflorus—Balloon Flower, (July to August). Slow to emerge in the spring, the balloon flower requires sturdy staking. By early summer, each stem will be topped with numerous flowers 2 to 3 inches across. The plant has large carrot-like roots which do not divide or transplant well; best success if it is done in the spring.

Rudbeckia fulgida ‘Goldstrum’—Orange Coneflower, (July to September). This long-flowering coneflower is more desirable than the closely related Black-eyed Susan, because it is free from powdery mildew. The coneflower will provide a continuous display of yellow flowers throughout the summer. Dead heading will keep the plants from aggressive reseeding.

Salvia x superba ‘Blue Queen’—Perennial Salvia, (June to July). This salvia has a neat rounded growth habit. The vivid blue flowers are pleasing in fresh arrangements. Plants are best left undisturbed as they are slow to reestablish after division.

Scabiosa caucasica—Pincushion Flower, (June to September). The delicate blue flowers are borne on long-branched stems (suitable for cutting) above neat, compact tufts of foliage. ‘Butterfly Blue’ is a popular new introduction that flowers until frost.

Stachys byzantina—Lamb’s Ears, (June to September). Woolly white flower spikes rise 18 to 20 inches above rosettes of soft hairy leaves, attracting bees all summer. The soft, woolly leaves feel like a lamb’s ear, hence the name. ‘Big Ears’ a mostly sterile cultivar, will provide a wonderful carpet to delight the young gardener without the danger of bee stings. Lamb’s ear readily reseeds itself, so early removal of the flower spikes is recommended.

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