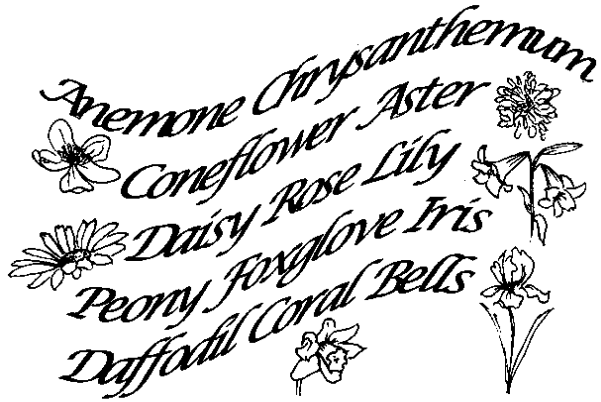


Growing Tips 21

PERENNIALS Continuous Color



In bloom from early spring through fall, garden perennials will brighten your landscape year after year. Combine colors that please you. Make the flower garden a focal point.

Plants are listed under the time period in which they usually bloom. Expect flowers for several weeks, or longer, depending on weather conditions and the type of plant. These plants tolerate average conditions, but pay attention to their preferences for the best results.

Many spring blooming plants will multiply readily (naturalize) over the years.

Prepare the soil as you would for a vegetable garden. The same steps apply. → See **Growing Tips 18** Plan a Vegetable Garden.

EARLY SPRING April-May	Prefers	Color
Daffodil (<i>Narcissus</i> spp.) bulb	○○	Y, W
Dwarf Iris (<i>Iris</i> spp.)	○○	Y,B,V,W
Fairy Wings (<i>Epimedium</i> spp.)	●●○	R,Y,W,P
Helleborus (<i>Helleborus</i> spp.)	●○	Y,W,P
Lungwort (<i>Pulmonaria</i> spp.)	●○	R,B,V,P
Siberian Squill (<i>Scilla siberica</i>) bulb	○○○	B,W
Virginia Bluebells (<i>Mertensia</i> spp.)	●○	B,V
Wild Blue Phlox (<i>Phlox divaricata</i>)	○○	B,V
LATE SPRING May - June		
Bleeding Heart (<i>Dicentra</i> spp.)	●●○	Y,V,W,P
Columbine (<i>Aquilegia</i> spp.)	●○○	R,Y,B,V,W,P
Coral Bells (<i>Heuchera</i> spp.)	○○○	R, W,P
Cornflower (<i>Centaurea montana</i>)	○○○	B,V,W,P
Cranesbill (<i>Geranium</i> spp.)	○○○	B,V,W,P
Peony (<i>Paeonia</i> spp.)	○○	R,O,Y,V,W,P
Viola (<i>Viola</i> spp.) perennial	●○○	Y,B,V,W
SUMMER July-August		
Astilbe (<i>Astilbe</i> spp.)	●●○○	R,W,P
Bee Balm (<i>Monarda</i> spp.)	○○○	R,V,W,P
Bellflower (<i>Campanula</i> spp.)	○○○	R,B,V,W,P
Blazing Star (<i>Liatrus</i> spp.)	○○○	V,W,P
Blue Star (<i>Amsonia</i> spp.)	○○○	B
Coneflower (<i>Echinacea</i> spp.)	○○○	R,O,Y,V,P
Daylily (<i>Hemerocallis</i> spp.)	○○○	R,O,Y,V,W,P
False Sunflower (<i>Heliopsis</i> sp.)	○○	Y
Foxglove (<i>Digitalis</i> spp.)	○○○	Y,V,W,P
Iris (<i>Iris</i> spp.)	○○	R,O,Y,B,I,V,W,P
Lady's Mantle (<i>Alchemilla</i> spp.)	○○○	Y, G
Landscape Rose (<i>Rosa</i> spp.)	○○	R,O,Y,V,W,P
Lily (<i>Lilium</i> spp.)	○○○○	R,O,Y,V,W,P
Ornamental Onion (<i>Allium</i> spp.)	○○	B,I,V,W,P
Perennial Sage (<i>Salvia</i> spp.)	○○	B,I,V,P
Daisy (<i>Leucanthemum</i> spp.)	○○	Y, W
Tickseed (<i>Coreopsis</i> spp.)	○○	O,Y,V,W,P
Yarrow (<i>Achillea</i> spp.)	○○	R,O,Y,V,W,P

○ Sun - at least 6 hours ● Part shade ● Shade
 ○ Average moisture ○○ Steady moisture
 Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet. White, Pink

LATE SUMMER-FALL Sept-Oct	Prefers	Color
Autumn Stonecrop (<i>Sedum</i> spp.)	○○	R, W, P
Fall Aster (<i>Aster</i> spp.)	○○	R, B,I,V,W, P
False Sunflower (<i>Heliopsis</i> sp.)	○○	Y
Japanese Anemone (<i>Anemone</i> spp.)	○●	W, P
Garden Mum (<i>Chrysanthemum</i> spp.)	○○	R,O,Y,V,W,P

Keep it Simple

- To begin a perennial garden, choose 2 or 3 kinds of plants for each season of bloom.
- For visual impact, plant at least three of the same kind of plant together in a group. Plant hardy, naturalizing bulbs generously
- Space according to the directions on the label.
- Plants may take 2 – 3 years to reach full size.
- Label plants securely with permanent tags.
- Mulch, then water with care throughout the season, as necessary. → See **Growing Tips 6** Watering New Plantings.

Great Combos (Add more as you go!)

- Spring: daffodils, dwarf Iris, wild blue phlox
- Late spring: bleeding heart, cranesbill, peony
- Summer: coneflower, daylily, perennial sage
- Fall: autumn stonecrop, fall aster, false sunflower

Nifty Note

Plant breeders create different types of plants (cultivars and varieties) in different colors and sizes, and often with extended blooming periods. For instance, many new “landscape” roses bloom repeatedly into the fall and resist diseases. These plants keep the same generic name (for example: *Rosa* spp.).



www.umassgreeninfo.org/homegarden
 www.mass.gov/massgown
 www.massflowergrowers.com/