A Year of Flowers: Selecting Plants for 12 Months of Blooms

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Plants for the Earth 2019
Today’s Outline

- Herbaceous Ornamental **Perennials**
- Herbaceous Ornamental **Annuals**
- Small Blooming Shrubs
  - Can be added to perennial beds for height and permanent structure
Criteria: How Plants Landed on this List

- Long blooming period
  - Ability to rebloom

- Perennials: long lived (10 years)
  - Adaptable to variable weather

- Suitable for West Ashley soils

- Deer-resistant (most)
# Success with Perennials

## Light
- Sun to part sun
- Part shade
- Gingers

## Moisture
- Raised beds
- Well-drained soil
- Moist soil
  - Gingers
  - Agapanthus (tolerate)
- Prefer dry soil
  - Plumbago

## Fertilizer
- Add mix of regular and slow-release when planting
- Yearly top-dressing in spring
- None or slow-release only
  - Gaura
  - Gaillardia
### Perennial Persistence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Long-lived</th>
<th>Short-lived</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Gaura</td>
<td>• Blood flower</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Salvias</td>
<td>• milkweed</td>
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<td>• Daylily</td>
<td>• Gaillardia</td>
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<td>• Society garlic</td>
<td>• Plumbago</td>
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<td>• Lily of the Nile</td>
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<td>• Black-eyed Susan</td>
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Daylily
*Hemerocallis* hybrids

- 'Bitsy'
- 'Frankly Scarlet'
- 'Plum Perfect'
- All-American Daylilies
- Rust resistant
- Rebloomers
- Not deer-resistant!

[The Daylily Society Cultivar Database: www.daylilies.org]
Plumbago

*Plumbago auriculata*

- Full to part sun
- Drought-tolerant
- Spring to Nov.
- Butterflies, esp. swallowtail
- Overwintered plants slow to bloom
Anise sage
Salvia guaranitica
cv. Black and Bloom

• “blooms earlier...larger flowers...darker stems”
  (Horticulture Magazine 2016)

• Other common cultivar: Black and Blue
Salvia hybrid
cv. Amistad

- Blooms April to frost
- 3.5 h x 4 w
- Sun to part sun
  - Tolerates part shade
- Well-drained soil

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Salvia hybrid
cv. Mystic Spires

Other related cultivars:
• ‘Indigo Spires’ (large)
• ‘Playin’ the Blues’ (pots)
• ‘Big Blue’
Mexican bush sage
*Salvia leucanthes*
(cv. Santa Barbara)

- Fall bloomer
- Normal moisture
- Sun to part sun
Society garlic
*Tulbaghia violacea*

- Tough plant
- Consistent bloomer
- Needs part to full sun
- Normal moisture
- Garlic odor
Lily of the Nile
Agapanthus hybrids

Unnamed, broadleaved cv.  'Blue Storm' (dwarf)

New hybrids have darker blue color—but will it persist?
Black-eyed Susan  
*Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sulllivantii* cv. Goldsturm

- Tough plant
- Blooms in early summer
- Needs part to full sun
- Normal moisture
- Not deer-resistant
Gaillardia (Indian blanket)

- *G. x grandiflora*
  - Short-lived perennial
  - Cv. Goblin
  - Cv. Arizona Sun

- *G. pulchella*
  - Reseeding annual
  - Part to full sun
  - Drought tolerant (to a point)
Gaura
(Beeblossom)
*Gaura lindheimeri*

Long-lived
- ‘Whirling Butterflies’
- ‘Siskiyou Pink’

Dwarf
- ‘Belleza Dark Pink’
- ‘Belleza White’
Blood flower milkweed
*Asclepias curassavica*

Silky Gold

Silky Red
Ginger

_Hedychium_ spp. and hybrids

cv. Elizabeth (reblooms)  cv. Bottlebrush Orange
Success with Summer Annuals

**Light**
- Sun to part sun
- Angelonia needs full sun = 6 hours uninterrupted

**Moisture**
- Well-drained soil
- Vinca and angelonia are drought tolerant
- Zinnia and pentas may need watering

**Fertilizer**
- Add slow-release when planting
- Liquid fertilizer once a month @ half rate
Zinnias

*Zinnia* hybrids

- Profusion Double Hot Cherry (AAS 2013)
- Profusion Red (AAS 2017)
- Don’t fade in heat
Pentas
*Pentas lanceolata*

- Lucky Star (8 colors)
- BeeBright™ (5 colors)
- Bred for faster reblooming
- Not deer resistant
Angelonia
Angelonia angustifolia

- Alonia™ Big (4 colors)
- Serenita®
  - Serenita™ Pink (2014 AAS)
- White seems most vigorous

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Vinca, Madagascar periwinkle

*Catharanthus roseus*

Cora® Apricot

- New Cora® series with 9 colors
- Bred with assistance from Clemson ornamental pathologist
- Resistant to Phytophthora blight
New Vinca Cultivars

cv. Tattoo™ Raspberry  

cv. Soiree Kawaii
Blooming Ornamental Shrubs

- Most shrubs have limited bloom time
  - Dwarf crepe myrtle (sun) is exception
- Dependable
  - Dwarf bottlebrush half hardy
- Considered low maintenance
  - Some require pruning
Dwarf bottlebrush (*Callistemon* spp.)

*C. citrinus* ‘Little John’  
*C. viminalis* ‘Light Show®’
Pieris
(Lily of the valley shrub)
*Pieris japonica, Pieris ryukyuensis*

- ‘Temple Bells’
- Shade
- Not completely deer resistant
  - New growth eaten
Winter Color

Annuals
• Pansy, viola, panola
• Dianthus
• Snapdragon

Perennials (Feb. to Apr.)
• Daffodils
• Lenten roses
• Rosemary (Jan.)