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

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Plants for the Earth April 2019
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Light</th>
<th>Moisture</th>
<th>Fertilizer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Sun to part sun</td>
<td>Raised beds</td>
<td>• Add mix of regular and slow-release when planting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Part shade</td>
<td>Well-drained soil</td>
<td>• Yearly top-dressing in spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gingers</td>
<td>Moist soil</td>
<td>• None or slow-release only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gingers</td>
<td>• Gaura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agapanthus (tolerate)</td>
<td>• Gaillardia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prefer dry soil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plumbago</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Gaura
- Gaillardia
Perennial Persistence

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

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

*Plumbago auriculata*

- Full to part sun
- Drought-tolerant
- Spring to Nov.
- Butterflies, esp. swallowtail
- Overwintered plants slow to bloom

© 2018 Oelschig Nursery Inc.
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 leucantha

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. *sullivantii* 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

- Angelface® (Proven Winners)
  - Large flowers
- Serenita®
  - Serenita™ Pink (2014 AAS)
  - White seems most vigorous
- All need 6+ hours sun to bloom

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Vinca, Madagascar periwinkle
*Catharanthus roseus*

- New Cora® XDR series with 12 colors
- Improved version of Cora
  - Resistant to Phytophthora blight
  - Bred with assistance from Clemson ornamental pathologist

Cora® XDR Magenta Halo

Syngenta Flowers US
Winter Color

**Annuals**
- Pansy, *viola*, panola
- Dianthus
- Wallflower, stock
- Snapdragon

**Perennials (Feb. to Mar.)**
- Daffodils
- Lenten roses
- Dwarf coreopsis ‘Nana’
- Rosemary (Jan.)
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
## Seasonal Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Spring (Mar-May)</th>
<th>Summer (Jun-Aug)</th>
<th>Fall (Sep-Nov)</th>
<th>Winter (Dec-Feb)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gaura, Soc. Garlic, Plumbago</strong></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agapanthus, Daylily, B-E Susan</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gaillardia, Gingers, Milkweed</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>“Blue” salvias, Amistad</strong></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mex. Bush salvia</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rosemary, Lenten rose</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pieris</strong></td>
<td>X</td>
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<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer annuals</strong></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winter annuals</strong></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daffodils</strong></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geranium (pot)</strong></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>