

# PERENNIAL Plant List



This plant list has been compiled as an aid to help design perennial plant beds in the mid-west region. The basic parameters of information include the botanical name, common name, sunlight requirements, height ranges and the timing and colors of bloom. It is paramount to keep in mind that other important cultural conditions such as soil type and amount of moisture needed must also be considered for planting success.

Because this is meant to be a quick reference for planning perennial bed areas, it would be impossible to list all of the cultivars available in the nursery trade. The height and colors of bloom listed represent the full range of the varieties for each species. Therefore, with only a little research the designer can find a specific cultivar that will work depending on the specific height or color that is needed.

**Sun — At least 6 full hours sunlight each day:**

| <u>Botanical Name</u> | <u>Common Name</u> | <u>Color of Bloom</u>                     | <u>Bloom Time</u>     | <u>Height/Range</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Achillea              | Yarrow             | Yellow, Gold, Red, Pink, White            | Spring/Mid-Summer     | 8" - 4'             |
| Adenophora**          | Ladybells          | Blue to Pale Blue                         | Early/Mid-Summer      | 18"-24"             |
| Alcea                 | Hollyhock          | White, Yellow, Pink, Red, Lavender, Black | June to Late Aug.     | 3'-5'               |
| Aquilegia**           | Columbine          | Red, Pink, Yellow, Blue, White, Purple    | Spring/Early Summer   | 12"                 |
| Amsonia               | Blue Stars         | Light Blue                                | Late Spring           | 2' - 3'             |
| Antennaria            | Pussytoes          | White, Rose, Lt. Pink                     | Late Spring           | 3" - 10"            |
| Arabis                | Rock Cress         | White, Rose                               | Early Spring          | 18"                 |
| Artemisia             | Wormwood           | Yellow to White Flower – Silver Foliage   | Summer                | 6 – 24"             |
| Asclepias             | Milkweed           | Orange, Pink, White, Yellow, Lt. Green    | Late Spring/Mid Sum.  | 24"                 |
| Aster                 | Aster              | Pink, Purple, Lavender, White             | Late Sum./Early Fall  | 12" - 24"           |
| Baptisia              | False Indigo       | Blue, White, Cream                        | Mid to Late Spring    | 3' – 4'             |
| Boltonia              | False Aster        | White, Lilac, Purple                      | Late Summer to Frost  | 5' – 6'             |
| Campanula**           | Bellflower         | Blue, Lavender, Purple, White,            | Early to Mid-Summer   | 1' – 3'             |
| Centaurea             | Bluet              | Blue, Pink, White, Yellow(macrocephala)   | Late Spring/Summer    | 1' - 4'             |
| Centranthus           | Valerian           | Pink, Reddish, White                      | Late Spring/Summer    | 2' – 3'             |
| Clematis**            | Clematis (Vine)    | White, Purple, Red, Pink, Lavender        | Spring/Summer         | 6' – 15'            |
| Coreopsis             | Tickseed           | Gold, Yellow, Pink (Orange Ray Flowers)   | Late Spring/Summer    | 1' – 3'             |
| Crambe                | Colewort           | White                                     | Late Spring/Early Sum | 4'–6'               |
| Dictamnus             | Gas Plant          | White, Pink, Rose-Violet                  | Late Spring/Early Sum | 2' – 3'             |
| Echinacea             | Coneflower         | Rosy-Purple, Pink, Yellow, White, Orange  | Summer                | 2' – 4'             |
| Echinops              | Globe Thistle      | Blue, Violet-Blue                         | Summer (6-8wks)       | 3' – 4'             |
| Euphorbia             | Spurge             | Chartreuse, Lime, Yellow, Red- Orange     | Spring                | 6" – 24"            |
| Gaillardia            | Blanket Flower     | Bi-Colored: Orange, Yellow, Burgundy      | Summer/Early Fall     | 12"-24"             |
| Gaura                 | Beeblossoms        | White (Fading to Pink)                    | Early Summer/Fall     | 4' – 5'             |
| Gypsophila            | Baby's Breath      | White, Pink                               | Summer                | 18" – 36"           |

| <u>Botanical Name</u> | <u>Common Name</u> | <u>Color of Bloom</u>                     | <u>Bloom Time</u>     | <u>Height/Range</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Helenium              | Sneezeweed         | Yellow, Orange, Bronze                    | Late Summer to Frost  | 2.5' – 6'           |
| Heliopsis             | False Sunflower    | Yellow, Gold, Yellow-Orange               | Mid-Summer/Fall       | 3' – 5'             |
| Hemerocallis**        | Daylily            | Almost any Color of the Rainbow           | Summer Mostly         | 12" – 24"           |
| Hibiscus              | Rose Mallow        | Red, Pink, White, Bi-Colors               | Mid/Late Summer       | 3' – 8'             |
| Iberis**              | Candy Tuft         | White                                     | Spring                | 6" – 12"            |
| Iris**                | (Many Species)     | Yellow, Purple, Blue, Pink, Bronze, White | Spring/Early Summer   | 6" – 4'             |
| Iris domestica        | Blackberry Lily    | Orange, Rose Pink, White                  | Summer                | 3'                  |
| Kniphofia             | Red Hot Poker      | Red, Red-Orange, Yellow, Creamy-White     | Summer                | 2' – 4'             |
| Lathyrus              | Perennial Pea      | Pink, Red, Yellow, White, Lavender        | Summer                | 4' – 8'             |
| Lavandula             | Lavender           | Lavender, Purple                          | Summer                | 12" – 24"           |
| Leucanthemum          | Daisy              | White Rays and Yellow Disks               | Summer                | 1' – 3'             |
| Liatris               | Gayfeather         | Lavender, Rose, White                     | Mid/Late Summer       | 18" – 3'            |
| Lilium                | Lily               | White, Orange, Red, Yellow, Pink,         | Early/Mid-Summer      | 18" – 5'            |
| Linum                 | Flax               | Sky Blue, White                           | Late Spring/Summer    | 24"                 |
| Lychnis**             | Maltese Cross      | Red, Magenta Pink, White                  | Summer                | 24" – 36"           |
| Malva                 | Mallow             | Pink, Lavender                            | Early/Late Summer     | 3' – 4'             |
| Monarda               | Beebalm            | Scarlet, Pink, Wine, Violet, White        | Summer                | 2' - 4'             |
| Nepeta                | Catmint            | Lavender, Blue, White                     | Mid-Spring/Early Sum  | 12" – 36"           |
| Oenothera             | Primrose           | Light Pink, Yellow                        | Late Spring/Summer    | 6" – 24"            |
| Papaver**             | Poppy              | Orange, Red, Pink, Salmon, White, Yellow  | Late Spring/Early Sum | 18" – 3'            |
| Penstemon**           | Beardtongue        | Scarlet-Pink, Rose-Purple, White, Orange  | Late Spring/Mid-Sum   | 18" – 36"           |
| Paeonia               | Peony              | Pink Hues, White, Red, Yellow             | Spring/Mid-Spring     | 24" – 36"           |
| Perovskia             | Russian Sage       | Lavender-Blue                             | Summer                | 3' – 4'             |
| Phlox**               | Garden Phlox       | White, Pink, Red, Blue, Purple            | Late Spring/Summer    | 18" – 4"            |
| Phlox                 | Creeping Phlox     | Violet-Purple, Pink, White, Blue, Red     | Early Spring          | 3" – 6"             |
| Physostegia**         | Obedient Plant     | Rose Purple, White, Pink                  | Late Summer/Fall      | 2' – 3'             |
| Platycodon**          | Balloon Flower     | Blue, Violet, Pink, White                 | Summer                | 8" – 36"            |
| Polemonium**          | Jacob's Ladder     | Blue, Pink, White                         | Late Spring/Early Sum | 18" – 24"           |
| Pyrethrum             | Painted Daisy      | Red, Pink, & White Rays w/ Yellow Disks   | Summer                | 2' – 3'             |
| Rudbeckia             | Black Eye Susan    | Gold & Yellow Rays with Brown Disks       | Mid/Late Summer       | 2' – 4'             |
| Salvia                | Perennial Salvia   | Violet-Blue, Rose-Pink                    | Mid-Spring/Summer     | 18" – 36"           |
| Santolina             | Lavend. Cotton     | Yellow                                    | Late Summer           | 18" – 24"           |
| Saponaria             | Soapwort           | Deep Pink, Rose, White                    | Mid/Late Spring       | 4" – 10"            |
| Scabiosa**            | Pincushion         | Light Blue, Blue Lavender, White          | Summer                | 18" – 24'           |
| Sedum                 | Live-Forever       | Rose-Pink, Wine-Red, Carmine, White       | Late Summer/Fall      | 18" – 24"           |
| Sempervivim           | Hens & Chicks      | Purple-Red, Red, Yellow                   | Grown for Foliage     | 3" – 12"            |
| Solidago              | Goldenrod          | Yellow, Gold                              | Mid-Summer/Fall       | 1.5' – 5'           |
| Stachys               | Lamb's Ears        | Purplish-Pink (Silvery Foliage)           | Summer                | 12" – 18"           |
| Stokesia              | Stoke's Aster      | Lavender-Blue, Blue, White                | Summer                | 12 – 24"            |
| Teucrium              | Germander          | Pale to Deep Purple, Rose-Pink            | Early/Mid-Summer      | 12"                 |
| Thermopsis            | Carolina Lupine    | Yellow                                    | Late Spring/Early Sum | 3' – 5'             |
| Thymus                | Thyme              | Rose-Purple, Pink, White                  | Late Spring/Early Sum | 1" – 12"            |
| Verbascum             | Chaix Mullein      | Yellow, Rose-Pink, White                  | Summer                | 36"                 |
| Verbena               | Moss Verbena       | Purple, Lavender, White                   | Spring/Frost          | 8" – 12"            |
| Veronica              | Spike Speedwell    | Blue, Lavender-Blue, Rose-Pink, White     | Late Spring/Mid Sum   | 10" – 36"           |

**Part Sun — 3 to 6 hours of sun each day:**

| <u>Botanical Name</u> | <u>Common Name</u> | <u>Color of Bloom</u>                     | <u>Bloom Time</u>     | <u>Height/Range</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Acanthus              | Bear's Breeches    | Purple, White                             | Mid-Summer            | 3' – 5'             |
| Aconitum              | Monkshood          | Blue, Violet, Bicolored (Blue&White)      | Mid to Late Summer    | 2' – 4'             |
| Alchemilla            | Lady's Mantle      | Yellow Green, Chartreuse                  | Late Spring/Early Sum | 16"                 |
| Anemone               | Anemone            | White, Light Pink, Rose (Yellow Disks)    | Late Summer/Fall      | 2' – 4'             |
| Aquilegia*            | Columbine          | Yellow, Pink, Blue, Red, White (Mixed)    | Late Spring/Early Sum | 1' – 3'             |
| Aruncus               | Goatsbeard         | Cream to White                            | Early Summer          | 4' – 6'             |
| Bergenia*             | Pig Squeak         | Pink, White, Crimson-Purple, Salmon       | Early to Late Spring  | 12" – 18"           |
| Campanula*            | Bellflower         | Blue, Lavender, Purple, White             | Early to Mid-Summer   | 1' – 3'             |
| Ceratostigma*         | Plumbago           | Deep Blue                                 | Summer into Fall      | 8" – 12"            |
| Chelone               | Turtlehead         | Pink, Rose, White                         | Late Sum./Early Fall  | 2' – 3'             |
| Doronicum             | Leopardsbane       | Yellow, Yellow-Orange, Gold               | Early to Mid-Spring   | 12" – 18"           |
| Eutrochium*           | Joe Pye Weed       | Mauve-Pink, Purple                        | Late Summer to Fall   | 5' – 7'             |
| Filipendula*          | Meadow Queen       | White                                     | Early to Mid-Summer   | 6' – 8'             |
| Gentiana              | Crested Gentian    | Dark Blue Corolla with White Throat       | Mid to Late Summer    | 4" – 6"             |
| Geranium*             | Lilac Cranesbill   | Lilac-Blue, Deep Blue                     | Late Spring/Early Sum | 12" – 18"           |
| Geum*                 | Avens              | Scarlet, Orange, Yellow                   | Late Spring/Early Sum | 18" - 24"           |
| Heuchera vill.***     | Coral Bells        | Coral, Red, Pink, White (Leaf Contrast)   | Late Spring/Early Sum | 12" – 16"           |
| Iris*                 | (Many Types)       | Yellow, Purple, Blue, Pink, Bronze, White | Spring/Early Summer   | 6" – 4'             |
| Lobelia               | Cardinal Flower    | Scarlet, Pink, White                      | Summer                | 2' – 4'             |
| Lysimachia            | Creeping Jenny     | Yellow                                    | Late Spring/Mid Sum.  | 3"                  |
| Mertensia             | VA Bluebells       | Blue Limb & Purple Tube                   | Early Spring          | 12" – 24"           |
| Myosotis              | Forget Me Not      | Lt. Blue, White, Blue, Pink-Yellow Center | Spring to Early Sum.  | 6" - 8"             |
| Penstemon*            | Beardtongue        | Scarlet-Pink, Rose-Purple, Salmon, White  | Late Spring/Mid-Sum   | 3- 5'               |
| Physostega*           | Obedient Plant     | Rose-Purple, White, Pink                  | Late Summer/Fall      | 2' - 3'             |
| Rodgersia             | Rodgersflower      | Creamy-Pink, Creamy-White                 | Late Spring/Mid Sum.  | 3' – 5'             |
| Tanacetum v.*         | Tansay             | Golden Yellow (Beautiful Fern Foliage)    | Mid to Late Summer    | 3' – 4"             |
| Tradescantia*         | Spiderwort         | Blue, Violet-Purple, White, Pink          | Late Spring/Mid-Sum   | 18" – 24"           |

**NOTE - Asterisk notation following Perennial names denote flexibility to sun/shade conditions:**

\* Will also tolerate Full Sun (At least 6 full hours of sun everyday)

\*\* Will also tolerate Part Sun (3 to 6 hours of sun everyday)

\*\*\* Will also tolerate Shade (Less than 3 hours of sun everyday)

## Shade — Less than 3 hours of direct sunlight:

| <u>Botanical Name</u> | <u>Common Name</u> | <u>Color of Bloom</u>                     | <u>Bloom Time</u>     | <u>Height/Range</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Adenophora**          | Ladybells          | Blue to Pale Blue                         | Early to Mid-Summer   | 18" – 24"           |
| Aegopodium            | Goutweed           | White Flowers (Variegated Foliage)        | Late Spring/Early Sum | 14"                 |
| Ajuga                 | Bugleweed          | Violet-Blue, White, Purple                | Early to Late Spring  | 6" – 9"             |
| Alchemilla mollis     | Lady's Mantle      | Yellow Green, Chartreuse                  | Late Spring/Early Sum | 16"                 |
| Aruncus dioicus       | Goatsbeard         | Cream to White                            | Early Summer          | 4' – 6'             |
| Astilbe               | False Spirea       | Red, Pink, White, Lavender                | Early Summer          | 2' – 4'             |
| Bergenia              | Pig Squeak         | Pink, White, Crimson-Purple, Salmon       | Early to Late Spring  | 12" – 18"           |
| Ceratostigma          | Plumbago           | Deep Blue                                 | Summer into Fall      | 8" – 12"            |
| Cimicifuga racem.     | Cohosh             | White                                     | Mid-Summer            | 4' - 6'             |
| Cimicifuga simpl.     | Bugbane            | White                                     | Late Sum./Mid-Fall    | 3' - 4"             |
| Convallaria           | Lily-of-Valley     | White, Pale Pink                          | Mid-Spring            | 6" – 12"            |
| Corydalis             | Corydalis          | Yellow                                    | Late Spring to Fall   | 9" – 15"            |
| Dicentra**            | Bleeding Heart     | Pink, White                               | Late Spring/Early Sum | 2' – 3'             |
| Digitalis**           | Foxglove           | Pink Shades, Purple, White, Yellow        | Summer                | 2' – 5'             |
| Epimedium             | Barrenwort         | Crimson, Pink, Yellow                     | Mid-Spring            | 8" – 12"            |
| Fern (Many Sp.)       | Fern               | Grown Mainly for Foliage Interest         | Spore Reproduction    | 6" – 36"            |
| Galium                | Sweet Woodruff     | White                                     | Late Spring           | 6" – 8"             |
| Geranium              | Lilac Cranesbill   | Lilac-Blue, Deep Blue                     | Late Spring/Early Sum | 12" – 18"           |
| Helleborus            | Lenten Rose        | Purple to Pink to Cream, White            | Early Spring          | 15" – 18"           |
| Heuchera              | Coral Bells        | Coral Red, Pink, White (Foliage Interest) | Late Spring/Summer    | 12" - 16"           |
| Hosta                 | Plantain Lily      | White, Lavender (Foliage Interest)        | Mid to Late Summer    | 12" – 48"           |
| Lamium                | Deadnettle         | Mauve-Pink, White, Pink                   | Late Spring/Mid-Sum   | 8" – 12"            |
| Polemonium            | Jacob's Ladder     | Blue, Pink, White                         | Mid Spring/Early Sum  | 18" – 24"           |
| Polygonatum           | Solomon's Seal     | White to Greenish White                   | Late Spring           | 2' – 3'             |
| Pulmonaria**          | Lungwort           | Sky Blue, Deep Blue, Violet Blue          | Spring                | 8" - 12"            |
| Tiarella              | Foam Flower        | White, Creamy White, Pale Pink            | Mid-Spring            | 6" – 12"            |
| Tricyrtis             | Toad Lily          | Pale Lilac with Dark Purple Spots         | Late Sum./Early Fall  | 2' – 3'             |
| Trillium              | Snow Trillium      | White Flowers fade to Pinkish Blush       | Early Spring          | 18" – 24"           |
| Vinca**               | Periwinkle         | Blue, Purple-Blue, White                  | Early Spring          | 6" – 9"             |
| Viola**               | Sweet Violet       | Violet, Deep Violet, Rose-Pink, White     | Spring                | 6" – 8"             |

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Published by the Johnson County Extension  
Master Gardeners, a volunteer program of  
K-State Research and Extension, Johnson County