Annuals and Perennials

Janet B. Carson

University of Arkansas System

MASTER GARDENER
Annuals

Annuals are plants that complete their life cycle in one season.

There are cool season annuals planted Sept – December.

Warm season annuals planted April - June.
• **Match conditions**
  - Wet/dry
  - Sun/shade
Think seasonality
Landscape fabric
Mulch
Weed early and often
Warm Season Annuals

• Plant after the danger of frost is past – in south Arkansas after April 1, in central Arkansas after April 10 and April 20 in north Arkansas

• Space plants 12 to 18 inches apart

• Fertilize at planting, and periodically throughout season.

• Water as needed.
Annuals for the summer sun – 6 hours or more
Angelonia – Summer Snapdragon
Calibrachoa – Million Bells

• Similar to petunia
  – Smaller blooms

In protected spots it may overwinter.
Periwinkle or Annual Vinca
*Catharanthus*

- Loves the heat
- Glossy green foliage
- Self-cleaning flowers.
- Stem canker problems more common with overhead watering.
‘Cooler Series’ Periwinkle
Celosia

Plumed Cockscomb      Crested Cockscomb
Cuphea

BAT FACED CUPHEA

FLAMENCO
Ipomea batas ‘Marguerite’ and ‘Blackie’
Sweet Potato Vine
Lantana

- Loves the heat of summer; tolerates drought
- Used as an annual
- May overwinter
- ‘New Gold’ self cleaning
Melampodium

- 1999 Arkansas Select winner
- Loves heat – a Texas native wildflower
- Self cleaning
- Depending on variety grows 8 to 18 inches tall
Petunias
Wave petunias are heavy feeders, so fertilize at least monthly to keep them blooming.
Garden Zinnia

- Full sun plant that is mainly grown from seeds planted directly in the garden
- Can bloom in 5 weeks from seed
- Powdery mildew is a major disease problem.
Z. elegans x Z. angustifolia
(Profusion series)
Zahara Zinnias

Starlight Rose

Fire
Flowers for the Shade Garden
• Grows best in shade but will take full sun
• Slow from seed so must be grown as a transplant
• Flowers in pink, red or white
• Pest free
Dragonwing Begonia
Caladiums
Coleus

Henna

Versa Lime
Impatiens
New Guinea

cellebrette
Fanfare Impatien
Torenia – Wishbone Plant
Cool Season Annuals
Dianthus
Ornamental Kale/Cabbage plant in September for best show, or buy large plants
Peacock Flowering Kale
Mustard Giant Red
- Pansy
Violas

• Tend to take heat better than pansies.
• Can be planted earlier in the season and last longer.
Snapdragon

(*Antirrhinum majus*)

- Winter annual in zone 7 and south
- Used as a cut flower
- Usually will not make it through our hot summers and remain in bloom
Swiss Chard

‘Bright Lights’
Herbaceous Perennials

• Most perennials are non-woody.
• Perennials have a season of dormancy.
• They have a season of blooms.
  • Bloom length can vary from 2 weeks to 4 months
Correct Perennial Planting is Critical for Success

- Plant in well drained soil
- Soil pH of 6 – 6.5 best
- Space most plants on 2” centers
- Avoid planting too deep
- Divide when plants become crowded -- usually every 3 to 5 years
Dividing Perennials

- Divide spring bloomers in the fall
- Divide fall bloomers in the spring
- Summer bloomers can be divided spring or fall.
Maintenance of perennials

- Water
- Fertilization needs vary
- Staking
- Deadheading
Perennial staking
Shade Perennials
Lenten Rose (*Helleborus orientalis*)
Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*)
Foxglove

Digitalis purpurea
Ferns
Holly Fern

Japanese Painted Fern
Need *H. villosa* in the parentage

‘Peach Flambe’

‘Citronelle’
Celandine Poppy
(Stylophorum diphyllum)
Hosta – Great Expectations
Solomon's Seal

*Polygonatum odoratum*

'Variegatum'
Perennial Begonias-
*Begonia grandis*
Toadlily (*Tricrytis hirta*) blooms in October.
Sun Perennials
Peony (Paeonia)

- Hundreds of selections
- Colors of red, white and pink
- Often live for 100 plus years
- Good soil preparation allows for earlier blooming
- Good cut flower
Candytuft  (*Iberis sempervirens*)
Homestead Purple Verbena
Hardy Hibiscus

*Hibiscus coccineus*
‘Eruption’

*Hibiscus moscheutos*
Echinacea – Purple Coneflower

Sunrise

Magnus
‘Summer Sky’

‘Sundown’
Daylily

Hemerocallis sp.
Aesclepias tuberosa
– Butterfly Weed
Black Eyed Susan
(Rudbeckia sp.)

Goldsturm

‘Prairie Sun’
Gaillardia – Blanket Flower

Arizona Sun

Sundance Bicolor
Gaillardia

‘Fanfare’

‘Oranges and Lemons’
Joe Pye Weed – ‘Little Joe’

*Eupatorium fistulosum*
Salvia

*Salvia guaranitica*

'Black and Blue'

Salvia greggii
Salvia leucantha
Mexican bush sage
Ornamental Grasses

Miscanthus

Pennisetum

Hakonechloa

Japanese Forest Grass
Feather Reed Grass
*Calamagrostis x acutiflora*
Mixed Border