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
Lobularia maritima ‘Rosie O’ Day’ Sweet Alyssum
Dusty Miller
(Centaurea cineraria)

- Plant as a winter annual with pansies or in spring with warm weather plants
- Will overwinter down to zero
- Good for edging and background
Periwinkle or Vinca

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

Crested Cockscomb
Lantana

- Loves the heat of summer; tolerates drought
- Used as an annual
- May overwinter
- ‘New Gold’ was a 2000 Arkansas Select winner
Variegated Lantana
Butterfly Pentas
2002 Arkansas Select
Petunias

• Belong to the potato family and do best in good soil before the summer gets too hot
• Cut plants back if they stop flowering
• All commercial cultivars are F1 hybrids
• New “Wave” type are more vigorous and tolerate heat better than most
Wave petunias are heavy feeders, so fertilize at least monthly to keep them blooming.
Calibracoea
- 2001 Arkansas Select
- Similar to petunia but with smaller blooms
- In protected areas may overwinter
Portulaca grandiflora  Moss Rose
Portulaca oleraceae  Purslane
Scarlet Sage
*Salvia splendens*

- Summer flowering annual responds well to water and fertilizer
- Pinching heads off will keep the plants in bloom
- Loves the heat of an Arkansas summer
Ageratum houstonianum

Floss Flower
Melampodium

- 1999 Arkansas Select winner
- Loves heat – a Texas native wildflower
- Self cleaning
- Depending on variety grows 8 to 18 inches tall
Marigolds (*Tagetes*)

- *T. patula* (French)
  - Plants small stature under 16 inches
  - Blooms smaller – often yellow or orange
  - Easy to transplant and grow
  - Spidermite magnet

- *T. erecta* (African)
  - Plants 24 to 36 inches tall
  - Blooms 3 to 4 inches across and mostly yellow
  - Often late flowering
Tagetes patula
French Marigold
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.
Zinnia angustifolia ‘Crystal White’
a 1998 Arkansas Select
Z. elegans x Z. angustifolia
(Profusion series)
Ipomea batas ‘Marguerite’ and ‘Blackie’
Sweet Potato Vine
Marguerite Sweet Potato Vine
Pelargonium x hortorum
Garden Geranium

- Grown from cuttings or seeds
- Best in pots in the cooler weather of spring
- Not a good summer bedding plant in the south because of heat
Flowers for the Shade Garden
Impatiens or Sultanas

- Best flowering annual for the shade
- Grows quickly from seed
- Flowers all summer
- May reseed in a favorable site
- Dwarf forms available
Sultana (Impatiens)
New Guinea Impatiens
• 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
2001 Arkansas Select
Coleus - the foliage plant for sun or shade

- Many fancy leafed forms
- Grows well in the soil or in containers
- Sensitive to cold temperatures
- Watch for mealybugs
Cool Season Annuals
**Dianthus chinensis ‘Snowfire’**

- Plant in fall or spring
- Blooms fall through spring
- Shear back in summer for fall bloom
- Sensitive to water
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
Ornamental Kale plant in September for best show
Ornamental Kale is hardy to about 15 degrees F
• Winter annuals
• Pansies are the most popular winter color plant south of zone 6
• Usually ineffective after May 15 in most years as plants stretch out as nights warm up
Viola flower compared to a Pansy flower
Plant Pansies before November 1 in North Arkansas.