

PERENNIALS

HUMBER NURSERIES 'GREEN THUMB GUIDE'



IMPORTANT PERENNIAL GROUPS

Choose from 3000 perennial varieties at Ontario's Largest Garden Centre. Hardy plants are grown at the Garden Centre and at our farm in Caledon East. No need to wait for summer – these hardy perennials can be planted as soon as the soil can be dug in the spring.

ACONITUM – MONKSHOOD (7 varieties)

Monkshood species, hybrids and cultivars provide a choice of many heights and different bloom times. Violet-blue is the most common colour but pure white, yellow and bicolor forms are also popular. Two Bloom of Bressingham varieties are exceedingly fine. 'Ivorine' is only 90 cm tall with many ivory-white flowers in June and July. 'Bressingham Spire' (90 cm) has violet-blue flowers in July and August. These and other shorter types do not need to be staked. All prefer moist, organically rich soil and can take a considerable amount of shade.



AQUILEGIA – COLUMBINE (18 varieties)

Very beautiful long-spurred flowers that are attractive to hummingbirds. The flower shape is one of nature's marvels and the colour combinations are sensational. 'Biedermeier' forms a flower-laden clump about 30 cm tall. For taller plants look for 'Mrs. Scott Elliott' hybrids and Mckana's Giants. All have lovely foliage and bloom in May – June. 'Ruby Port' is a particularly outstanding columbine, as the flowers are truly the colour of port wine – dark ruby red.



ACHILLEA – YARROW (7 varieties)

Cloth of Gold is a longtime favourite with bright yellow flowers from June to August, but this is a large family with many to choose from. "Moonshine" is smaller and has very silvery foliage with creamy yellow flowers. Many new colours are now available and these varieties have a summer long bloom-time. 'Cerise Queen' is pink and 'Paprika' is orange. A low growing variety for the rock garden is 'King Edward'.



ALCEA – HOLYHOCK (9 varieties)

Stately spires of fully double flowers in the Chater's series. Colours are red, white, yellow and shades of pink. 'The Watchman' is a dark purple, almost black single. All are short-lived perennials usually treated as annuals or biennials.



ANEMONE – WINDFLOWERS (15 varieties)

Anemone canadensis and *A. sylvestris* are both white-flowered species for spring and early summer. Japanese Anemones can be the mainstay of the late summer and fall garden. Cultivar choices provide a choice of height from 60 to 150 cm. 'Rosenschale' is a large flowered pink single, 80 cm tall. 'Honerine Jobert' pure white and 120 cm. The hardiest and earliest to flower is the light pink *A. vitifolia* 'Robustissima', which also make long lasting cut flowers.



ARTEMISIA (6 varieties)

With the exception of *Artemisia lactiflora* which has fluffy white flowers, all other varieties are grown for their beautiful silver foliage. 'Silver Mound' forms a dense clump and is always greatly admired. A taller growing variety is 'Silver Queen'.

The new cultivar 'Silver Brocade' is splendid in the rock garden or in a raised planter where its gorgeous foliage can cascade. *Artemisia lactiflora* 'Guizho' is a wonderful tall perennial for the fall garden, with green foliage suffused with red and large plumes of creamy white flowers.



ASTILBE (28 varieties)

Astilbe have feathery plumes of white, pink, raspberry, red or rosy purple blooms from late June through July and August, depending on the cultivar. They prefer partial shade but will grow in sun if the soil is rich and moist. Mulch well to retain moisture. Most grow about 60 cm tall. *A. tacqueti superba* is taller and flowers later. Dwarf Astilbes include *Astilbe pumila* and the very charming 'Sprite'.



ASTER – MICHAELMAS DAISY (20 varieties)

Dwarf alpine asters bloom in spring and early summer. The most famous asters are the Michaelmas Daisies which flower in profusion in the late summer and fall. Many varieties are available in shades of blue, mauve, purple, pink and white. As other summer flowers are fading, Asters continue the garden show of colour.



CAMPANULA – BELLFLOWERS (16 varieties)

A very large family of flowering plants. Many small varieties like 'Carpathian Harebell' are very suited to rock gardens and border edging. Taller varieties for the perennial border are 'Peach-leafed Bell Flower' and the Lactiflora varieties. Most varieties are available in white, blue or purple. An old fashioned favourite (although only a biennial) is 'Canterbury Bells' which comes in pink blue and white. 'Blue Waterfall' is a wonderful little plant that blooms for a very long time.



CHRYSANTHEMUM* (14 varieties)

Fall mums are familiar to everyone. Their colour range is wide: white, bronze, orange, yellow, red and mauve-purple and in flower shapes varying from buttons, to spoon-shaped and spidery. The next most important chrysanthemum is the 'Shasta Daisy' that flowers both double or single with the singles showing a bright yellow eye. 'Painted Daisies' provide us with pink and red flowers. These are listed under the name Tanacetum.



*Chrysanthemums now known as *Ajania*, *Dendranthema*, *Leucanthemum*, *Nipponanthemum* and *Tanacetum*.



CIMICIFUGA – BUGBANE/SNAKEROOT (7 varieties)

Their September to October bloom time and ability to thrive in moist shade make *Cimicifugas* very valuable. The bottlebrush flower of most varieties is pure white but some pink flowered forms with dark red stems and reddish foliage are now available. 'Brunette' grows 175 cm tall and is sensational in the fall. A shorter, dark leaf variety is 'James Compton'.

COREOPSIS (10 varieties)

Highly recommended for their long bloom time (June till frost) with daisy-like flowers with jagged edges. Mainly in yellow or orange-yellow, they make bushy mounds of 60 cm or less in height. 'Zagreb' has clear yellow flowers and fine cut filigree foliage. 'Americana Dream' is pink.



DELPHINIUMS (13 varieties)

These stately and spectacular tall plants are essential to any perennial border. They need rich, well drained soil; incorporate well-composted manure in the planting mix and add a mulch or top dressing of manure annually. Best planted in groups and cut out all but three, or five of the best shoots when they are about 15 cm tall in spring. The bee in the colour descriptions is a central bunch of petaloids, like a flower within the flower. The white bee on the white 'Galahad' turns the flower into a 'double white'. After the main flowering period has passed, about mid-July, cut some stems to the first leaves and others right to the ground. The plant will then re-bloom in August and September.



DIANTHUS - PINKS (17 varieties)

This family of plants, which includes the popular carnation, brings fragrance into your garden. Most *Dianthus* are sweetly clove-scented and you may wish to plant them close to the house or your sitting area, so as to enjoy their perfume. Cottage Pinks, Maiden Pinks, Cheddar Pinks and Alwood Hybrids are some of the groups. All have attractive grassy foliage; some are very blue and are evergreen in winter.



DIGITALIS – FOXGLOVE (5 varieties)

The most popular forms are varieties of *Digitalis purpurea* which are biennial rather than perennial, such as 'Excelsior Hybrids', 'Apricot Beauty' and the pure white 'Alba'. Many true perennial Foxglove in shades of pink, white and yellow are valued border plants. One outstanding hybrid is the lovely pink 'Mertonensis'. Cutting the plant back after flowering will help in perennializing short-lived types. All are fairly shade tolerant.



ECHINACEA – PURPLE CONEFLOWER (24 varieties)

Large daisy flowers with a dark conical centre. Echinacea now come in a variety of colours including white, yellow, orange, purple and pink. The best known pinks are 'Bright Star', 'The King' and the perennial of the year for 1988, 'Magnus', whose petals are held more horizontal rather than sweeping down. *Echinacea* have a much longer bloom time than most perennials – July to October.



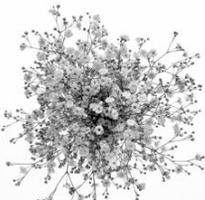
GERANIUM (14 varieties)

Not the well-known summer bedding or pot plant which is in fact, a *Pelargonium*, but true geraniums or cranesbill. Geraniums are dainty plants with leaves that are usually deeply cleft, and are solid small plants that make a dense bushy mound. Pure white, solid blue and shades of pink are all available.



GYPSOPHILA – BABY'S BREATH (6 varieties)

There is a wide choice of flower heights from 10 cm (*G. repens*) up to 120 cm (*G. paniculata*) Flowers can be single or double in white or various shades of pink. The individual flowers are small but are produced in such great quantity to make an impressive show. Tall varieties are valued as cut flowers either fresh or dried. All will re-bloom after the initial flowering if cut back hard and can be very showy in the late fall garden.



HEMEROCALLIS – DAYLILY (75 + varieties)

Daylilies are the heart of the mid-summer perennial garden, flowering non-stop through the heat of July and August. (Stella d'Oro continues through September). They have a fabulous colour range: apricot, bronze, crimson, gold, lemon, mahogany, maroon, orange, pink, purple, red, violet and yellow. They are tough, hardy and reliable. Each lily-like flower lasts only a day but they are continuously in bloom over many weeks. The leaves are arching and pointed straps.



HEUCHERA – CORAL BELLS (36 varieties)



Heuchera are a wonderful garden staple. They are an excellent foliage plant that comes in a wide range of colours, including purple, black, bronze, silver or with silver overtones, gold and amber. Most have white flowers but an excellent pink is 'Palace Passion'. Enthusiasm for these new forms should not eclipse the green leaved cultivars that are grown for their white, pink or red clusters of small bell-shaped flowers. Always valuable for the long bloom time. The always attractive *Heuchera* foliage persists in winter.

HOSTA (Over 200 varieties)

Check out the *HOSTA OF THE YEAR* and visit our MUST SEE website – www.humbernurseries.com for an extensive list of our Hostas.



DWARF IRIS (6 varieties)

Flowering in May. *Iris pumila* are under 25 cm tall and flower in bright Yellow, Orange, Blue and Purple. Liliput Iris are slightly taller.



JAPANESE, SIBERIAN AND FLAG IRIS (15 + varieties)

Flowering in June and July, Japanese Iris have fully open flowers like brilliantly coloured butterflies. The Siberian Iris makes a fine slender clump with fine upright narrow foliage. The Blue Flag and the Yellow Flag are happiest in moist soil and will even grow in shallow water.



TALL BEARDED IRIS

(Over 20 varieties for May & June)

Unlike the common Wild Iris or Flag that flourish in wet swampy places, the tall Bearded Iris are dry-land plants that need a sunny location and well drained soil. When planting, the rhizomes should be set just below the surface of the soil. The growing point is at one end of the rhizome. To obtain a good size clump quickly, the rhizomes may be set together so that they radiate out from the centre. After flowering, the flower stems should be cut back and the leaves must be left to manufacture food for the plant until fall. Before the onset of winter the foliage should be cut back to within a few centimeters of the ground and all dead leaves removed. Since Iris are very hardy, no winter mulch is necessary; it is best to keep them free of all materials which might tend to hold moisture around the rhizomes and induce rotting. There are several reblooming varieties now available.



LAMIUM - DEAD NETTLE (8 varieties)

The very best perennials are those with good foliage. *Lamium* are outstanding in this regard combining green with bronze, pink and silver. Growing less than 10 cm tall, these shade tolerant beauties make excellent groundcovers, under-plantings for shrubs or as border edgings. A related species with much longer stems is *Lamiastrum* which has hooded yellow flowers.



LAVANDULA – LAVENDER (4 varieties)

Lavandula angustifolia cultivars are hardy perennial lavenders. 'Blue Cushion', 'Hidcote' and 'Munstead' are blue-flowered. 'Janet Davis' is light pink. All have silver-gray aromatic foliage. They need a sunny spot in well-drained soil.



LILIUM – LILIES (35 varieties) (Asiatic, Oriental and Trumpet)

Lilies are under-used perennial plants. Their large flared trumpet-like blooms come in a rainbow of colours. The many August flowering varieties give your perennial garden a needed boost as earlier flowering perennials stop blooming.

LOBELIA – CARDINAL FLOWER (9 varieties)

The hardiness may vary from the hardy native *L. siphilitica* in blue or white to the more tender red foliage and red flowered 'Queen Victoria'. They are all valued for their steeped form and their bloom time from July to September. Many new cultivars with richer flower colours in wine-reds and rich purples are available. They need rich moist soil in sun or partial shade.



LUPINUS – LUPIN (13 varieties)

A very colourful perennial in blue, pink, red, white and yellow that can be spectacularly grouped in mixed colours. June-July flowering with possible repeat if cut back hard after flowering. Their upright conical flower heads are a good counterpoint to more roundish plants. They are not long lived perennials but are an essential group. Best known cultivars are 'The Governor', 'The Pages', 'Chatelaine' and 'Noble Maiden'.

LYCHNIS – CATCHFLY (5 varieties)

The fiery red flowers of Maltese Cross '*Lychnis chalconica*' may be hard to place in the garden except when outnumbered by white Shasta Daisies. It is a very hardy and dependable plant with large round flower clusters. This is a varied plant family that offers quite different types of foliage such as, silver-gray in *L. coronaria* & *L. flos-cuculli* and grassy leaves in varieties of *L. viscaria*. The Arkwrightii hybrid 'Vesuvius' has purple leaves that complement its orange flowers. Mainly short-lived plants that often self-seed.



LYSIMACHIA – LOOSESTRIFE (9 varieties)

This is not Purple Loosestrife which is *Lythrum* but Yellow Loosestrife, despite the fact that there are white flowered forms. Creeping Jenny and its gold-leaved variety are excellent as spreading groundcovers both with bright yellow flowers. 'Circle flower' (*L. punctata*) has whorls of golden flowers around the stem. 'Gooseneck Loosestrife' flowers in the fall with curving conical white flower heads. They thrive in wet soil but are adaptable to the regular garden. They are categorized as spreading and even invasive plants.

MONARDA – BEE BALM (10 varieties)

Very showy uniquely formed flower clusters in rich bold colours – red, pink, purple and white. Bushy and upright with aromatic foliage, they are an essential perennial for the mid-summer border. There are many very fine named varieties and there are a few dwarf forms. These are extremely hardy native American plants whose main fault is a proneness to mildew. Hummingbirds love to visit this plant.



NEPETA – CAT MINT (7 varieties)

Catnip, which cats find so intoxicating, is not the most ornamental and usually reserved for the herb or kitchen garden. The *Nepeta faassenii* hybrids are gray-leaved aromatic plants with blue flowers. They can be repeatedly cut back for neatness and to provoke constant flowering from May to October. 'Blue Wonder' and 'Six Hills Giant' are well-known cultivars. Much less well-known is a quite different appearing species *N. subsessilis* with larger fresh green mint-like foliage and clusters of lavender-blue flowers from May to October. 'Walkers Low' was perennial of the year in 2006.



PAEONIA – PEONY (over 50 varieties)

Flowering through May and June, Peonies are long-lived plants that will continue to flower for generations. They need never be disturbed, although if moving them becomes necessary, the large clump should be reduced to sections with 3 to 5 'eyes'. A large clump moved whole will most likely cease flowering. Plant peonies with their 'eyes', which are growing points and easily seen, no more than 5 cm deep. They will not flower if planted any deeper. Three popular varieties with large double flowers are: 'Duchess de Nemours'(white), 'Karl Rosenfield' (red), 'Sarah Bernhardt' (pink). Japanese Peonies are usually single flowers showing a centre of golden stamens. Tree peonies are not trees but they do have a woody stem.



PHLOX – SUMMER PHLOX (24 varieties)

Flowering in August to September, *Phlox paniculata* is invaluable for continuing the summer-long display of colour in the perennial border. Choose a few kinds and plant them in irregular drifts for a magnificent display. There are many colours, from peach-pink to salmon, pure white, whites with coloured eye, orange-red, scarlet, mauve and mulberry purple.



GROUND PHLOX, CREEPING PHLOX (10 varieties)

Low-growing varieties for rock garden and path edging. Ground phlox has evergreen foliage. May-June blooming.





PAPAVER – POPPIES (9 varieties)

Oriental Poppies set the June garden afire with a blaze of colour. They need only well-drained soil in full sun or partial shade. To plant poppies, set the root straight down into a hole, deep enough that 8 cm of soil will cover the crown. After their spectacular floral display in June-July, these poppies die right down. The later flowering Baby's Breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*) is often used as a neighbouring plant to fill the gap.

PRIMULA – PRIMROSE (5 varieties)

Delightful profusely blooming small plant for the spring garden. They need cool moist soil in partial shade. Some varieties need dividing occasionally or may die out (do this after flowering). The clump-forming English type primrose, such as the Juliana and Pageant strains come in every colour imaginable. *Primula denticulata* flowers form a round ball on a 20 cm stem whereas foliage *Primula vialii* has pink spikey flowers.



PULMONARIA – LUNGWORT (6 varieties)

Mainly low-growing perennials with rosettes of hairy leaves.

Some are plain green with flowers in blue, red or white in April and May. *Pulmonaria saccharata* cultivars such as 'Highdown', 'Mrs. Moon', 'Sissinghurst White' and 'Pierre's Pure Pink' are favoured for the silver markings on the leaves. Even more attention to this plant group has occurred due to even bolder white-leaved varieties. 'Excalibur' is white with green margins. *Pulmonarias* are all good perennials for shade or partial shade with a few that take full sun.

SALVIA – SAGE (10 varieties)

This is a very large family that includes popular herbs and tender or annual varieties but also offers a wide choice of truly hardy perennials. *Salvia* 'May Night' was honoured as Perennial of the Year in 1997 but the whole family deserves special recognition. 'May Night' is earliest to flower with other cultivars following in July and August. They will usually rebloom if cut back. Best in a dry sunny site with neutral or alkaline soil.



SCABIOSA – PINCUSHION FLOWER (3 varieties)

Two cultivars have come to dominate this plant genus - *Scabiosa caucasica* 'Butterfly Blue' and 'Pink Mist'. These will be in flower early spring and they will still be in full flower in your garden in October. Other cultivars in blue, cream and white all have the same scalloped petals and studded centre. Although their stems are less than straight, they are excellent as cut flowers.



SEDUM – STONECROP (29 varieties)

The two main divisions are the low-growing mat-forming varieties, and the tall fall flowering types like 'Autumn Joy'. Small varieties make excellent rock garden plants or ground covers of constant interest for their foliage and flowering in red, pink, yellow and white in every month from spring to fall according to the cultivar or species. A very late flowering variety, 'October Daphne', is *S. sieboldii* with blue foliage and rich pink flowers. 'Autumn Joy' is the best known of the taller sedums with pink darkening to red flowers in September. 'Meteor' is a rich wine-red and 'Stardust' is pure white. Look for 'Brilliant', for a pure pink.



THYMUS – THYME (20 varieties)

Aromatic small perennials or sub-shrubs, some upright and bushy, others flat and mat forming. Flowering in pink, purple or white, they are more favoured for good foliage, often variegated in gold or silver. Woolly Thyme, (*Thymus lanuginosus*), forms a low dense carpet of silver downy leaves and is ideal for rock gardens, edging and between paving stones. Their persistent foliage is particularly welcome in the winter garden. They thrive in full sun in quite dry soil.



VERONICA - SPEEDWELL (9 varieties)

There are two main groups of 'Speedwell': the spike flowering and the creeping mat-forming kinds. Other spike varieties are available in white, blue and pink. *V. repens* and *V. filiformis* are two of the mat-forming kinds and make good rock garden or ground covers.



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