

Long Blooming Perennials

Perennials are mainstays in any landscape setting – they can be used to fill in empty spaces in a shrub border or bed. They soften the transition from shrubs to lawn; and can provide focal points of color in the landscape throughout the season.

Many perennials only bloom for 2-3 weeks, but there are some perennials that bloom for much longer than that. In some cases 4 to 8 weeks. These long bloomers not only add lots of color, but add “visual stability” to the garden as the other perennials and shrubs transition through the growing season.

For best effect, combine some **early season** (May-June), varieties with some **mid season** (June-July) and **late season** (August-September) long blooming varieties.

Plants for Sun

Achillea, Yarrow can grow in poor soil, needs good drainage and is drought resistant. Most varieties are 2-3' tall with flowers in white, yellow, pink, orange, apricot or red shades. Blooms through both **mid and late season**.
Combination ideas: Agastache, Salvia, Nepeta, Coreopsis, tall Sedums, grass.

Agastache, Anise Hyssop likes a well drained, loamy soil and tolerates drought. It grows to 2-3' with tall spikes of purple-blue flowers in **mid-late season**. It is greatly loved by pollinators, though not by deer.
Combination ideas: Echinacea, Helenium, Rudbeckia, Asclepias, Asters.

Asclepias, Butterfly Weed tolerates poor soil, grows 2' tall and has elegant clusters of bright orange flowers in **mid season**. A great attraction for butterflies and other pollinators.
Combination ideas: Agastache, Nepeta, Coreopsis, Helenium.

Campanula, Bell Flower prefer a well drained, moist soil and do not tolerate a very hot or humid climate. They grow to about 8” with flowers in blue, purple or white colors through **mid season**.
Combination ideas: Dianthus, Coreopsis.

Coreopsis, Tickseed is quite drought tolerant. Most hardy varieties are yellow. They grow 1-2' tall and bloom in **mid-late season**.
Combination ideas: Campanula, Geranium, Achillea.

Echinacea, Coneflower is a native prairie plant. It likes well drained soil. The flowers are not only purple, but also come in yellow, pink, white, orange and red. They grow 1-3' tall and are a great plant for all pollinators. Bloom **mid-late season**.
Combination ideas: Monarda, Veronicastrum, Rudbeckia, Perovskia, Agastache, tall Sedums, Helenium, Asters.

Geranium, Cranesbill, The cultivar Rozanne is especially long blooming. It has violet-blue flowers, 2.5” across, with magenta veins and a white eye. It forms nice, green mounds that turn red in the fall, 18-20” tall and can be used as a ground cover as well as a border. Bloom **mid-late season**.
Combination ideas: Peonies, Leucanthemum, Dianthus, Helenium, Iris.

Hemerocallis, Daylily. There are many varieties in many colors and sizes (1-3'). For the longest blooming varieties, look in our catalog. They need a well drained soil rich in organic matter. Bloom **mid-late season**.
Combination ideas: Leucanthemum, Geranium, Monarda.

Helenium, Sneezeweed has golden and orange-brown fall colored flowers. They bloom in **late season**, and are good cut flowers. They are tall plants, 2-4', and require a rich, moist, well drained soil.
Combination ideas: Salvia, Agastache, Perovskia, tall Sedums, Asters.

Leucanthemum, Shasta Daisies. Like a well drained, rich soil. They are tall, 1-3', most of them are white, but they also come in yellow. Bloom **mid to late season**.
Combination ideas: Monarda, Delphiniums, Rudbeckia, Liatris, Geranium.

Nepeta, Catmint grows in big mounds with tall spikes (1.5-2') covered with small flowers in shades of blue. They grow in well drained soil and flower through **mid and late season**. They are good cut flowers and deer resistant.
Combination ideas: Dianthus, Leucanthemum, Achillea.

Penstemon, Beard Tongue grows in well drained, rich soil. There are many varieties with both dark and green foliage and flowers in pink, white, red and blue. The flowers grow on tall spikes, 1.5-3' and bloom in **mid season**.
Combination ideas: Dianthus, Coreopsis, Phlox.

Perovskia, Russian Sage has lacy, silvery foliage and 2-3' tall spikes with blue flowers. It prefers a well drained, loamy soil. Deer resistant. Blooms **mid and late season**.
Combination ideas: Echinacea, Rudbeckia, Helenium, tall Sedum, Asters.

Persicaria, Giant Fleecflower is a very tall, fast growing plant, 6-7' and should be planted in the background. It has plumes of white flowers and bloom **mid-late season**. It requires a well drained, moist soil.
Combination ideas: Monarda, Ligularia, Hemerocallis, Phlox.

Phlox paniculata, Garden Phlox grows well in a fertile, moist soil. It gets 2-4' tall. The flowers form clusters of white, pink, salmon, red, purple and bicolors. They are fine cut flowers and bloom **mid-late season**.
Combination ideas: Coreopsis, Leucanthemum, Monarda, Geraniums.

Rudbeckia, Black-eyed Susan is a native prairie plant, it is a yellow coneflower that grows 14-28” and blooms **mid-late season**.
Combination ideas: Perovskia, Echinacea, Helenium, Asters.

Salvia, Sage prefers well drained soil. It grows 1-2.5' and has spikes of blue, violet or pink flowers in **early to mid season**. It is a favorite with bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Deer resistant.
Combination ideas: Achillea, Coreopsis, Artemisia, Leucanthemum,

Sedum, Stonecrop is a large family of plants, that thrive in sandy and poor soil. Their leaves are almost like succulents. They vary in height from 2” to 2' and the flowers range from white and yellow to pink and red. Bloom **early or late season**.
Combination ideas: Perovskia, Asters, Rudbeckia, Helenium.

Plants for Shade – Part Shade

Aquilegia, Columbine like a well drained, rich soil. They come in many colors and heights from 1-3'. They bloom in **early season** with graceful flowers and airy foliage.

Combination ideas: Brunnera, Dicentra eximia, Aruncus, Ferns.

Astilbe, False Spirea prefer a moist, well drained, rich and acid soil. There are many varieties with heights ranging from 1-4'. The flowers are tall plumes raising above the foliage in colors of white, pink, red and purple. Depending on the variety they bloom in **mid or late season**.

Combination ideas: Ligularia, Brunnera, Heuchera, Hosta, Ferns.

Dicentra eximia, Fern Leaved Bleeding Heart has smaller flowers than the old fashioned, but blooms much longer. The delicate heart-shaped flowers are white, pink, mauve or red. They bloom in **early-late season** and the plants are about 1' high. They prefer a well drained, moist and rich soil.

Combination ideas: Pulmonaria, Brunnera, Bronze leaved Ligularia, Heuchera.

Digitalis, Foxglove has 3-4' tall flower spikes with characteristic flowers that look a little like thimbles. They come in many colors and bloom in **mid season**. The yellow *Digitalis ambigua*, is a true perennial, the others are biennial and will reseed.

Be aware that both leaves and flowers are poisonous if ingested.

Combination ideas: Astilbe, Heuchera, Cimicifuga.

Heuchera, Coral Bells is a large family of plants. Apart from the lovely clusters of small bell shaped flowers, they should be grown for their foliage that come in an incredible range of variety in hues of green, lime, silver, burgundy, orange, copper and more. They prefer well drained, moist soil

They bloom in **mid or late season** and some varieties, like Sweet Tart bloom through the season.

Combination ideas: Anywhere you need some color.

Helleborus, Lenten Rose grows best in well drained, rich humusy soil. They grow about 1' tall and have sturdy leaves and flowers in yellow, white and rose, that bloom in **early season**.

Combination ideas: Galium, Hosta, Ferns, Dicentra, Ginger, Tiarella.

Phlox diventricaria, Woodland Phlox grow about 1'. They prefer well drained, sandy and loamy soil. They spread with time and are covered with flowers in white, pink, purple and blue and can be used as groundcovers. They bloom in **early season** and are very fragrant.

Combination ideas: Tiarella, Hosta, Ferns, Brunnera, Heuchera.

Foliage with Interest

It is not only flowers that provide interest in the perennial garden. If you want long lasting color and fascinating texture, try to add plants whose main attraction is their shape, foliage and even sound (grasses)

For Sun:

- Ajuga
- Alchemilla mollis
- Allium, Ornamental Onion
- Amsonia
- Artemisia
- Baptisia
- Heuchera
- Iris
- Grasses: Festuga, Miscanthus, Panicum

For Shade:

- Aralia 'Sun King'
- Brunnera
- Heuchera
- Hosta and Ferns
- Lamium
- Mukgenia
- Pulmonaria
- Grasses: Carex, Hakonechloa

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