

Annuals II

LATIN NAME

Asclepias curassavica

Cleome hassleriana

Gomphrena globosa

Heliotropium arborescens

Nigella damascena

Ricinus communis

Scaevola aemula

Solenostemon scutellarioides

Tropaeolum majus

Viola × *wittrockiana*

COMMON NAME

blood flower

spider flower

globe amaranth

heliotrope

love-in-a-mist

castor bean

fan flower

coleus

nasturtium

pansy



5 sepals & 5 lobes in rounded axillary clusters

pointed, opposite, lanceolate leaves



Asclepias



as-klE'-pE-as

Plant of Merit: Asclepias curassavica

Common name: blood flower

Height: 2 to 3 feet

Spread: 1.5 to 2 feet

Bloom Time: June to October

Bloom Color: red-orange with yellow hood

Sun: full sun

Water: medium

Maintenance: low

Problems: no serious insect or disease problems

1. Stems & leaves exude a milky sap when cut or bruised
2. Showy flowers with 5 sepals & 5 lobes in rounded axillary clusters
3. Monarch butterflies lay eggs on this plant & the resulting larvae (caterpillars) use the plant leaves as a food source.

Genus name honors the Greek god Asklepios the god of medicine. Specific epithet means of Curacao of the Dutch Antilles in the southern Caribbean Sea.



elongated terminal racemes of spider-like flowers



palmate leaves with 5-7 lance-shaped leaflets

Cleome



Cleome hassleriana

Common name: **spider flower**

kle-O'-me

Height: 3 to 6 feet

Spread: 1 to 2 feet

Bloom Time: June to frost

Bloom Color: pink, purple, white and bicolors

Sun: full sun to part shade

Water: dry to medium

Maintenance: low

Problems: mildew & rust

1. Strongly scented plant
2. Sticky, palmate green leaves with 5-7 lance-shaped leaflets
3. Dense elongated terminal racemes of spider-like flowers with protruding stamens

Genus name of unknown origin.



clover-like flowerheads



narrow oblong to elliptic leaves

Gomphrena



gom-frE'-na

Gomphrena globosa

Common name: **globe amaranth**

Height: 1 to 2 feet

Spread: .50 to 1 feet

Bloom Time: June to frost

Bloom Color: deep purple

Sun: full sun

Water: medium

Maintenance: low

Problems: no serious insect or disease problems

1. Long lasting fresh cut flower & excellent dried flower
2. **Narrow oblong to elliptic green leaves (to 4" long)**
3. **Bright purple bracts arranged in globose, papery-textured, clover-like flower heads**

Genus name comes from the Latin name for a kind of amaranth, possibly this one, usually grown as an "everlasting".
Specific epithet means round or spherical.

tiny violet flowers in large showy clusters



rough, oval, prominently veined leaves

Heliotropium



Heliotropium arborescens

Common name: **heliotrope**

hE'-lE-O-trO'-pE-um

Height: 1 to 1.5 feet

Spread: 1 to 1.5 feet

Bloom Time: seasonal bloomer

Bloom Color: violet

Sun: full sun to part shade

Water: medium

Maintenance: low

Problems: no serious insect or disease problems

1. Deadhead spent flowers to encourage additional bloom
2. Rough, oval, dark green leaves (to 3" long) are prominently veined
3. Tiny violet flowers in large showy clusters that smell like cherry pie

Genus name comes from the Greek word heliotropion from helios meaning the sun & tropé meaning a turning an allusion to an old disproved idea that the flower heads turned with the sun.



Nigella



Nigella damascena

nI-jel'-a

Common name: **love-in-a-mist**

Height: 1.5 to 2 feet

Spread: 1 to 1.5 feet

Bloom Time: June to August

Bloom Color: blue with cultivars in white, pink, rose and purple

Sun: full sun

Water: medium

Maintenance: low

Problems: no serious insect or disease problems

1. In St. Louis, plants bloom in late spring, but significantly decline by mid summer as high temperatures become the norm.
2. Each solitary flower appears to sit on a bed of lacy foliage
3. Flowers give way to unusual, egg-shaped, horned seed capsules that are covered with bristles

Genus name comes from the Latin word for black in reference to the seed.



female flowers red & without petals



deep lobes with coarsely toothed segments

Ricinus



Ricinus communis

ris'-i-nus

Common name: **castor bean**

Height: 6 to 10 feet

Spread: 2 to 4 feet

Bloom Time: June to October

Bloom Color: greenish-yellow

Sun: full sun

Water: dry to medium

Maintenance: low

Problems: no serious insect or disease problems

1. Every part of this plant is POISONOUS
2. Leaves are huge, palmately lobed (5-11 pointed lobes), toothed, glossy green
3. Flowers monoecious, female flowers with conspicuous red stigmas are on the top half of the spike.

Ricinus (tick) & *communis* (common) are in reference to the tick-like appearance of the seeds.



fan-shaped flowers



lanceolate to obovate, toothed

Scaevola



skA-vO'-la

Scaevola aemula

Common name: **fan flower**

Height: 0.75 to 1.5 feet

Spread: 1 to 2 feet

Bloom Time: flowers freely

Bloom Color: blue

Sun: full sun to part shade

Water: medium

Maintenance: low

Problems: no serious insect or disease problems

1. Grown as an annual in St. Louis
2. Leaves are lanceolate to obovate, toothed
3. Blue fan-shaped flowers along stems

Genus name comes from the Latin word scaevus meaning left handed in possible reference to the appearance of the half flowers.



ovate to oblong and toothed



four-sided stems

Solenostemon



sO-lE-nO-stE'-mon

Solenostemon scutellarioides

Common name: coleus

Height: 0.5 to 3 feet

Spread: 0.5 to 3 feet

Bloom Time: flowers not showy

Bloom Color: blue to white

Sun: part shade to full shade

Water: medium

Maintenance: unknown

Problems: no serious insect or disease problems

1. Leaves are showy multi-colored, generally ovate to oblong, & toothed
2. Blue to white nettle-like flowers bloom in racemes
3. Four-sided stems are semi-succulent

Genus name comes from the Greek words plecton meaning spur & anthos meaning flower in reference to the spur-shaped flowers of some members of the genus. Specific epithet means resembling the genus Scutellaria which comes from the Latin word scutella meaning a small dish or saucer in reference to the shape of the persistent calyx after the flowers fade.



rounded, long-petioled, parasol-like



funnel-shaped, five petals

Tropaeolum



trO-pE'-O-lum

Tropaeolum majus

Common name: **Nasturtium**

Height: 1 to 10 feet

Spread: 1 to 3 feet

Bloom Time: May to September

Bloom Color: red, orange, yellow or cream

Sun: full sun

Water: medium

Maintenance: low

Problems: aphids, mealybugs, & whiteflies

1. Leaves are rounded, long-petioled, parasol-like
2. Showy, long-stalked, spurred, funnel-shaped, 5-petaled flowers
3. All parts of the plant have a peppery taste, similar to arugula or water cress

Genus name comes from the Greek word *tropaion* meaning a trophy and the Latin word *tropaeum* named by Linnaeus for its resemblance to a classical trophy.



ovate to elliptic leaves



flattened face-like flowers

Viola



vI-O'-la

Viola x wittrockiana

Common name: **pansy**

Height: .50 to .75 feet

Spread: .75 to 1.00 feet

Bloom Time: April through June

Bloom Color: blue, purple, red, rose, yellow, apricot, maroon, white & bicolors

Sun: full sun to part shade

Water: medium

Maintenance: medium

Problems: no serious diseases

1. Grown in St. Louis as cool weather annual or biennial
2. The flowers are hermaphrodite (have both male and female organs)
3. Flattened face-like flowers

Genus name comes from the Latin name for various sweet-scented flowers.