## Annuals II

LATIN NAME COMMON NAME

Asclepias curassavica blood flower

Cleome hassleriana spider flower

Gomphrena globosa globe amaranth

Heliotropium arborenscens heliotrope

Nigella damascena love-in-a-mist

Ricinus communis castor bean

Scaevola aemula fan flower

Solenostemon scutellarioides coleus

Tropaeolum majus nasturtium

Viola × wittrockiana pansy



5 sepals & 5 lobes in rounded axillary clusters



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 hassleriana

Common name: spider flower

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



gom-frE'-na

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
- 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".

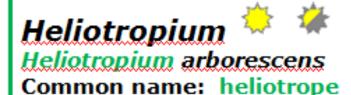
Specific epithet means round or spherical.

#### tiny violet flowers in large showy clusters





rough, oval, prominently veined leaves



### hE'-IE-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 & trope meaning a turning an allusion to an old disproved idea that the flower heads turned with the sun.







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

- 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
- 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.





deep lobes with coarsely toothed segments

## ris'-i-nus

# Ricinus Communis

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

- Every part of this plant is POISONOUS
- 2. Leaves are huge, palmately lobed (5-11 pointed lobes), toothed, glossy green
- 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.





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
- Leaves are lanceolate to obovate, toothed
- 3. Blue fan-shaped flowers along stems

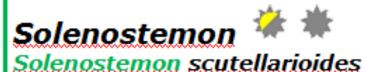
Genus name comes from the Latin word scaexus meaning left handed in possible reference to the appearance of the half flowers.



ovate to oblong and toothed



four-sided stems



### sO-IE-nO-stE'-mon

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

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

Genus name comes from the Greek words plectron 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

## trO-pE'-O-lum

# Tropaeolum 🤃 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 💝 🧱 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.