

Perennials I—Full Sun

LATIN NAME

Achillea filipendulina

Callirhoe digitata

Coreopsis tripteris

Liatris pycnostachya

Penstemon digitalis

Perovskia atriplicifolia

Physostegia virginiana

Rudbeckia fulgida

Scabiosa 'Butterfly Blue'

Stachys byzantina

COMMON NAME

fern-leaf yarrow

fringed poppy mallow

tickseed

prairie blazing star

beardtongue

Russian sage

obedient plant

black-eyed Susan

pincushion flower

lambs' ear

1. **Herbaceous perennials** lack a persistent stem; they die back to the ground during winter & regrow from the roots the next year so don't panic if you don't see stems in early spring!
2. Most perennials should be **divided when they are dormant**. (Spring bloomers in the fall: fall bloomers in the spring.)
3. Perennials from temperate regions, like asters, irises, lupines, wallflowers, peonies & primroses, **need a cold winter** to encourage new buds to grow in spring.
4. Many perennials **spread by sending out shoots** from their roots which develop into new stems, great for filling in a bed or sharing with friends.
5. Some perennials, such as **columbines and delphiniums**, are short-lived, lasting only three or four years.
6. An **upside to perennial plantings** is the amazing varieties of color, texture & sizes available. They do require some pruning & maintenance, but their longevity makes this well worth the effort.
7. Generally speaking, perennial flowers start off small in the first year then with each growing season, **produces bigger & more abundant blooms**. Once they get to be about three years old, you might have to think about **dividing them** to keep them healthy & looking their best.
8. A key to **designing with perennials** is making sure there is **continuing blooms & interest** which means more careful garden planning than when using annuals.



**dense flattened plate-like
compound corymbs**



**deeply-dissected, hairy,
fern-like leaves**

Achillea 

Achillea *filipendulina*

Common name: fern-leaf yarrow

ak-i-IE'-a

Height: 3 to 4 feet

Spread: 3 to 4 feet

Bloom Time: June to August

Bloom Description: yellow

Sun: full sun

Water: dry to medium

Maintenance: medium

Problems: stem rot, powdery mildew, rust

1. Grows in an ever expanding clump that should be divided every 2-3 years
2. Deeply dissected, hairy, fern-like, aromatic green leaves
3. Bright golden flowers (yellow rays and yellow discs) appear in dense flattened plate-like compound corymbs

Genus name is in reference to Achilles, hero of the Trojan Wars in Greek mythology, who used the plant medicinally to stop bleeding and to heal the wounds of his soldiers.

upward facing, cup-shaped, five-petaled



slender, branching stems

Callirhoe

ka-IE-rO'-E

MO Native: *Callirhoe digitata*

Common name: **fringed poppy mallow**

Height: 2 to 4 feet

Spread: 1 to 2 feet

Bloom Time: May to September

Bloom Description: magenta

Sun: full sun

Water: dry to medium

Maintenance: low

Problems: no serious insect or disease problems

1. Leaves are palmately divided into 5-7 finger-like lobes
2. Solitary, upward facing, cup-shaped, five-petaled, magenta flowers with fringed edges
3. Stamens & style form a prominent central column typical of mallow family members

Genus name honors the daughter of a minor Greek deity, Achelous, a river god. Specific epithet means shaped like an open hand referring to the leaves.



eight yellow rays & flat brown center disks

stem leaves are tripartite



Coreopsis

ko-rE-op'-sis

MO Native: *Coreopsis tripteris*

Common name: tickseed

Height: 2 to 8 feet

Spread: 2 to 8 feet

Bloom Time: July to September

Bloom Description: brown disks with yellow rays

Sun: full sun

Water: dry to medium

Maintenance: low

1. Plants grown in dry soils tend to be shorter, open & somewhat spindly
2. Anise-scented stem leaves are tripartite (divided into three narrow lance-shaped segments)
3. Yellow, daisy-like flowers with eight yellow rays & flat brown center disks

The genus name comes from the Greek words *koris* meaning bug & *opsis* meaning like in reference to the shape of the seed which resembles a bug or tick. Specific epithet refers to the leaves being divided into three narrow lance-shaped segments.



rounded, fluffy, deep rose-purple flower heads



lance-shaped leaves

Liatis



li'-a-tris

MO Native: *Liatis pycnostachya*

Common name: prairie blazing star

Height: 2 to 5 feet

Spread: 1 to 2 feet

Bloom Time: July to August

Bloom Description: lilac-purple

Sun: full sun

Water: dry to medium

Maintenance: low

Problems: no serious insect or disease problems

1. *Liatis* belongs to the aster family, with each flower head having only fluffy disk flowers & no rays
2. Rounded, fluffy, deep rose-purple flower heads crowded into terminal spikes
3. Flowers generally open top to bottom

Pycnostachya means "crowded" in Greek, in probable reference to the arrangement of both flower heads & leaves.
This species is distinguished from other *Liatis* species by its reflexed, long-tipped involucre bracts.

flowers tubular in shape



basal leaves are elliptic & leaves are lance-shaped to oblong



Penstemon



pen'-sta-mon

MO Native: *Penstemon digitalis*

Common name: beardtongue

Height: 3 to 5 feet

Spread: 1.5 to 2 feet

Bloom Time: April to June

Bloom Description: white

Sun: full sun

Water: dry to medium

Maintenance: medium

Problems: no serious insect or disease problems.

1. Called beard tongue because the sterile stamen has tufts of small hairs
2. Basal leaves are elliptic & stem leaves are lance-shaped to oblong.
3. Flowers tubular in shape with the corolla divided into a lower lip with 3 lobes & an upper lip with 2 lobes.

Genus name comes from the Greek *pente* meaning five & *stemon* meaning stamen in reference to the flowers having five stamens. Specific epithet comes from the Latin *digitus* meaning finger for flowers that look like the finger of a glove.



gray-green or silvery leaves



flowers tubular in shape

Perovskia

pe-rof'-skE-a

Plant of Merit: *Perovskia atriplicifolia*

Common name: Russian sage

Height: 3 to 5 feet

Spread: 2 to 4 feet

Bloom Time: July to October

Bloom Description: lavender / blue

Sun: full sun

Water: dry to medium

Maintenance: low

Problem: no serious insect or disease problems.

1. Woody based perennial of the mint family
2. Finely-dissected, aromatic (when crushed), gray-green or silvery leaves
3. Whorls of two-lipped, tubular, light blue flowers tiered in branched, terminal panicles

Genus name honors V. A. Perovski (1794 - c.1857) a Russian general. Specific epithet means with leaves resembling salt-bush.



spikes of pinkish, tubular, two-lipped, snapdragon-like flowers



leaves opposite, sessile & often serrated

Physostegia



fI-so-stE'-jE-a

MO Native: *Physostegia virginiana*

Common names: obedient plant

Height: 3 to 4 feet

Spread: 2 to 3 feet

Bloom Time: June to September

Bloom Description: pink, white

Sun: full sun

Water: medium

Maintenance: medium

Problems: rust is an occasional problem.

1. Leaves opposite, sessile and often serrated
2. Dense spikes of pinkish, tubular, two-lipped, snapdragon-like flowers
3. Flowers bloom bottom to top on each spike

Genus name comes from the Greek words *physis* meaning bladder & *stegē* meaning covering in reference to the calyces which inflate as they develop. Specific epithet is in reference to the State of Virginia which is part of the native range for this plant.



yellow rays and brownish-purple center



oblong to lanceolate leaves

Rudbeckia

rud-bek'-E-a

MO Native: *Rudbeckia fulgida*

Common name: black-eyed Susan

Height: 2 to 3 feet

Spread: 2 to 2.5 feet

Bloom Time: June to October

Bloom Description: orange / yellow

Sun: full sun

Water: dry to medium

Maintenance: low

Problems: no serious insect or disease problems.

1. Oblong to lanceolate, medium green foliage covered with bristly hairs
2. Leaf arrangement, color of ray flower, & shape of central disk are what distinguish *Rudbeckia*, *Coreopsis* & *Echinacea*
3. Upright, rhizomatous, clump-forming coneflower

Genus name honors Olof Rudbeck (1630-1702) Swedish botanist & founder of the Uppsala Botanic Garden in Sweden where Carl Linnaeus was professor of botany. The species name 'fulgida' means 'brilliant', 'shiny' or 'glittering' in Latin.



finely cut, gray-green basil leaves

**outer ring of frilly flat petals &
a domed center**



Scabiosa



skab-E-O'-sa

Plant of Merit: *Scabiosa* 'Butterfly Blue'

Common name: pincushion flower

Height: 1 to 1.5 feet

Spread: 1 to 1.5 feet

Bloom Time: April to frost

Bloom Description: lavender-blue

Sun: full sun

Water: medium

Maintenance: low

Problems: no serious insect or disease problems

1. Remove spent flowers to encourage additional bloom
2. Flowers feature an outer ring of frilly flat petals & a domed center resembling a pin cushion
3. Finely cut, grayish-green basal leaves

Genus name comes from the Latin *scabies* meaning the itch in reference to the plant's rough leaves which could supposedly cure the itch.



opposite, woolly, tongue-shaped



**terminal spikes of insignificant, tiny,
purplish-pink flowers**

Stachys

stA'-kis

Plant of Merit: *Stachys byzantina*

Common name: lambs' ears

Height: 0.75 to 1.5 feet

Spread: 1 to 1.5 feet

Bloom Time: May to July

Bloom Description: purplish-pink

Sun: full sun

Water: dry to medium

Maintenance: low

Problems: tends to rot and develop leaf diseases in humid summer climates

1. Low growing, mat-forming perennial in the mint family
2. Leaves opposite, woolly, tongue-shaped resembling a lambs' ear
3. Erect, small-leaved flowering stems with terminal spikes of insignificant, tiny, purplish-pink flowers

Genus name comes from the Greek *stacys* meaning ear of corn in probable reference to the inflorescence of a related plant.
Byzantine or from what is now Istanbul.