

## Perennial means enduring...

Annuals live and die in one season and must be replanted each year. Plants that die down, endure the winter, but grow back bigger than ever when the spring comes, are perennials. Perennials can be planted at any time throughout the growing season, until 2-3 weeks before the ground freezes. If you buy established perennials and plant them early, it's a pretty safe bet you'll get blooms in your garden before winter. Buying established plants is the fastest way to produce beautiful results in your garden. Plant perennials once and enjoy their beauty year after year. Perennials come in all shapes and sizes. Become acquainted with fail-safe heirloom perennials, or the hottest new gorgeous plant. Learning about design basics can provide you with a lifetime of gardening joy.

Learning to use the diverse colors and textures of perennials is an endless joy. After all, isn't it the pure pleasure of watching your garden bloom and thrive throughout the spring, summer and fall that sparks your interest in the first place? Picking perennials that will thrive in your garden depends on a few things: the climate in your region; the amount of sun that reaches the planting area; the different bloom times of the perennials you choose; the flower colors you like best; the mature height and width of each plant; and the condition of the perennial at your reputable garden center.

Many perennials are grown for their foliage shape and texture as well as their beautiful blooms. They offer dramatic visual contrasts or harmonies in addition to flower colors. The ways to enhance your landscape becomes endless. As your perennial knowledge and experience increases, your landscape will increase in value as well as long-term beauty. You will soon discover the true beauty and many varieties of perennials that are available

## gardening is ...

For most of us, our daily lives have become a complex balancing act between family, work, recreation and maintaining our homes. Although we would probably like to be involved in activities that will improve our own well being and that of the world around us, finding a way to fit such projects into our schedules seems a daunting task. But is it? Right in our back yards - front yards - and decks - we can do something that is fun, healthy, good for the environment and adds beauty to our surroundings as well. Design your garden based on what you like to do to make sure you spend most of your time doing just that.

Gardening is like taking a vacation in our very own yard. It is a chance to get away and *relax* in the comfort of nature. Gardening allows you to dig in, *get your hands dirty* and reconnect with nature.



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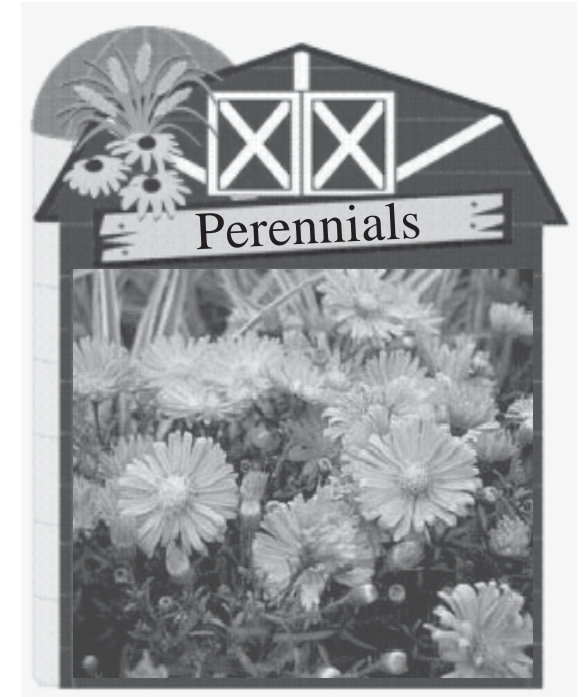
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## ASTERS...



*...bloom from late summer into fall. They provide bright color when gardens can look dreary. Often native to the mid-Atlantic, Asters thrive in full sun to part shade in average soil, attract butterflies, have a range of flower heights, and tidy green foliage throughout the growing season. Who says fall gardens are boring?*

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# ASTERS...

## **divaricatus**            **White Wood Aster**

Our native Wood Aster has shiny white daisy flowers August-October that may elicit a ho-hum-oh-that-weed reaction, but utilized in partial shade it is stunning peeking out between Astilbes, Hostas, and Bergeniass, where its 1-2' twiggy stems are hidden. Likewise, our mid-Atlantic forests surely benefit from its sprawling presence with its large basal leaves, whether among deciduous ferns or native Solidago (Goldenrod).

**Plant 18 in. apart, Zone 3–8, full sun to part shade**

## **‘Peter Harrison’**            **New York Aster**

A short, delightful little native Aster whose clear pink daisy-like flowers with gold centers bloom sweetly at 15" during September and into October. Try it with other Asters, Sedum s. ‘Brilliant,’ and Physostegia for an array of pink and purple hues, and perhaps interrupt some butterflies on their southward travels.

**Plant 18 in. apart, Zone 3–9, full sun**

## **‘Wood’s Blue’**            **Blue Wood Aster**

Adding these clear-blue daisy flowers with golden centers to our Wood Aster offerings is due, in large part, to the fact that they are so mildew and rust resistant. That clean dark green foliage complements the 4–6 week bloom time in August and September. Combine this 12" native with a mass of pink Begonia grandis and the purple blooms of Liriope ‘Big Blue’ in the part shade garden. Who says fall gardens are boring?!

**Plant 18 in. apart, Zone 3–9, part sun to part shade**

## **‘Wood’s Pink’**            **Pink Wood Aster**

The native Wood Aster provides shade gardeners with delightful fall color—in this case, clear pink daisy flowers—in September and October, above shiny dark green leaves. ‘Wood’s Pink’ has a compact habit, is mildew and rust resistant, and stands just 12–16" in height.

**Plant 18 in. apart, Zone 3–9, part sun to part shade**

## **‘Wood’s Purple’**            **Purple Wood Aster**

‘Wood’s Purple’ duplicates the pink version, but with a pale purple flower color and even shorter stature at 10–12".

**Plant 18 in. apart, Zone 3–9, part sun to part shade**

## **‘Purple Dome’**            **New England Aster**

This dwarf native New England Aster blooms through September with an intensity that’s hard to believe. The 1" purple flowers are so dense that they entirely cover the foliage, creating a dome of bright purple 18" high. Plants don’t need staking and show almost no mildew. Try ‘Purple Dome’ with Sedum ‘Autumn Joy’ for over 2 months of stunning color.

**Plant 18 in. apart, Zone 5–8, full sun**

## **‘Raydon’s Favorite’**    **Blue Aster**

In addition to the medium blue color of its finely-textured single ray flowers, we especially like the way this 36" Aster’s foliage stays tidy and attractively green during its September-October bloom time. It is more and more popular as a substitute for seasonal mums. Most Asters benefit from pinching during late spring.

**Plant 18 in. apart, Zone 5–8, full sun**

## **‘Jindai’**            **Tatarian Aster**

This tall late-flowering Aster was found in Jindai Park in Tokyo, and is the prized shorter version of the species at 4-5’. Blooming from late September through October, there isn’t a sturdier-stemmed and more vigorous Aster around. The clusters of lavender blue daisy flowers have a yellow center on those sturdy stems, and stand well above the large leaves that remind one of chard. The foliage stays attractive all summer and fall, a characteristic that can’t be said for a lot of Asters. Try this butterfly magnet with other fall bloomers like Eupatorium, Anemones, and Chrysanthemums.

**Plant 18 in. apart, Zone 5-8, full sun to part sun**