

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 ...

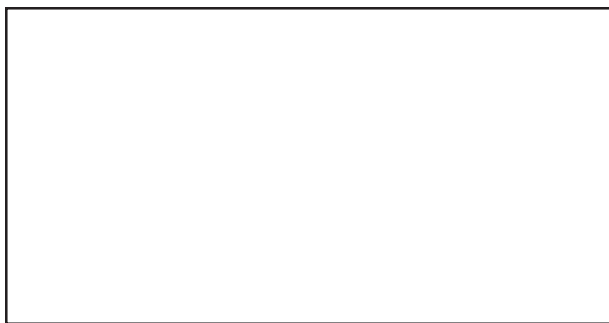
For most of us, our daily lives have become a complex balancing act between family, work, recreation and maintaining our homes. Although we would probably like to be involved in activities that will improve our own well being and that of the world around us, finding a way to fit such projects into our 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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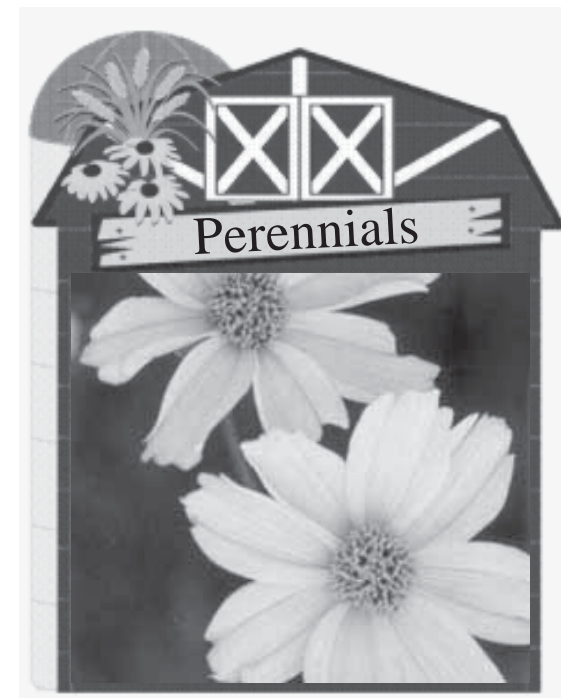
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COREOPSIS...



... is dependable and easy to grow in ordinary garden soil. Commonly called Tickseed, Coreopsis traditionally has yellow daisy-like flowers, although newer cultivars come in shades of red and pink. They bloom throughout the summer in full sun providing a wealth of cut flowers, and combine well with a host of other perennials

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COREOPSIS...

‘Early Sunrise’

Tickseed

This award-winner covers itself with golden-yellow, semi-double blooms from early summer into the fall, reaches 18" in height, is carefree, and provides a wealth of cut flowers, especially if spent blooms are removed. It won't need staking either, as other Coreopsis do. For pleasing foliage shape and a hot color combination, try combining ‘Early Sunrise’ with Crocosmia and Japanese Blood Grass.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–9, full sun

‘Goldfink’

Tickseed

A compact dwarf at 8", with bright yellow single petal blossoms on strong stems that are produced in great quantity from late June to August. ‘Goldfink’ will draw attention to the front of your border, and is worth a try in the rock garden or in window boxes or pots.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–9, full sun

‘Walter’

Tickseed

Golden yellow single ray flowers are 2" wide and have a red center at 10-12" on strong stems held close above the elongated green leaves from June to August. Longer blooming than other Coreopsis, this improved cultivar is compact and not at all floppy. It's a perfect choice for window boxes or pots, the rock garden, or the front of your border. Deadheading will guarantee the longest bloom period. Try it with Veronica ‘Royal Candles’ and Coreopsis ‘Limerock Ruby’ for a harmonious combination of bright primary colors and foliage textures.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 3–9, full sun

‘Limerock Passion’

Tickseed

Expect lots of lavender daisy flowers with small yellow centers from June into October. Also expect flower color to vary as flowers mature to softer light pink shades from the initial lavender. This sport of ‘Limerock Ruby’ has the same mounded form and nodding flowers above green needle-like foliage at a height of 16". You will want to give the plant a hard cutback after the first flush of bloom to ensure faster re-blooming and to prevent stretching. Plan on well-drained soil, and be mindful of its borderline over-wintering success. Blooms of Bressingham introduction. Patent pending.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 7–9, full sun

‘Limerock Ruby’

Tickseed

Bright ruby red 1-1/2" daisy flowers with a yellow center are abundant and long blooming. Blooming from June to frost at 18-20" above needle-like foliage, this is definitely a hot new perennial. Heat and cold tolerant, upright, airy, mounding, and self supporting, who could ask for more from a red flowering perennial. Blooms of Bressingham introduction.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 7-9, full sun

‘American Dream’

Tickseed

A rare pink accented by a golden-yellow center, this native Coreopsis is the only one that prefers moist soil, making it well suited to waterside plantings and moist locations other Coreopsis don't like. It does have the same enthusiasm for blooming as its yellow cousins, doing so above fine, needlelike foliage of rich green to a height of 12–18" in June and July.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5-8, full sun

‘Sweet Dreams’

Tickseed

Definitely an attention-grabbing Tickseed, ‘Sweet Dreams’ has a striking raspberry center surrounded by white ray petals. The 1-1/2" wide daisies appear in July and keep it up for weeks at about 18-24". Spreading 2' or more the first year, it likes moist, well-drained average soil like all Coreopsis roseas. In full sun the petals are more raspberry than white. Young plants will benefit from sheering a month or so before buds appear. Same ferny foliage as American Dream.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4-9, full sun

‘Tequila Sunrise’

Tickseed

You would think the vibrant foliage of this Coreopsis would be startling enough, but add the delightful bright yellow flowers with a reddish-brown eye that appear in May and June, and you have a unique new hybrid for the garden. The leaves in spring have a pinkish-red tint as well as cream and yellow. Variegation holds up well through the summer, and in the fall a darker mahogany joins the cream and yellow hues. The single flowers are close to the compact, rounded clump of foliage at 15". You have to see this bright beauty to believe it.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5–9, full sun

‘Creme Brulee’

Tickseed

Larger flowers than ‘Moonbeam’ are a bright deep yellow on strong stems to 20" from June into October. The deeply-serrated flower petals are lovely above bright green mildew-resistant threadleaf foliage. Flowers appear farther down the stems, as well as on the stem ends, thus providing a fuller appearance. ‘Crème Brulee’ benefits from a good cutback in early and late summer to control stretch. Try it massed with the blue of Veronica ‘Royal Candles’, white daisies (Leucanthemum ‘Becky’) and the dwarf Zebra grass, Miscanthus ‘Little Nicky’. Blooms of Bressingham introduction. Patent Pending.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–9, full sun

‘Moonbeam’

Tickseed

This native perennial is one of the very best! Its delicate lemon yellow single flowers are profusely produced throughout the summer (June to frost) above lacy foliage that is drought, mildew, and insect resistant. A compact grower 15–18" high, it blends well with a multitude of colors and seems to fit anywhere. Perennial Plant Association Plant of the Year for 1992. Gorgeous with our blue Veronicas or Salvia ‘Blue Hill’, Shasta Daisies, and just about any other perennial you could think of!

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–9, full sun

‘Zagreb’

Tickseed

This bushy 18" native Coreopsis is covered from July to September with masses of stary single flowers in a bright golden yellow with delicate fern-like foliage. Ideal for limited-space gardens, ‘Zagreb’ is handsome even when not in bloom, and handles average to dry conditions.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5–9, full sun