

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.



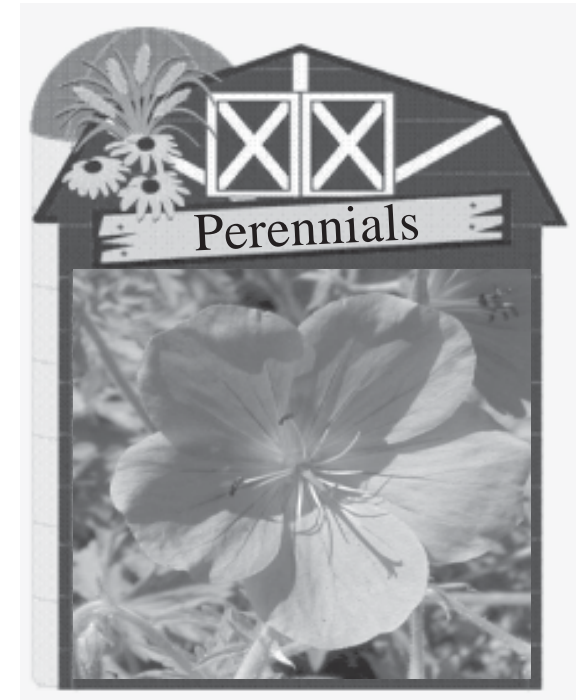
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GERANIUM...



...is commonly called Cranesbill, and is not to be confused with the annual Geranium (Pelargonium). Some Geraniums are woodland plants that prefer a break from full sun. Blooming in spring and summer, flower colors range from blue to magenta to pink or white. Some cultivars have foliage with a pleasant spicy fragrance. Good drainage is essential.

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GERANIUM...

‘Album’ **Bloody Cranes Bill**

An excellent Geranium common in American gardens, ‘Album’ has clear white flowers at 10-18". Notoriously tolerant of heat and cold, this geranium will flower well if provided partial sun (or even full sun if irrigation is possible during droughty summer times), but good drainage is essential. Blooming for 6-8 weeks, ‘Album’ will combine with many other perennials and brighten garden designs from June through July.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5–8, full sun to part shade

‘Biokovo’ **Cranes Bill**

We couldn’t resist adding this lovely white-flowering Geranium with its bit of pink border, to our selection. A valuable ground cover at 12", the shiny leaves turn fiery red in the fall and are somewhat evergreen. Expect the flowers in June and July. An added bonus is the spicy fragrance of the foliage throughout the season.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5–8, full sun to part shade

‘Brookside’ **Cranes Bill**

An irresistible true blue Geranium with a pale center touted for its longer bloom time than ‘Johnson’s Blue’, ‘Brookside’ will flower from May well into July, then start again when things cool down in September until frost. Its compact, but vigorous growth habit will endear this Marylander to all lovers of hardy Geraniums. Plan on 18-22" of height. Let us know what you think of this beauty.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–8, full sun to part shade

‘Dilys’ **Cranes Bill**

Dark-violet flowers with nearly black centers at 30" cover this Geranium from June well into summer over medium green foliage at 12". Weaving among the stems of large open plants in beds and borders, or draping over walls, ‘Dilys’ is absolutely charming. This hybrid prefers well-drained soil in full sun, but tolerates some shade, not untypical of most Geraniums. We are taken by its long bloom time and sprawling habit.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–7, full sun to part shade

‘Ingwersen’s Variety’ **Cranes Bill**

Small rosy-pink flowers appear in clusters above the aromatic semi-evergreen leaves from the end of May through June on this weed-smothering ground cover. We like the bright bronze and scarlet of the leaves in fall and the compact carpeting effect at 12" in height. This sweet Geranium handles full sun to part shade.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5–8, full sun to part shade

‘Johnson’s Blue’ **Cranes Bill**

In June, this popular hardy Geranium (not to be confused with the annual Pelargonium) sends up a profusion of lavender-blue flowers above an 18" mound of finely-cut foliage. After flowering, cut it back, the foliage will reappear, and the plant may well bloom again. Heat-tolerant and hardy, it only demands a light soil that drains adequately. It combines well with numerous perennials, but you may want to try it with Foxgloves and Lady’s Mantle.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–8, full sun to part shade

lancastrienne **Cranes Bill**

Creeping and carpet-like at 6", lancastrienne blooms most heavily in June and July, but its little salmon-pink flowers with a crimson vein will appear into late summer.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5–8, full sun to part shade

‘Max Frei’ **Cranes Bill**

We see increased demand for ‘Max Frei’ as more folks discover its compact, fast-growing, attractive foliage and profusion of dependable deep magenta flowers from June into August. What a hardy groundcover at 6-10".

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

‘Rozanne’ **Cranes Bill**

Now considered one of the longest-blooming Geraniums introduced, expect large 2" violet-blue flowers with a tiny white center from June to frost. It grows about 20" tall and 24" wide. If Geraniums are your passion and you live in the mid-Atlantic, the heat tolerance of ‘Rozanne’ makes her irresistible. Expect a red fall foliage display after a summer of deep green slightly marbled leaf color. Blooms of Bressingham introduction.

Plant 24 ins apart, Zone 5–8, full sun to part shade

sanguineum **Bloody Cranes Bill**

Glowing flowers of reddish-purple from June into August will take your breath away. Then in the fall, the dark green leaves which look like asterisks, turn a bright red—thus the nickname Bloody Cranes Bill. At about 6" in height, it will benefit from a bit of shade in the hottest months of our Maryland summer.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5–8, full sun to part shade

‘Wargrave Pink’ **Cranes Bill**

This vigorous hardy Geranium with its deep pink flowers grows well in open woodlands or in roomy mixed borders where it can weave and climb among other plants. Through June and July it will delight you as it hangs over walls, looks great in containers, or covers spent bulb foliage at a height of 12–15". Try it with Artemisia or the variegated foliage of Ribbon Grass (Phalaris) for a bright look.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5–8, full sun to part shade