

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 ...

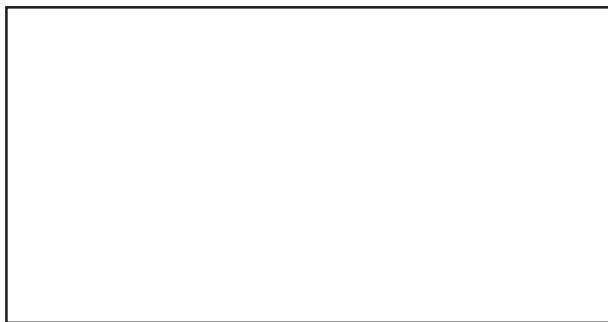
For most of us, our daily lives have become a complex balancing act between family, work, recreation and maintaining our homes. Although we would probably like to be involved in activities that will improve our own well being and that of the world around us, finding a way to fit such projects into our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



www.growingforyou.com

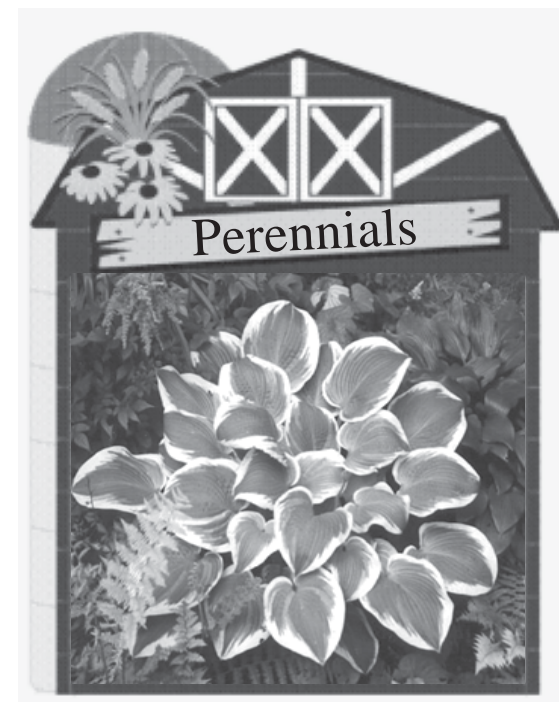
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HOSTA ...



...shapes, sizes, and subtle leaf coloration translate into stunning diversity. As the popularity of shade gardens increase with our hot summer weather, nothing cools and refreshes more than the contrasting foliage textures and shapes of Hostas combined with other shade-loving perennials such as hardy ferns, Heucheras, Dicentras, Pulmonarias, Liriope, and Tiarellas.

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HOSTA...

‘August Moon’ - Medium-sized heavily corrugated gold leaves characterize this fast grower which blooms near white to 36" in August. It will definitely lighten up the dark corners of your shade garden.

Plant 24 to 30 in apart, Zone 4–9, full shade

‘Blue Angel’ - Large, deep blue, thick-substanted foliage has near-white flowers in June and July making this slug-resistant Hosta an impressive landscape plant. Leaves can reach 12" across and 16" long making a graceful mound 4' by 4'. Height is 36".

Plant 48 in apart, Zone 5–9, full shade

‘Blue Cadet’ - A small, blue-green Hosta with dense mounds of heart-shaped leaves to about 12". Its bell-shaped flower is dark lavender in mid-summer. Blue Hostas need darker areas of shade and cool temperatures to hold their best blue color. Lighter shade and more sun will fade them to green. Try next to gold-toned Hostas, ‘August Moon’ or ‘Kabitan’ for a great accent.

Plant 24 in apart, Zone 5–9, full shade

‘Fortunei Albomarginata’ - Well-formed oval leaves in medium green with a lovely white margin provide interest when the plant is not flowering. Blooms are lavender in July. Height is 30".

Plant 40 in apart, Zone 5–9, full shade

‘Fortunei Aureomarginata’ - Dark green leaves have a stunning golden-yellow border on this slug-resistant variety. Lilac flowers appear above the foliage in July. Height is 28". Try it with the fall-blooming Anemone h. ‘Honorine Jobert’ and blue-flowering Aconitum for pleasing eye appeal.

Plant 36 in apart, Zone 4–9, full shade

‘Francee’ - Medium, heart-shaped, dark green leaves have sharply contrasting white margins. Variegation holds up very well in a bit of sun throughout the growing season. An award winner, ‘Francee’ flowers lavender in late July and into August. Height is 28". Try it in your shady garden with a lacy fern such as the Lady Fern or Hayscented Fern, the shiny evergreen leaves of Bergenia, and Pulmonaria with its white-spotted foliage.

Plant 40 in apart, Zone 5–9, full shade

‘Gold Standard’ - Watch the leaves of ‘Gold Standard’ emerge in the spring a light green with a dark green margin. By summer, the leaf center will turn a delicate parchment gold. A multiple award winner, Hosta experts recommend some morning sun to bring out the gold color. With medium height foliage at 18", lavender flowers bloom in July. A rapid grower.

Plant 48 in apart, Zone 5–9, full shade

‘Golden Tiara’ - A compact mound of small, heart-shaped leaves with a wide, golden margin, this popular Hosta shows good form, persistent color, and a fast clumping habit at 14" in height. Masses of deep lavender flowers in July.

Plant 36 in apart, Zone 4–9, full shade

‘Great Expectations’ - This variegated form of sieboldiana ‘Elegans’ has a center color that changes from yellow in spring to a creamy white by mid-summer. The leaves have wide blue-green margins (becoming green by mid-summer), are thick-substanted and heavily corrugated, and resistant to slugs. Its near-white flowers open in mid-June. As one of the largest, center-variegated Hostas, it will make an impact in any garden, but it grows slowly. Mature leaves can be 10" wide by 12" long, and the mound at maturity can be 29" high by 58" wide.

Plant 40 in apart, Zone 5–9, full shade

‘Halcyon’ - Spear-shaped, silvery-blue leaves are thick and heavily ribbed, forming a dense medium-height mound at about 18". Pale lilac flowers open from July/August. Slug resistance.

Plant 36 in apart, Zone 5–9, full shade

‘June’ - A lovely medium-sized Hosta with a gold center bordered by blue and green shaded margins on pointed leaves. The light center will bleach to creamy white in bright light, but has a nice heavy substance. Lavender flowers appear in July at about 16–20" on this attractive Hosta.

Plant 36 ins apart, Zone 5–9, full shade

‘Krossa Regal’ - A commanding presence in any shady setting, this classic Hosta is slug-resistant and has frosty blue leaves that form an upright, vase-shaped clump around 3' in height. The pale lavender flowers open in July on 5' scapes.

Plant 72 in apart, Zone 4–9, full shade

‘Minuteman’ - Found in the same field as its cousin ‘Patriot’, ‘Minuteman’ is dark green with a pure white margin, has slightly corrugated big heart-shaped leaves, and has better than average substance and sun tolerance. Flowers are lavender in July. At 23", it is of medium height, grows rapidly in a pot or in the ground, and can work as a ground cover or specimen.

Plant 48 in apart, Zone 3–9, full shade

‘Patriot’ - Its rich forest green center combined with the extremely wide, purest white margin make ‘Patriot’ an absolute knockout. Make this medium-sized (about 18") Hosta a specimen in your shade garden.

Plant 48 in apart, Zone 5–9, full shade

‘Paul’s Glory’ - Blue/dark green leaf margins are striking with the gold center on this fast-grower. It is a large cultivar reaching a mature-sized mound in 3 years at about 25" high by 55" wide. With good substance and intense leaf colors it is a sight to behold. Blooms are pale lavender.

Plant 48 in apart, Zone 5–9, full shade

‘Royal Standard’ - Outstanding and dignified with its shiny, deep green leaves, ‘Royal Standard’ is sun-tolerant and a vigorous grower at about 32". It has profuse pure white flowers with a clean, citrusy fragrance in late August.

Plant 60 in apart, Zone 4–9, full shade

‘Shade Fanfare’ - A popular choice among our customers, its medium green slug-resistant leaves have a broad creamy margin. ‘Shade Fanfare’ has a foliage height of 18", is a vigorous grower, and sports lavender flowers in July.

Plant 48 in apart, Zone 4–9, full shade

‘Kabitan’ - Narrow, wavy dark green leaves with an iridescent yellow center which lightens as the season progresses. Dark lavender/purple flowers surrounded by the light yellow leaf centers. It is a small Hosta with 8" mound height, but it’s beauty adds a big color punch.

Plant 30 in apart, Zone 5–9, full shade

‘Elegans’ - Large gray-blue leaves that are heavily-textured and slug-resistant show color best in shade to light sun. White flowers bloom in June and July. At a height of 30", the foliage becomes more corrugated as it matures. Try it with Astilbe & Japanese Painted Fern.

Plant 60 in apart, Zone 4–8, full shade

‘Frances Williams’ - Favored by Hosta lovers and experts, this award winner forms a 28" high mound of heavily-corrugated, wide blue-green leaves with a broad golden-yellow border. Near-white flowers in late June are displayed just above the handsome slug-resistant foliage.

Plant 60 in apart, Zone 4–9, full shade

‘Sum and Substance’ - This impressive winner of many awards has huge, chartreuse-green rounded leaves of very thick substance and grows to 30". Tall stalks of pale lavender flowers bloom in late July. Slug-resistant.

Plant 72 in apart, Zone 5–9, full shade

‘Wide Brim’ - Very consistent, creamy yellow-margined leaves form an 18" medium-sized mound. Open-faced light lavender flowers rise above the foliage in July. Excellent growth rate, as well, for this Hosta.

Plant 40 in apart, Zone 5–9, full shade