

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 ...

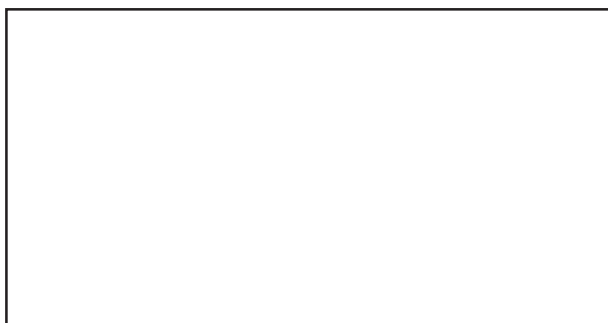
For most of us, our daily lives have become a complex balancing act between family, work, recreation and maintaining our homes. Although we would probably like to be involved in activities that will improve our own well being and that of the world around us, finding a way to fit such projects into our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

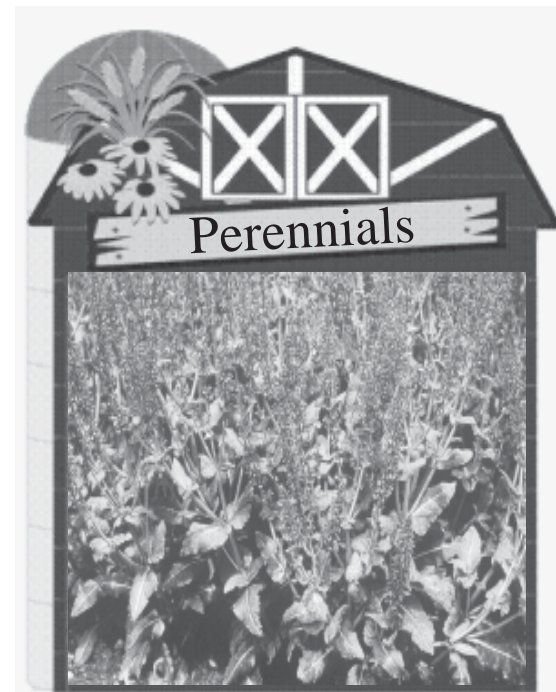
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SALVIA...



..have bright spikes which bloom for a long time in mid-summer. From white to all shades of blue, purple, and violet, Salvias are easy care, not fussy about soil, thrive in full hot sun with good drainage, are deer-resistant, and will often re-bloom when weather cools if cut back after blooming.

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SALVIA...

‘Purple Knockout’

The wide bronze-red leaves of ‘Purple Knockout’ are tinged with green toward the center, are purple on the underside, and remain neat and tight to the soil surface. You will not likely have seen a Salvia quite like this eastern U.S. native. The stiff flower stems shoot up from the base to 3’ with small blue-bronze flower bracts swirling up the stem. The blooms appear in June–July, turn bronzy-red, and keep their form well through the summer, performing much like Lavender blooms do.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5–9, full sun

‘Blue Hill’

This superb perennial is another which attracts more interest every year primarily due to its long bloom time (June–July, and again in fall) and its lovely sky blue flowers. It has rough green foliage with numerous spikes of sky blue blooms rising a moderate 15" from the compact plant. Spent flowers should be cut back for a repeat performance in fall. Spectacular in a mass and with lighter-colored perennials such as Coreopsis, Daylilies (try ‘Stella De Oro’), Black Eyed Susan or Sedums.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–8, full sun

‘Caradonna’

The glowing purple-black stems are unique on ‘Caradonna’. Flower spikes to 24" are the same rich violet-purple of ‘East Friesland’, blooming often from May–July. Give this Salvia the well-drained sun-loving conditions it loves, and it will bloom its heart out for you.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–9, full sun

‘East Friesland’

Violet-purple flowers on numerous spikes start blooming in June and July to a height of 18". If deadheaded regularly it will provide flowers again in September. Try it with a pink or white Dianthus and our Artemisia Silvermound for a cool, serene look in those dog days.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–8, full sun

‘Lubeca’

Purple flowers rise on many spikelets to 24" above the rough green compact leaves. ‘Lubeca’ blooms about three weeks longer than ‘East Friesland’, that is, from June until fall, if spent flower spikes are cut back.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–8, full sun

‘Marcus’

This unique compact new Salvia is a lavender-purple – darker than ‘Blue Hill’, lighter than ‘May Night’ – at 12" in height. A sport of ‘May Night’, its dwarf size and heavy bloom habit in June–July promises good success for plantings requiring drought-tolerance, plenty of sun, good drainage, not a lot of attention, and deer-resistance. Plan on a period of re-blooming if spent flower stems are cut back.

Plant 18 ins apart, Zone 3–9, full sun

‘May Night’

The most intense deep indigo-purple spikes imaginable rise to 18" above the rough green leaves during June and July. Whack it back after blooming and you will be rewarded with more of that rich purple color in early fall. This 1997 Perennial of the Year thrives in fertile, well-drained soil, and the color will knock your socks off in the border, rock garden, as edging, or massed in naturalized areas.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–8, full sun

‘Rose Wine’

A pink version of Salvia ‘May Night’ is superb with thick spikes of soft rosy-pink flowers on dark purple stems. In June and July, ‘Rose Wine’ blooms despite summer heat and drought to 18". Try it with Salvia ‘May Night’, Penstemon ‘Husker Red’, and Coreopsis ‘Moonbeam’.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–8, full sun

‘Snow Hill’

No doubt ‘Snow Hill’ rivals ‘Blue Hill’ for usefulness and popularity among long-blooming hardy Salvias. This white, densely-spiked perennial is virtually identical to ‘Blue Hill’, but moderate in size (15" or so), blooming in June–July, and complements a wide range of perennials.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–8, full sun

‘Purple Rain’

Hardy, yet tropical-looking, this Salvia sends up fuzzy purple spikelets in June and July, to a height of 18–24". Like all Salvias, it is heat and drought tolerant, and dislikes an excess of moisture in the summer, as well as too-damp a spot in the winter.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–8, Full sun