

## 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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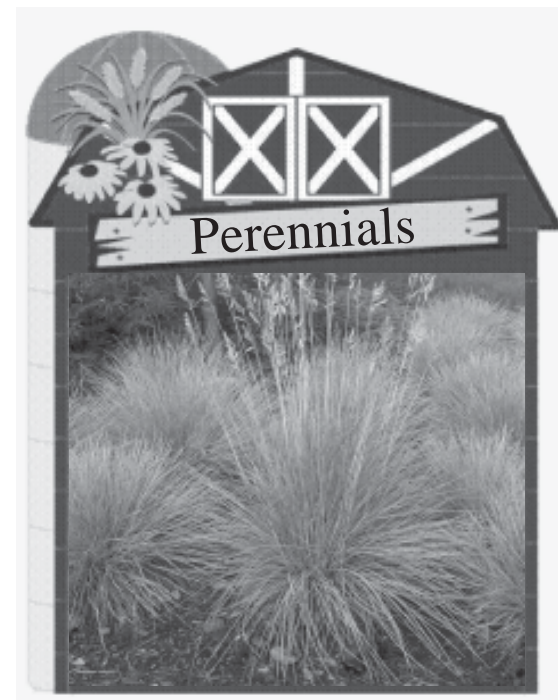
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## SHORT GRASSES...



...make flower gardens more natural looking. They can be geared to shady woodlands or a sunny exposure. Used in the front of a border, they soften hardscapes (along a path or pool). They function as a ground cover, or in the rock garden, and are gorgeous in containers. They hide ripening bulb foliage and can be good for soil stabilization projects. Their colors, shapes, and textures are lovely contrast to perennials and other grasses.

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# SHORT GRASSES...

## **Acorus variegatus - Variegated Japanese Sweet Flag**

Truly evergreen with glossy, dark green and creamy white variegated leaves 1/2" wide and 8-10" tall, Acorus is a valuable addition to landscaping along pond's edge, in water gardens, or in any boggy area. It loves (and requires) wet feet, and prefers fertile, acid soil in partial shade, or full sun, as long as it is kept constantly moist. Burnt tips and brown leaves emphasize its distaste for dry conditions. Otherwise, it uses are legion. It will dramatically brighten a dark corner year round, works in pots or tubs, makes a great ground cover, and works along the edge of a path.

**Plant 18 in apart, Zone 6-9, part shade**

## **Carex 'Bowles' Golden Sedge' -Golden Variegated Sedge**

Positively glowing in the moist, partial shade it loves best, 'Bowles Golden' Carex is a clump-grower with a solid yellow leaf blade. At 2-3' in height, it has a distinct upright, rather than weeping growth habit. At the water's edge or massed in the shade, you will find it very showy, indeed.

**Plant 12 in apart, Zone 5-9, part sun to part shade**

## **Carex 'Evergold' - Variegated Japanese Sedge**

A clump-forming grass 1' high with weeping, narrow yellow grass blades with a green vertical mid-line, this Carex is evergreen, grows best in partial shade, and is valuable as a ground cover, for edging, in woodland settings, rock gardens, and pond areas. Try Carex with a blue Hosta such as 'Blue Cadet', Epimedium rubrum, and spotted Pulmonaria.

**Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5-9, part sun to part shade**

## **Carex 'Gold Fountains' - Golden Sedge**

Same weeping, graceful, narrow leaf blades as 'Evergold', which make such a graceful presence in the part shade, but this 12" Carex is a soft green color with a golden edge. The effect is a lovely golden glow in a dark spot. Try it with a medium-sized blue-leaved Hosta such as 'Halcyon', Alchemilla mollis (Lady's Mantle), and the glossy dark green of Helleborus or Bergenia.

**Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5-7, part sun to part shade**

## **Carex 'Ice Dance' - Silver Variegated Sedge**

Once established, this spreading Carex has much improved drought-tolerance and general vigor. Shiny, strong leaves are a bit wider than our other Sedges. The green and white variegation give a bright silvery look. This semi-evergreen Carex is a graceful as it is strong-looking at 12" in height, and prefers moist, rich, well-drained soils.

**Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5-9, part sun to part shade**

## **Carex 'Silver Sceptre' - Silver Variegated Sedge**

Very arching narrow 1/4" green leaves with a white edge give this Carex a uniformly fine fountain shape. If happy in the moist well-drained shady situation it favors, it will spread slowly by rhizomes creating more silvery clumps. At 12", it is evergreen, long-lived, and not difficult to grow.

**Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5-9, part shade to full shade**

## **Deschampsia - Tufted Hair Grass**

Valued for its pale green or purple-tinged airy panicles that appear in masses in late June and last through late August, this dark green native is about 18" high and prefers acidic, moist soil in a sunny or partly shaded area.

**Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4-9, full sun to full shade**

## **Festuca 'Elijah Blue' - Blue Fescue**

Effective throughout the year, 'Elijah Blue' is 8-10" of fine, tufted, blue-gray foliage. It needs light, well-drained soil and full sun. It can be used in ground cover plantings, in the rock garden, or as an edging plant. In the perennial border it combines readily with a number of colors and foliages. Try it combined with red, pink, and/or yellow flowers such as our Scabiosa 'Pink Mist', Coreopsis 'Moonbeam', or Sedum 'Autumn Joy'.

**Plant 12 inches apart, Zone 4-8, full sun**

## **Hakonechloa 'Aureola' -Golden-variegated Hakone Grass**

The graceful arching stems of this Japanese native spread slowly by rhizomes creating loose, cascading mounds reminding one of graceful bamboo, preferring cool, moist organic soil. At 14" the leaves are almost entirely a bright golden yellow with just a few very slender green stripes remaining. Cooling temperatures in autumn provide gorgeous tones of pink and red in the foliage. A striking color accent whether used as a groundcover or protected container plant as long as it has substantial shade during our eastern U.S. summers.

**Plant 15 in apart, Zone 6-9, part shade to full shade**

## **Helictotrichon 'Sapphire' - Blue Oats Grass**

Resembling a tall type of Festuca at 2' in height, 'Sapphire' is an improved version of Blue Oats that is stronger and more heat tolerant. It has stiff, blue-gray foliage with a nice clump habit that can be evergreen in our area. It is the color and delicacy of the foliage that make this grass useful, although panicles do appear in mid-summer. Try it with Heuchera 'Palace Purple', Hosta 'Halcyon', and Siberian Iris for a pleasing variety of forms and colors.

**Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4-8, full sun**

## **Imperata 'Red Baron' - Japanese Blood Grass**

Though the leaf base is green, the rest of the plant is a brilliant blood red, and it stays that way throughout the growing season. This slow-growing grass has an upright, open habit 12-15" tall. It grows best in sun to partial shade in moist, but well-drained soil. It looks best when planted in groups of three to five plants (the more the better), making a gorgeous ground cover in a partly shaded woodland location. Try it as an accent plant as well as with blue-flowering, gray foliage plants like our Caryopteris (Blue Beard), Buddleia, Artemisia, Russian Sage, or 'Sunny Border Blue' Veronica.

**Plant 18 in apart, Zone 6-9, full sun to part shade**

## **Pennisetum 'Little Bunny' - Fountain Grass**

Who can resist finding a spot in the border, rock garden, or small garden for 'Little Bunny'? This graceful, arching little Fountain Grass is like 'Hameln' in all respects save one—it does not grow over 11", usually around 6-8".

This is a fast grower.

**Plant 12 in apart, Zone 5-9, full sun**

## **Phalaris 'Picta' - Ribbon Grass**

The wide-leaf blades are bright green with white stripes on this vigorous, native ground cover that containers to keep growth under control. It is excellent for soil stabilization, and handles seashore conditions. If it becomes leggy and brown during the summer, it can be mowed to 4-6" in midsummer for fresh new foliage.

**Plant 24 in apart, Zone 4-9, full sun**

## **Phalaris 'Strawberries and Cream' - Ribbon Grass**

A bit of pink variegation appears with the white and green leaves on this native Ribbon Grass. Its foliage is a bit finer than 'Picta', it is 2' in height, but is also an aggressive grower, tolerating wet conditions.

**Plant 24 in apart, Zone 4-9, full sun**