



# Perennial Flowers for Specific Uses in Oklahoma

## EXTENSION

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A perennial is any plant that lives and flowers more than two years. Many of the plants below may be marginally hardy in northern locations of the state or in southern locations where summers are particularly hot. Some of the plants below are grown from bulbs or similar underground structures. Species marked with an asterisk need to be lifted each fall, stored over winter, and replanted the following spring. Consult with a reputable garden center or greenhouse for advice on perennials best suited for your particular location.

### Cut Flowers

Below are a few of the more commonly grown species for use in arrangements and bouquets that are equally attractive in the flower garden. See Extension Fact Sheet HLA-6407 for ideas on flower arrangements and bouquets. Growers should refer to Extension Fact Sheet HLA-6426, "The Care and Handling of Cut Flowers."

Ageratum, Hardy (*Eupatorium coelestinum*)  
 Astilbe (*Astilbe x arendsii*)  
 Buby's breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*)  
 Bachelor's buttons (*Centaurea montana* 'Mountain Bluet')  
 Bee balm (*Monarda didyma*)  
 Blackberry lily (*Belamcancla chinensis*)  
 Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta* var. *pulcherrima*)  
 Bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*) (*Dicentra spectabilis*)  
 Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)  
 \*Calla lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*)  
 \*Canna (*Canna x generalis*)  
 Clematis, Jackman (*Clematis x jackmanii*)  
 Columbine (*Aquilegia hybrids*)  
 Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)  
 Coralbells (*Heuchera sanguinea*)  
 Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)  
 Dahlia (*Dahlia* hybrids)  
 Daisy, Painted (*Chrysanthemum coccineum*)  
 Daisy, Shasta (*Chrysanthemum x superbum*)  
 Fountain grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides*)  
 Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)

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Gaillardia (*Gaillardia x grandiflora*)  
 Gayfeather (*Liatris* spp.)  
 \*Gladiolus (*Gladiolus x hortulanus*)  
 Hollyhock (*Alcea rosea*)  
 Iris, Bearded (*Iris* hybrids)  
 Iris, Japanese (*Iris ensata*)  
 Larkspur (*Delphinium elatum*)  
 Lily, Garden (*Lilium* hybrids)  
 Lily of the valley (*Convallaria majalis*)  
 Maltese cross (*Lychnis chalcidonica*)  
 Narcissus (daffodils) (*Narcissus* hybrids)  
 Peony (*Paeonia* hybrids)  
 Peony, Tree (*Paeonia suffruticosa*)  
 Phlox, Tall (*Phlox paniculata*)  
 Pincushion Flower (*Scabiosa caucasica*)  
 Poppy, Iceland (*Papaver nudicaule*)  
 Poppy, Oriental (*Papaver orientale*)  
 Sage, Mealycup (*Salvia farinacea*)  
 Salvia, Perennial (*Salvia superba*)  
 Statice (*Limonium latifolium*)  
 Sunflower, False (*Heliopsis helianthoides* var. *scabra*)  
 Tulip (*Tulipa* hybrid)  
 Yarrow, Fernleaf (*Achillea filipendulina*)  
 Yarrow, Common (*Achillea millefolium*)  
 Yarrow, Woolly (*Achillea tomentosum*)

### Showy Foliage

These plants may be used to lend interest to surrounding flowering plants or for foliage in bouquets. Many of these species are equally striking when planted alone.

Ajuga (*Ajuga reptans*)  
 Bergenia (*Bergenia cordifolia*)  
 Bishop's goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria* 'Variegatum')  
 \*Caladium (*Caladium x hortulanum*)  
 Candytuft, Evergreen (*Iberis sempervirens*)  
 \*Elephant's-ear (*Colocasia esculenta*)  
 Fern, Christmas (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)  
 Fern, Dragontail (*Asplenium ebenedes*)  
 Fern, Lady (*Athyrium filix-femina*)  
 Fern, Marginal shield (*Dryopteris marginalis*)



Figure 1. Gayfeather (*Liatris* spp.)



Figure 2. Iris (*Iris* hybrids)



Figure 3. Japanese Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*)



Figure 4. Spike Speedwell (*Veronica spicata*)



Figure 5. Fragrant Plantain-Lily (*Hosta plantaginea*)



Figure 6. Giant Onion (*Allium giganteum*)





Figure 7. Garden Peony (*Paeonia lactiflora*)



Figure 8. Ferlead Yarrow (*Achillea filipendulina*)



Figure 9. Astible (*Astible x arendsii*)



Figure 10. Butterfly Bush (*Asclepias tuberosa*)



Figure 11. Daylily (*Hemerocallis* species)



Figure 12. Gas Plant (*Dictamnus albus*)

Fern, Royal (*Osmunda regalis*)  
 Fern, Sensitive (*Onoclea sensibilis*)  
 Fescue, Blue (*Festuca ovina* 'Glaucous')  
 Grass, Fountain (*Pennisetum alopecuroides*)  
 Grass, Plume (*Erianthus ravennae*)  
 Hen-and-chickens (*Sempervivum tectorum*)  
 Hosta (*Hosta hyacintha*)  
 Japanese Blood Grass (*Imperata cylindrica* var. *rubra* 'Red Baron')  
 Japanese Sweet Flag (*Acorus gramineus* 'Variegata')  
 Lamb's ear (*Stachys byzantina*)  
 Lavendar cotton (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*)  
 Plantain lily, Wavy-leaved (*Hosta undulata*)  
 Plantain lily (*Hosta lancifolia* var. *albomarginata*)  
 Ribbon grass (*Phalaris arundinacea* var. *picta*)  
 Rue (*Ruta graveolens*)  
 Sedum (*Sedum* spp.)  
 Yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*)  
 Wormwood (*Artemisia schmidtiana* 'Silver Mound')

## Large Background

Tall plants can serve as background for shorter perennials or annuals. These species may also be used as barriers to hide unsightly areas. Be certain when buying these plants that you get a tall cultivar and not a dwarf.

Astilbe (*Astilbe x arendsii*)  
 Baby's breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*)  
 Bee balm (*Monarda didyma*)  
 Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)  
 \*Canna (*Canna x generalis*)  
 Chrysanthemum, Hardy (*Dendranthemum grandiflorum*)  
 Columbine (*Aquilegia* hybrids)  
 Coneflower, Purple (*Echinacea purpurea*)  
 Crown Imperial (*Fritillaria imperialis*)  
 Daylily (*Hemerocallis* spp.)  
 \*Elephant's-ear (*Colotasia esculenta*)  
 Four O'Clocks (*Mirabilis jalapa*)  
 Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)  
 Gas plant (*Dictamnus albus*)  
 \*Gladiolus (*Gladiolus x hortulanus*)  
 Hibiscus (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)  
 Hollyhock (*Alcea rosea*)  
 Indigo, False (*Baptisia australis*)  
 Iris, Bearded (*Iris* hybrids)  
 Jupitersbeard (*Centranthus ruber*)  
 Lily, Garden (*Lilium* hybrids)  
 Loosestrife (*Lysimachia clethroides*)  
 Magic lily (*Lycoris squamigera*)  
 Onion, Giant (*Allium giganteum*)  
 Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*)  
 Peony (*Paeonia* hybrids)  
 Peony, Tree (*Paeonia suffruticosa*)  
 Phlox, Tall (*Phlox paniculata*)

Red-hot poker (*Kniphofia uvaria*)  
 Sedum (*Sedum spectabile*)  
 Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*)  
 Sunflower, False (*Heliopsis helianthoides* var. *scabra*)  
 Thistle, Small Globe (*Echinops ritro*)  
 Yarrow (*Achillea* spp.)  
 Yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*)

## Prefer or Tolerate Light Shade

These plants may need protection from the sun. Many of these will suffer without protection from harsh Oklahoma conditions.

Ajuga (*Ajuga reptans*)  
 Astilbe (*Astilbe x arendsii*)  
 Bergenia (*Bergenia cordifolia*)  
 Bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*) (*D. spectabilis*)  
 \*Caladium (*Caladium x hortulanum*)  
 Coralbells (*Heuchera sanguinea*)  
 Daylily (*Hemerocallis* spp.)  
 Fern, Dragontail (*Asplenium ebenoides*)  
 Fern, Lady (*Athyrium filix-femina*)  
 Fern, Royal (*Osmunda regalis*)  
 Four O'Clocks (*Mirabilis jalapa*)  
 Gloxinia, Hardy (*Incarvillea delavayi*)  
 Hibiscus (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)  
 Indigo, False (*Baptisia australis*)  
 Lilac cranesbill (*Geranium himalayense*)  
 Lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majalis*)  
 Liriope (*Liriope spicata*)  
 Moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*)  
 Pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*)  
 Pasqueflower (*Anemone pulsatilla*)  
 Plantain lily (*Hosta* spp.)  
 Plumbago (*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*)  
 Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*)  
 Spiderwort, Virginia (*Tradescantia x andersoniana*)  
 Sweet woodruff (*Galium odoratum*)  
 Violet, Sweet (*Viola odorata*)

## Edging/Borders/Ground Covers

Ajuga (*Ajuga reptans*)  
 Bergenia (*Bergenia cordifolia*)  
 Candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*)  
 Cinquefoil (*Potentilla nepalensis*)  
 Crocus (*Crocus* hybrids)  
 Crocus, Autumn (*Colchicum autumnale*)  
 Fescue, Blue (*Festuca ovina* 'Glaucous')  
 Flax (*Linum perenne*)  
 Fleeceflower, Reynoutria (*Polygonum cuspidatum* var. *compactum*)



Glory of the snow (*Chionodoxa luciliae*)  
 Goutweed, Bishop's (*Aegopodium podagraria* 'Variegatum')  
 Grape hyacinths (*Muscari album*)  
 Hen-and-chickens (*Sempervivum tectorum*)  
 Lamb's ear (*Stachys byzantina*)  
 Lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majalis*)  
 Liriope (*Liriope spicata*)  
 Mallow, Poppy (*Callirhoe involucrata*)  
 Moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*)  
 Pachysandra, Japanese (*Pachysandra terminalis*)  
 Pasque flower (*Anemone pulsatilla*)  
 Penstemon (*Penstemon* spp.)  
 Phlox, Moss (*Phlox subulata*)  
 Plumbago (*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*)  
 Primrose, Missouri (*Oenothera missouriensis*)  
 Sea pink (*Armeria maritima*)  
 Sedum (*Sedum* spp.)  
 Strawberry, Barren (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*)  
 Squill, Siberian (*Scilla siberica*)  
 Snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*)  
 Violet, Sweet (*Viola odorata*)  
 Violet, Horned (*Viola cornuta*)

## Vines

The species below serve many purposes such as screening and can be grown on trellises, fences, and gazebos.

Clematis, Jackman (*Clematis x jackmanii*)  
 Everlasting Pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*)  
 Rose, Climbing (*Rosa* spp.)

## Dried Flowers or Showy Fruit

Below are plants with flowers or fruit that can easily be dried for everlasting arrangements. Other species not listed may be suitable but require much more care for drying and preservation.

Baby's breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*) - flowers  
 Blackberry lily (*Belamcanda chinensis*) - seed pods  
 Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) - seed pods  
 Chinese lantern plant (*Physalis alkekengi*) - seed pods  
 Gay-feather (*Liatris* spp.) - flowers  
 Indigo, False (*Baptisia australis*) - seed pods  
 Money plant (*Lunaria annua*) - seed pods  
 Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) - flower and seeds  
 Quaking grass (*Briza media*) - flowers and seeds  
 Statice (*Limonium latifolium*) - flowers  
 Thistle, Small globe (*Echinops ritro*) - flowers  
 Yarrow (*Achillea* spp.) - flowers

Categories above are merely suggestions for placement of perennials. The categories are by no means comprehensive, but rather common uses for the specific plants listed. Check with personnel in your local greenhouse or garden center for additional advice on what plants perform well in your area. Also, bookstores often carry a wide array of books on gardening with perennials.

## Books

Armitage, Allen. *Herbaceous Perennial Plants*. Varsity Press, Inc. Athens, Georgia. 1989.  
 Still, Steven M. *Manual of Herbaceous Ornamental Plants*. Stipes Publishing Company. 1988.

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