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 (*Astrile x arendsi*)
Buby’s breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*)
Bachelor’s buttons (*Centaura montana* ‘Mountain Bluet’)
Bee balm (*Monarda didyma*)
Blackberry lily (*Belamcanda chinensis*)
Black-eyed Susan (*Centaurea montana* ‘Mountain Bluet’)
Bee balm (*Monarcla didyma*)
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*)

**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 ebenoides*)
Fern, Lady (*Athyrium filix-femina*)
Fern, Marginal shield (*Dryopteris marginalis*)

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Fact Sheets are also available on our website at: [http://osufacts.okstate.edu](http://osufacts.okstate.edu)
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 (*Astile x arensil*)

Figure 10. Butterfly Bush (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Figure 11. Daylily (*Hemerocallis species*)

Figure 12. Gas Plant (*Dictamus albus*)
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.

*Gladiolus* (Gladiolus hortulanus)

Hibiscus (Hibiscus moschutos)

Hollyhock (Alcea rosea)

Indigo, False (Baptisia australis)

Iris, Bearded (Iris hybrids)

Jupitersbeard (Centranthus ruber)

Lily, Garden (Lilium hybrids)

Loosestrife (Lysimachia clematoides)

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 (*Heliosis helianthoides var. scabra*)

Thistle, Small Globe (*Echinops ritro*)

Yarrow (*Achillea spp.*)

Yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*)

These species may also be used as barriers to hide unsightly areas. Be certain when buying these plants or annuals.

Fern, Royal (*Osmunda regalis*)

Fern, Sensitive (*Onoclea sensibilis*)

Fescue, Blue (*Festuca ovina* ‘Glaucu*)

Grass, Fountain (*Pennisetum alopecuroides*)

Grass, Plume (*Erianthus ravenae*)

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*)

Rue (*Ruta graveolens*)

Sedum (*Sedum spp.*)

Wormwood (*Artemisia schmidtiana* ‘Silver Mound’)

**Prefer or Tolerate Light Shade**

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

**Edging/Borders/Ground Covers**

Ajug (Aajuga reptans)

Astilbe (*Astilbe x arendsi*)

Bergenia (*Bergenia cordifolia*)

Bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*) (*D. spectabilis*)

*Caladium (*Caladium x hortulanum*)

Coralbells (*Heuchera americana*)

Daylily (*Hemerocallis spp.*)

Fern, Dragontail (*Asplenium sanguineum*)

Fern, Lady (*Athyriun filix-femina*)

Fern, Royal (*Osmunda regalis*)

Four O’Clocks (*Mirabilis jalapa*)

Gloxinia, Hardy (*Incarvillea delavayi*)

Hibiscus (*Hibiscus moschutos*)

Indigo, False (*Baptisia australis*)

Lilac cranesbill (*Geranium higherense*)

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*)

**Prefer or Tolerate Light Shade**

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

Ajug (Aajuga reptans)

Astilbe (*Astilbe x arendsi*)

Bergenia (*Bergenia cordifolia*)

Bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*) (*D. spectabilis*)

*Caladium (*Caladium x hortulanum*)

Coralbells (*Heuchera americana*)

Daylily (*Hemerocallis spp.*)

Fern, Dragontail (*Asplenium sanguineum*)

Fern, Lady (*Athyriun filix-femina*)

Fern, Royal (*Osmunda regalis*)

Four O’Clocks (*Mirabilis jalapa*)

Gloxinia, Hardy (*Incarvillea delavayi*)

Hibiscus (*Hibiscus moschutos*)

Indigo, False (*Baptisia australis*)

Lilac cranesbill (*Geranium higherense*)

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*)
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 fragariodes*)
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.*)

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**

The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
Bringing the University to You!

The Cooperative Extension Service is the largest, most successful informal educational organization in the world. It is a nationwide system funded and guided by a partnership of federal, state, and local governments that delivers information to help people help themselves through the land-grant university system.

Extension carries out programs in the broad categories of agriculture, natural resources and environment; family and consumer sciences; 4-H and other youth; and community resource development. Extension staff members live and work among the people they serve to help stimulate and educate Americans to plan ahead and cope with their problems.

Some characteristics of the Cooperative Extension system are:

• The federal, state, and local governments cooperatively share in its financial support and program direction.

• It is administered by the land-grant university as designated by the state legislature through an Extension director.

• Extension programs are nonpolitical, objective, and research-based information.

• It provides practical, problem-oriented education for people of all ages. It is designated to take the knowledge of the university to those persons who do not or cannot participate in the formal classroom instruction of the university.

• It utilizes research from university, government, and other sources to help people make their own decisions.

• More than a million volunteers help multiply the impact of the Extension professional staff.

• It dispenses no funds to the public.

• It is not a regulatory agency, but it does inform people of regulations and of their options in meeting them.

• Local programs are developed and carried out in full recognition of national problems and goals.

• The Extension staff educates people through personal contacts, meetings, demonstrations, and the mass media.

• Extension has the built-in flexibility to adjust its programs and subject matter to meet new needs. Activities shift from year to year as citizen groups and Extension workers close to the problems advise changes.