



RELIABLE PERENNIAL FLOWERS

STARNOTE 300
October 2013

These plants give more each year

Flower gardening in our climate can be a difficult activity with many temperature extremes, bad soil and high winds. Homeowners admire the immaculate flower beds at office parks, gardens and casinos without realizing how much work, planning and expense go into keeping them in top form. Most of these areas are planted with annual flowers which are replaced several times during the year.

Save time, money and effort by planting perennial varieties. These flowering plants don't die after one season, but return from dormancy, increasing in size, vigor and beauty, year after year. Some are shorter lived than others; some bloom at different times; some require protection in severe winters. Through careful selection, you can have color and foliage in your garden all year long.

Perennials are the perfect solution for gardeners on a budget, those who don't have the time or inclination for regular maintenance an annual bed requires, or those who just want the "English Garden" look. For best results, amend your soil with *Paydirt™ Planting Mix*. Add *Dr. Q's® Gold Dust Starter Fertilizer* and *Dr. Q's® Plant Tonic* when planting your choices. Here are some excellent varieties to consider:

Black-eyed Susan. This cheery daisy is easy to grow, preferring full sun and widely spaced watering. Yellow flowers with a black or green eye.

Blanket Flower. Similar to Black-eyed Susan, with flowers banded in orange, yellow, scarlet and brown. Tough, ever-blooming and water efficient. Will often go wild in suitable sites.

Bush Daisy. These shrubby yellow daisies will bloom all winter in a mild year. Cut back occasionally to encourage blooming. Hard prune in late March to restore a compact look.

Bush Morning Glory. Striking variety forms a rounded mass of silvery-gray foliage covered with white, trumpet shaped flowers spring through fall. Extremely tough and water efficient, this one is an exceptional addition to any desert garden. When starting keep soil lightly moist, not wet.

Canna Lily. Among the most tropical-looking of all hardy, blooming plants. Marked by banana-like leaves and orchid-like flowers in shades ranging from bicolor through scarlet to canary yellow. Tall forms reach six feet or more; dwarfs are closer to three feet. Dormant in winter. Cut back mid-November.

Carnation. **Very hardy, takes full sun – needs no protection in winter.** Garden varieties, normally seen as bushy, compact dwarfs, thrive under routine care. Shades range from scarlet through pink to white. Some are sweetly fragrant.

Chrysanthemum. These classic fall bloomers come in all colors except true blue. Some varieties bloom in spring as well. Cut back in June for re-bloom in fall; remove spent foliage in winter. Pinch early buds for more vigorous production.

Coreopsis. Tough, low-maintenance/ high-performance plant is covered with yellow, daisy-like flowers spring through fall. Excellent for borders or cut flowers. Remove spent flowers for continued bloom.

Daylily. Hybrid varieties show color from pink through lavender to bicolor, as well as the traditional yellow, red and orange. As the name suggests, each flower lasts a day, but several blooms occur on each flower stalk. Can be divided every two or three years.

Gaura. Pretty southwest native is covered with branching flower spikes of pink or white blooms. Extremely long blooming period. Fits well in dry or traditional gardens. Remove flower spikes when blooms fall.

Geranium. Available in many varieties including delightful scented varieties. Martha Washington has neon bright, multicolor flowers; Trailing Ivy is the toughest and excellent for containers and hanging baskets. Give these some protection on the coldest winter nights.

Lantana. This low maintenance and hardy variety blooms with purple, yellow, red, orange, magenta and white flowers up to 10 months a year. Will go dormant in coldest weather—cut back in early spring to keep vigorous. The purple, white and yellow varieties stay low and spread, while the others may be trained into taller shrubs.

Penstemon. Easy-to-grow and heat loving, several varieties of these pretty plants are native to the deserts of Nevada and Southern Utah. All show colorful, trumpet-shaped flowers that attract hummingbirds. They re-seed vigorously and should be a part of any water efficient landscape.

Purple Cup Flower. Airy and delicate, this tough plant blooms with small purple flowers on and off all year. Excellent choice for traditional or transitional landscapes.

Society Garlic. Ornamental, garlic relative has spikes of pretty lavender flowers on and off all year. Foliage smells much like garlic, and some use the green leaves for seasoning. Good for traditional or dry landscapes.

Ruellia. Hardy moderately sized blooming shrub. Can take full or partial sun. Will spread though seeds if planted near or in good garden soil. Blooms throughout the warm season.

Texas Bluebell. Tough and attractive. Newer dwarf forms bloom all summer under nearly any conditions. Colors are pink, purple or white, with purple being the toughest. Looks like an ever blooming tulip.

Victoria Blue Sage (Salvia/Mealy Cup Sage). Lovely formal-looking plant with flower spikes of rich blue or white. Hybrid varieties like **Blue Queen** and **Rose Queen** have shades of violet and pink. Neat and adaptable; mixes well with other flowers.

Western Columbine. Delicate, shapely foliage produces nodding stems of red and yellow flowers in spring. Hybrid varieties have many different colors. Give this one late afternoon shade and good, rich soil for best performance. Pretty addition to traditional gardens.

Yarrow. Free-blooming, ferny plant is tough, water efficient and easy to grow. Superb, multi-colored border flowers are excellent for cutting or drying

There's no reason to live without flowers in your yard, regardless of your budget, taste or time. Plant your choices with a little care, water and fertilizer and enjoy the show! Use good soil for best results.

© 2013 Star Nursery, Inc.