



Gardeners Helping Gardeners Succeed

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PERENNIAL PLANTS FOR SUNNY AREAS

The Perennial Plant Association (PPA) honors plants that prove hardy, adaptable and easy to grow. Deer resistance is noted with a 'D'

Alyssum

Good groundcover, rock garden or border plant, brilliant yellow blooms, easy to grow. Early flowering **D**

Bee Balm (Monarda)

Unusual flowers are attractive to bees. Foliage has an intoxicating fragrance. Ranges in color from red, to lavender, to pink. Cultivars range in size from 12" to 48" inches in height. Tolerant of some dryness, but happy in damp soil. Look out for powdery mildew in the dog days of summer. **D**

Blackeyed Susan (Rudbeckia)

Goldsturm was the PPA Plant of the Year for 1999. A bold, happy, yellow daisy with a striking black center, this is a good choice for an informal splash of yellow. **D**

Candytuft (Iberis)

Not only does this groundcover, border, or rock garden plant present a sparkling cushion of white flowers, Candytuft is also evergreen. **D**

Catmint (Nepeta)

The popularity of this tough, clump-forming plant grows with every year. Tolerant of a wide range of soils and moisture levels. Can also be used as an accent under roses or other shrubs. The PPA chose *Walker's Low* for 2007 **D**

Coneflower (Echinacea)

This prairie native is commonly available in white and pinkish purple. The cultivar *Magnus* was the PPA Plant of the Year for 1998. Most are in the neighborhood of 2-3 ft. in height, but newer cultivars can be in the 1-1 1/2 ft. range. A wider assortment of colors; including orange, peach, and russet, have been appearing on the open market for the past several years. **D**

Coreopsis

Moonbeam was the PPA Plant of the Year winner for 1992. This form is airy and the flowers a lemon yellow. It is a hardy, clump-forming perennial. *Coreopsis grandiflora* is a large-flowered golden yellow.

Cranesbill

Also known as hardy geranium, this is a group of plants whose cultivation becomes more refined every year. Colors include blue, violet, pink, white, and magenta. Some cultivars are now being developed for their zoned and veined foliage, in addition to their flowers. *Biokovo* was the PPA Plant of the year for 2015 and *Rozanne* for 2008.

Daylily (Hemerocallis) Rugged, adaptable, vigorous perennials with single or double flowers in a myriad of colors. Some are reblooming.

Euphorbia This genus is extremely varied in its plant forms and habitats, ranging from large, succulent trees and tiny compact succulents. **(D)**

Gaura

Also known as Whirling Butterflies, this plant has really grown in popularity in our area. Wants full sun. The clump can become very large. Easy to grow and striking, the white varieties usually have a more graceful form than the pinks.

Geum Clump-forming perennial which typically forms a basal foliage mound. Depending upon variety, flowers can be red, orange, yellow or tangerine.

Lavender (Lavandula)

The English lavenders grow really well here. Some good varieties are Munstead, Hidcote, Phenomenal, Provence (used for cooking), and Grosso (used for perfume). **D**

Mexican Evening Primrose (Oenothera) Ground-spreading perennial with pink cup-like flowers. Very vigorous. **D**

Penstemon Otherwise known as beardtongue.

Here is another garden plant with native roots. Water needs vary, but many prefer drier areas of the garden. *Husker Red* was the PPA Plant of the Year for 1996. These extremely resilient perennials are indispensable to pollinators like bumblebees and hummingbirds. Other varieties have green foliage and pink to purple flowers like Pike's Peak Purple and Red Rocks.

Oriental Poppy (Papaver) Oriental poppies grow a mound of leaves that are hairy and finely dissected in spring. They gather energy and bloom in mid-summer. Flowers colors are red, orange, and white. Plant behind large perennials to camouflage the hole left behind when Poppies go dormant in summer. **D**

Peony Peony plants offer big, fluffy, fragrant flowers in a wide range of colors, forms and sizes. These resilient, long-lived perennial bushes have a history of popularity as a garden plant. Colors range from white, pink and red to coral, maroon and yellow. There are three types of peonies: herbaceous (bush), tree and Itoh (intersectional). Tree peonies prefer shade at mid-day, bloom earlier than bush peonies, and have large papery-thin flowers in all kinds of colors. Itoh peonies are a cross of the bush and tree peony giving a larger, fuller plant with abundant large flowers. Colors of most Itoh peonies are soft pastels. **D**

Phlox

This old-fashioned staple of the garden is tall and elegant in the back of the border. It forms a clump that enlarges yearly. A rare plus in Nevada, Phlox is also very fragrant. It makes a lovely cut flower, and 3 stems will nearly fill your vase! Deadhead blooms to prevent seedlings of a different color from the plant you purchased and look out for powdery mildew in late summer.

Phlox David is a white cultivar winning the PPA Plant of the Year for 2002. This variety is also very resistant to powdery mildew.

Russian Sage (Perovskia) Another PPA winner, Russian Sage took the prize in 1995. Few people that have seen this plant in the landscape can resist. One of our most requested plants. Such a plus for Nevada as it is drought tolerant and blooms late season. **D**

Salvia

Also called Meadow Sage, this plant is a good choice for introducing the form and range of colors usually seen in *Veronica* into an area of the garden too dry for *Veronica*. Available in shades ranging from rose to violet. *May Night* was the PPA winner for 1997 **D**

Sedum Groundcovers, like Angelina and John Creech, and upright varieties like Autumn Joy and Purple Emperor. There are so many varieties of sedums, many better known for their foliage. Very drought tolerant.

Shasta Daisy (Leucanthemum) Shasta is the standard white garden daisy. Newer varieties tout double rows of petals and frilly petals. They range in height from 12” (for the front of the border) to 36” tall (for the back of the border). *Shasta Becky* was the PPA winner for 2003, proving to be especially hardy and adaptable. **D**

Snow in Summer (Cerastium)

Another excellent blooming groundcover, Snow in Summer has cool silvery vegetation and is covered with white flowers in early and mid-summer. When it becomes leggy, just cut back for a neater appearance, and a second flush of bloom. **D**

Torch Lily (Kniphofia)

Now available in a variety of heights and an increasing range of colors, Torch Lily, also known as Red Hot Poker, is prized for a look that is both tropical and southwestern. Few plants can be incorporated in two such different themes. **D**

Veronica

Speedwell is another common name for this perennial garden favorite. This is a wonderful plant for the mid-border, providing a strong vertical element for variety of texture in your garden. Most are blue, but white and pinks are also available. **D**

Sunny Border Blue also has the traditional spike form. Sunny Border’s medium blue and plentiful flower spikes won the PPA award for 1993.

Yarrow (Achillea) Clump-forming and drought tolerant. Yarrow comes in a range of colors: yellows, reds, paprika and pink. Showy flower heads composed of many tiny, tightly-packed flowers rising above clusters of ferny foliage.