

Plants for Tennessee Landscapes

Perennials



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Introduction

Perennials can live for many years, even decades, although some are not that durable. The lifespan of those shorter-lived perennials may be genetically determined, while others may be poorly adapted to the region or poorly sited in the garden.

The terms “tender perennial” or “half-hardy annual” are sometimes used to describe groups of plants that can survive mild winters in the area but are killed by colder temperatures. If planted a zone farther south, they would likely be rated truly perennial to that zone. Perennials can be planted year round if they are considered to be very hardy to your region. If they are marginally hardy, it is best to plant in spring to ensure root is established before the onset of winter.

Perennial plants are grown for flower and foliage interest. Most blooming perennials have a relatively short bloom period compared to annual bedding plants, but that is not necessarily a negative trait. Many perennials have handsome foliage that contributes to the overall aesthetic of the design and may in fact be planted primarily for their foliage and not the flower (e.g., Hosta, Heuchera, Artemisia and Sedum). Beautiful foliage can complement neighboring bloomers and even conceal tattered foliage of those plants who have passed their peak.

Those plants with interesting foliage offer much potential for exciting designs. Consider golden foliage against dark, wispy graceful foliage against bold coarse leaves, or inserting strongly vertical species to break up a garden of mounded growth habits. Evergreen perennials can also play strong roles in winter interest, and when planted in mass, could function as groundcovers. In these scenarios, the flowering season is just a bonus.

Another asset of perennials is that they can often be divided to create new plants for the garden or to share with other gardeners. In fact, some perennials may require occasional division to look their best or as flowering performance declines.

The purpose of this list is to provide Tennessee gardeners with a basic guide to common perennials that are proven through trials, are easily found in the trade, and perform well in Tennessee landscapes. Please note that the cultivar list is not all-inclusive. We have attempted to include the most reliable selections, but not necessarily the newest introductions. This list is evolving, and as newer selections are proven through garden trials across our state, we will amend it to reflect those plants most suited for Tennessee. In order to adequately cover some of the broader categories of herbaceous perennials, specific categories including bulbs, ferns, tropicals, ornamental grasses and grass-like plants are included in separate lists.

How to Read Tables

Knowing plant names and characteristics is important, but the crucial step in successful gardening is placing them in appropriate sites in terms of climate, soil condition and sunlight. This publication provides guidance in those areas to assist gardeners in siting plants for optimal performance and function in the landscape. Plants are ordered alphabetically by scientific name. Common names are also included for ease of reference.

Zone: USDA hardiness zone based on the annual minimum winter temperature <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>

Light Needs:

Sun — site receives at least six hours of direct midday or afternoon sun.

Part Sun — site receives at least four hours of direct sun in any site or up to six hours of morning sun.

Shade — site receives less than four hours of direct sun or filtered/dappled light.

Bloom or Foliage Period: General period of bloom in Tennessee and/or identifies plant specifically as one used for foliage.

Cultivars of Note: Cultivars are in 'quotations', and Series are denoted by bold typeface. (A plant series is essentially a breeding line of plants that retain the same desirable characteristics but in different colors.)

Comments: Lists special attributes, helpful siting information, and design functions in the landscape.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Zone	Size	Light Needs			Bloom or Foliage Period	Cultivars of Note	Comments
				Sun	Part Sun	Shade			
<i>Achillea spp.</i>	Yarrow	3-9	1.5-3'H&W	X	X		June-September	'Coronation Gold' 'Paprika' 'Moonshine'	Drought tolerant. Attracts pollinators and beneficial insects. Cut flower. Some spread.
<i>Agastache spp.</i>	Agastache	4-8	2-4'H 1.5-3'W	X	X		June-September	'Tangerine Dreams' 'Heather Queen' 'Blue Fortune' 'Golden Jubilee' Kudos Series	Requires good drainage, attracts pollinators and hummingbirds, and can be short lived.
<i>Ajuga spp.</i>	Bugleweed	4-9	.5-.75'H 1W	X	X	X	May-June	'Black Scallop' 'Caitlin's Giant' 'Chocolate Chip' 'Dixie Chip'— variegated	Evergreen ground cover. Some cultivars may be short lived.
<i>Amsonia hubrichtii</i>	Arkansas Blue Star	5-8	2.5-3'H 4-5'W	X	X		April-May		Feathery foliage lends great texture to borders. Has golden/copper fall color and tolerates poor dry soil.
<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	Common Blue Star	3-9	2.5-3'H 4-5'W	X	X		April-May	'Blue Ice' 'Storm Cloud'	Wider leaf than Arkansas Blue Star. Has golden fall color and tolerates average to moist soil.

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<i>Anemone hupehensis x hybrida</i>	Japanese Anemone	4-8	1.5-3'H	X	X		August-September	'September Charm' 'Honoine Jobert' 'Whirlwind'	Can be an aggressive spreader in ideal conditions.
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Columbine	3-8	1.5-2.5'H 1.5'W	X	X	X	April-June		Attracts hummingbirds. Short lived, but re-seeds in happy locations. Foliage fades and can disappear in the heat of summer. Leaf miner damage is cosmetic, native.
<i>Aquilegia x hybrida</i>	Columbine	3-8	.5-2'H 1.5'W		X	X	April-June	Songbird Series Barlow Series Origami Series	Attracts hummingbirds. Short lived, but some cultivars re-seed in happy locations. Foliage fades and can disappear in the heat of summer. Leaf miner damage is cosmetic.
<i>Aralia cordata</i>	Japanese Spikenard	3-9	4'H 4'W		X	X	Foliage	'Sun King'	Yellow to chartreuse foliage is a great addition to shady sites. Dies back to the ground in winter. Shrubby appearance in growing season.
<i>Artemisia</i> hybrids	Wormwood	6-8	2.5'H 4'W	X	X		Foliage	'Powis Castle' 'Huntington Garden'	Grown for silvery foliage. Needs good drainage. Prune only after last frost.
<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>	Wormwood	4-9	2-3' H&W	X	X		Foliage August-September	'Silver King' 'Silver Queen'	Grown for silvery foliage and cut flower filler. Aggressive grower and spreader.
<i>Artemisia schmidtiana</i>	Wormwood	3-7	.5-1'H	X	X		Foliage	'Silvermound'	Soft, feathery foliage. Aromatic. Needs good drainage. Best suited to cooler, less humid regions of the state.
<i>Artemisia stelleriana</i>	Wormwood	5-8	1'H	X	X		Foliage	'Silver Bullet' 'Silver Brocade'	Grown for silvery foliage. Habit is trailing but not spreading.
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	4-9	3'H	X	X		Foliage	'Limelight'	Aggressive grower, and spreading.
<i>Arum italicum</i>	Italian Arum	5-9	1-1.5' H&W		X	X	Foliage April-May Red Fruit-summer	'Pictum'	Handsome winter foliage. Has attractive red summer fruit while foliage is dormant. Tolerates heavy shade and wet soil. Can re-seed and become a troublesome spreader.
<i>Aruncus</i> spp.	Goatsbeard	4-7	1.5-6'H			X	May-June	'Misty Lace'	Moist shade. Best suited in cooler regions of Tennessee. Low maintenance.
<i>Asarum splendens</i>	Chinese Wild Ginger	6-9	.5'H		X	X	Foliage	'Quick Silver'	Spreads slowly by rhizomes. Has beautiful silver foliage and is semi-evergreen

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<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	3-9	3-5'H	X	X		June-August	'Cinderella' 'Ice Ballet'	Prefers wet soil. Serves as a host plant for Monarch caterpillars and is known for showy blooms in pink and white. Aphids can be an issue.
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Weed	3-9	1-2.5'H 1-1.5'W	X	X		June-September	'Hello Yellow'	In cultivation and found along roadsides in Tennessee. Tolerates drought. Is a host plant for Monarch caterpillars and is known for showy blooms in orange and yellow. Aphids can be an issue.
<i>Aster tataricus</i>	Tatarian Aster	3-9	3-6'H	X	X		September-October	'Jindai'	Light purple bloom with yellow center. Basal foliage is 1.5 ft tall; bloom stalks are 4-6 ft. tall. Slowly colonizes.
<i>Astilbe spp.</i>	Astilbe	3-8	1-1.5' H&W			X	June-July	'Fanal' 'Amethyst' 'Sentinal' 'Rheinland'	Tolerates heavy shade. Foliage burns up in late summer. Best suited for cool damp sites and can grow under a walnut tree.
<i>Baptisia spp.</i>	False Indigo	3-9	2-5' H&W	X	X		May-June	Blue/purple/ yellow/ white/pink Many cultivars	Tall forms may need staking. Tolerates poor soils and drought. Suitable for rain garden. Native. Has interesting seed pods and unique foliage.
<i>Begonia grandis</i>	Perennial Begonia	6-9	1-1.5' H&W		X	X	Foliage July-October	Pink and white blooms	Prefers moist, rich soil and tolerates heavy shade and walnut trees. Re-seeds/naturalizes gracefully.
<i>Belamcanda chinensis</i>	Blackberry Lily	3-9	1.5-3'H 1-1.5'W	X	X		July-August	Orange flowers with group of dark purple seed heads that resemble blackberries.	Attractive iris-like foliage that has a nice contrast to other perennials. Seed pods are attractive and used for arrangements. Re-seeds.
<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Butterfly Bush			X			June-August	'Black Knight' 'Blue Chip' 'Miss Ruby'	Considered a tender woody perennial in many areas of the state, older cultivars tend to be more hardy. Many new cultivars are being hybridized for compact growth. Good source of nectar for many pollinators. Sterile forms are available in areas where invasiveness is an issue.
<i>Canna spp.</i>	Canna	7-9	4-7'H	X	X		Foliage Summer-Frost	'Bengal Tiger' 'Tropicanna'	Tolerates drought stress and flourishes in wet sites. Should be lifted in winter in wet site. Hardiness is cultivar dependent. Cannova series is seed grown and marginally hardy.

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<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	Hardy False Plumbago	5-9	.75-1'H	X	X		July-Frost		Foliage turns red-orange in the fall and has small, true-blue flowers during the growing season. Has spreading ground cover and likes afternoon shade in hot climates.
<i>Chrysanthemum spp.</i>	Hardy Mums	5-9	1.5-2'H 1-1.5'W	X	X		September -Frost	'Matchsticks' 'Sheffield Pink/Yellow' 'Clara Curtis' 'Ryan's Pink/Yellow' Igloo Series	Needs well-drained soil. Growth is leggy and natural in appearance. Igloo series is compact. These are not to be confused with pot/Belgian mums used for fall color, which are best treated as annuals.
<i>Clematis spp.</i>	Clematis	3-9	Vine	X	X		Spring and fall in cool seasons	'Jackmanii' 'Rooguchi' 'Princess Diana' Many more!	Prefers cool roots shaded from sun in well-drained soil. 'Sweet Autumn' has showy fragrant small white blooms around Labor Day and is an aggressive grower. 'Armandii' is evergreen and mainly grown for foliage. Marginally hardy.
<i>Coreopsis auriculata</i>	Mouse Ear Coreopsis	4-9	1-2'H	X	X		May-June	'Jethro Tull' 'Nana'	Heat tolerant. Attracts butterflies and songbirds.
<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i>	Coreopsis	4-9	2-3'H	X	X		May-July	'Early Sunshine' 'Rising Sun'	Large, deeply cut leaves. Has larger blooms and is a short-lived perennial but re-seeds.
<i>Coreopsis hybrid</i>	Tickseed	4-9	1-1.5'	X			Summer	Uptick Series	Many new exciting forms and color that need to be proven durable. This series offers 'Yellow and Red' and 'Gold and Bronze' as color combination options. Long bloom period and no deadheading required.
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Lanceleaf Coreopsis	4-9	1-2'H 1-1.5'W	X	X		May-July		Can re-seed. Grows in most soil conditions. There are many good varieties for Tennessee, and is hardiest of other species.
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	Threadleaf Coreopsis	4-9	1-2'H	X	X		June-August	'Moonbeam' 'Zagreb'	Short-lived perennial. Does best in cooler regions.
<i>Delphinium</i>	Dephinium	3-6	3-5'H	X			Spring		Not well suited to many parts of Tennessee. The alternative is the re-seeding annual larkspur. See annual seed chart.
<i>Dianthus gratianopolitanus</i>	Cheddar Pinks	6-9	.5' H	X	X		April-June sometimes again in fall	'Firewitch' 'Bath's Pink'	Tolerates deer and poor soil conditions, requires good drainage, has potential for ground cover, and is evergreen.

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<i>Dicentra eximia</i>	Fringed Bleeding Heart	3-9	1-1.5' H&W			X	April-July	'King of Hearts' 'Luxuriant'	Prefers moist, humus soils. Foliage does not go dormant during the summer. Can be short lived. Native. Attracts birds.
<i>Dicentra spectabilis</i>	Common Bleeding Heart	3-9	1.5-2'H			X	Spring	'Gold Heart' 'Alba' 'Valentine'	Old-fashioned bleeding heart. Foliage will disappear in the heat of summer.
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> and hybrids	Coneflower	3-8	2-5'H 1-2'W	X	X		May/June-August	'Magnus' 'White Swan' 'Kim's Knee High' 'Pow Wow Wild Berry' 'Cheyenne Spirit'	Not all hybrids do well in Tennessee. Some can be tender perennials but may re-seed. Needs well-drained soil, deer tolerant, beneficial to wildlife and pollinators, and is short lived but re-seeds.
<i>Epimedium spp.</i>	Barrenwort	5-9	.5-1'H 1-1.5'W			X	Foliage Evergreen	'Sulphureum' Many species	Grows well in dry shade, some forms are truly evergreen, clumping and spreading habit, many species available, underutilized in Tennessee.
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i> var. <i>robbiae</i>	Wood Spurge	6-8	1.5'H .75-1.5'W		X	X	Foliage April-June Chartreuse bracts		Prefers dry, well-drained soil. Spreads. Is useful as a ground cover and is deer resistant. Contact dermatitis to some. Drought tolerant and evergreen.
<i>Euphorbia spp.</i>	Spurge	6-8	3'H	X	X		Foliage	'Tazmanian Tiger' 'Ruby Glow' 'Ascot Rainbow'	Best grown in less humid climates of Tennessee. Contact dermatitis to some. Deer resistant.
<i>Eutrochium dubium</i> (formerly <i>Eupatorium</i>)	Coastal Plain Joe-Pye Weed	4-9	3-4'H	X	X		July-September	'Little Joe'	Straight species are also good garden plants. Butterflies are attracted to this perennial. It tolerates wet soil and can be used in rain gardens.
<i>Eutrochium fistulosum</i> (formerly <i>Eupatorium</i>)	Joe-Pye Weed	4-8	4-7'H	X	X		July-September	'Bartered Bride'	Straight species are also good garden plants. Butterflies are attracted to this perennial. It tolerates wet soil and can be used in rain gardens. 'Bartered Bride' performs better in cooler climates.
<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i> (formerly <i>Eupatorium</i>)	Joe-Pye Weed	4-8	4-7'H	X	X		July-September	'Gateway'	Straight species are also good garden plants. Butterflies are attracted to this perennial. It tolerates wet soil and can be used in rain gardens.

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<i>Eutrochium purpureum</i> (formerly Eupatorium)	Sweet Joe-Pye Weed	4-9	5-9'H	X	X		July-September	'Little Red'	Straight species are also good. Butterflies love this perennial. It tolerates wet soil and can be used in rain gardens.
<i>Gaillardia</i>	Blanket Flower	3-10	1-2'H&W	X	X		June-Frost	Mesa Series Arizona Series 'Goblin' 'Heat it Up'	Short-lived perennial. Re-seeds. Likes well-drained soil, is drought tolerant, and is good for continuous blooms to attract butterflies and pollinators.
<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i>	Wand Flower	5-9	2-3'H&W	X	X		May-September	'Crimson Butterflies' 'Sparkle White' 'Belleza Pink' 'Siskyou Pink'	Native. Attracts pollinators. Straight species are also good garden plants. Tolerates heat and humidity. Performs best in well-drained soil.
<i>Geranium</i> hybrids	Hardy Geranium Cranesbill	4-8	1-2'H	X	X		Summer	'Rozanne' 'Biokovo' 'Dark Reiter' 'Johnson's Blue'	Mounding habit. Tolerates drought and prefers part sun in West Tennessee.
<i>Helianthus angustifolius, tuberosa, maximiliani, and salicifolia</i>	Sunflower	2-11	5-6'H 2-3'W	X	X		August-October		These native perennial sunflowers are best suited for gardens with plenty of room. Has multi-branched, masses of yellow flowers. Suckers from underground rhizomes.
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Oxeye Sunflower	3-9	3-4'H 2-3'W	X	X		June-August	'Summer Sun' 'Sunburst'	Tolerant of poor soils and drought. Attracts butterflies.
<i>Helleborus</i> hybrids	Lenten Rose	4-9	1-1.5' H&W			X	February-May		Evergreen foliage. Often short lived in the Southeast. Prefers moist, well-drained soil and is deer and vole resistant. Many cultivars are still under evaluation.
<i>Helleborus orientalis</i>	Lenten Rose	4-9	1-1.5' H&W			X	February-May		Evergreen foliage. Long lived. Prefers moist, well-drained soil and is deer and vole resistant. Will re-seed and naturalize.
<i>Hemerocallis</i>	Daylilies	3-10	1-6'H	X	X		June-September		There are enough cultivars to have blooms all season; some re-bloom. It is a reliable perennial for Tennessee. <i>Will be addressed in an additional chart.</i>

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<i>Heuchera</i> hybrids	Coral Bells	4-9	1-2'H .5-1'W		X	X	Foliage	'Caramel' 'Citronelle' 'Autumn Bride' 'Delta Dawn' 'Frosted Violet'	Voiles are attracted to this perennial. Many colorful foliage cultivars are available. Not all are hardy in Tennessee, but <i>H. villosa</i> hybrids provide heat tolerance. Likes well-drained soil. Colorful foliage can withstand more light. Can be short lived.
<i>Heucherella</i> spp.	Foamy Bells	4-9	1-1.5' H&W		X	X	Foliage May-June	'Alabama Sunrise' 'Fire Frost' 'Stoplight' 'Solar Power'	Short bloom period, attracts butterflies, has good fall color, needs well-drained soil, and prefers more moisture than <i>Heuchera</i> . Short lived.
<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>	Scarlett Rosemallow	5-9	7-10'H	X	X		Foliage July-October	Bloom usually red. Alba is a white form.	Tall, airy form, with bold foliage. Prefers average to wet soils. Has beautiful red blooms in summer.
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> and hybrids	Hardy Hibiscus	5-9	3-6' H&W	X	X		Foliage July-October	Summerific Series 'Moy Grande' 'Fire Ball'	Bold foliage provides contrast and interest. This species has the largest sized blooms.
<i>Hosta</i>	Hosta	3-8	.25-3'H .5-5'W		X	X	Foliage	<i>Refer to local Hosta societies</i>	Tolerates many soil types. Voiles like to eat the roots. Many sizes, shapes, patterns, and foliage colors are available making this a versatile addition to shady landscapes. <i>Hosta</i> are addressed in more detail in a separate publication.
<i>Iris cristata</i>	Crested Iris	3-8	.5'H		X	X	Spring	'Alba' 'Tennessee White'	Native, woodland ground cover suitable for shade. Is good for spring color and has a blue bloom.
<i>Iris hybrida</i>	Louisiana Hybrids	4-9	2-4'H	X	X		Spring		Prefers wet sites and can tolerate average moisture. Colors vary and include red.
<i>Iris hybrida</i>	Bearded Iris	3-10	1.5-3'H	X	X		Spring	<i>Refer to iris society award winners</i>	Requires good drainage and dividing to encourage good bloom. Great cut flower. <i>Iris germanica</i> is considered the father of modern bearded iris cultivars. Purple iris (bearded) in general is recognized as Tennessee's state-cultivated flower.
<i>Iris pallida</i>	Sweet Iris	4-9	2-4'H	X	X		Foliage Spring	'Argentea-variegata' 'Variegata'	Best used for attractive variegated foliage. Has blue blooms and a sweet fragrance.

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<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag	5-9	2-3'H	X	X		Summer	'Variegata' 'Rising Sun'	Aggressive in wet soils. Can be controlled better in drier soils. Blooms yellow.
<i>Iris siberica</i>	Siberian Iris	3-9	2-3'H	X	X		Foliage Spring	'Butter and Sugar' 'Ceaser's Brother'	Has attractive grassy foliage, tolerates wet soil, and blooms in white, blue and yellow.
<i>Iris tectorum</i>	Roof Iris	4-8	1-1.5'H 2-3'W	X	X		Foliage Early summer		Handsome evergreen foliage. Clumpy habit. Blue and white blooms.
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue Flag	3-9	2-2.5' H&W	X	X		Spring		Will naturalize to form colonies particularly in wet sites, which it prefers. Blooms blue.
<i>Lavendula</i>	Lavender	5-8	2-3'H&W	X			June-August	'Phenomenal'	Perfect drainage and air flow for ideal siting. Does not like humid weather.
<i>Leucanthemum x superbum</i>	Shasta Daisy	5-9	1-3'H	X	X		June-September	'Alaska' 'Becky'	Likes well-drained soil, spreads slowly, and can be divided.
<i>Liatris spp.</i>	Liatris	3-9	2-3'H 1'W	X	X		July-August	'Kobold'	Native. Needs well-drained soil, is attractive to pollinators, has good vertical shape in the garden, and is a great cut flower.
<i>Lysmachia spp.</i>	Creeping Jenny	3-9	Up to .5'H Spreads	X	X		Foliage Evergreen	'Aurea' grown for chartreuse foliage	Trails in the container or garden. Evergreen but foliage is bronzed in winter. Use with caution near wetlands because of spreading nature.
<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Bee Balm	4-9	2-4'H 2-3'W	X	X		June-August	'Jacob Kline' 'Raspberry Wine' 'Fireball'	Attractive to hummingbirds and pollinators. Has unusual bloom shape in the garden. Look for mildew-resistant cultivars. Spreading.
<i>Nepeta racemosa</i>	Catnip	3-7	2-3'H&W	X	X		May-September	'Walker's Low'	Pollinators and cats like this plant.
<i>Oxalis spp.</i>	Oxalis	5-9	.5-1'H&W		X	X	May-June		Low maintenance and can be difficult to get rid of after it establishes in an area. Purple-leafed variety is most popular. Some are marginally hardy.
<i>Paeonia hybrids</i>	Peony	4-8	2.5-4' H&W		X	X	March-May		Showy bloom. Some are very fragrant. Needs good drainage. Plant shallowly. Deer resistant and can be extremely long lived.

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<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Beard Tongue	3-8	2-3'H	X	X		May-July	'Huskers Red'	Native, drought tolerant.
<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	Russian Sage	5-9	2-4'H&W	X			Foliage July-October	'Blue Spire' 'Filigran' Compact Selections 'Little Spire' 'Lacy Blue'	Low maintenance, attracts pollinators, requires excellent drainage, not tolerant of heavy clay soil, and drought tolerant. Don't cut back until after danger of frost has passed in the spring. Does not prefer our humidity.
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Woodland Phlox	3-8	1-1.5'H	X	X	X	Early Spring	'Blue Moon'	Native woodland plant. Can perform in full sun as well. Fragrant and butterflies like it. There are also white forms. The bloom period is short.
<i>Phlox</i> hybrids	Phlox	Variable	Various	X	X		May-June	'Minnie Pearl' 'Wanda'	Wanda is long blooming. Mounding form. New hybrids are being developed.
<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Garden Phlox	4-8	3-5'H	X	X		June-August	'David' 'Peacock White' 'Robert Poore'	Look for mildew resistance.
<i>Phlox stolonifera</i>	Creeping phlox	2-8	.5-1'H 1-1.5'W	X	X		Spring	'Blue Ridge' 'Sherwood Purple'	Native, ground cover.
<i>Phlox subulata</i>	Creeping Phlox/Thrift	2-8	.5'H	X	X		March-April	'Blue Emerald' 'Drummonds Pink' 'Snowflake'	Tolerates clay soil, fragrant, spreading, seen often on slopes, drought tolerant, and native.
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	Obedient Plant	2-9	2-3'H 2-3'W	X	X		June-September	'Vivid' 'Miss Manners' 'Pink Manners' 'Crystal Peak White'	Tolerates clay soil and deer. Attracts hummingbirds. Spreading.
<i>Polygonatum odoratum thunbergii</i>	Solomon's Seal	3-8	2-3'H .5-1'W		X	X	April-May	'Varigatum'	Tolerates poor and wet soils.
<i>Pulmonaria longifolia</i>	Lungwort	3-8	.75-1'H 1.5-2'W			X	April	'Raspberry Splash' 'Trevi Fountain' 'Diana Clare'	Tolerates deer and heavy shade. Low maintenance when established. Longifolia and its hybrids are the most heat tolerant.
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	Rudbeckia	3-8	2-3'H 2'W	X	X		June-October	'Goldstrum' 'Little Gold Star'	Re-seeds and multiplies in clumps. Can become weedy. Beautiful, native and beneficial to birds.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Zone	Size	Light Needs			Bloom or Foliage Period	Cultivars of Note	Comments
				Sun		Shade			
<i>Rudbeckia subtomentosa</i>	Sweet Coneflower	5-8	3-5' H	X	X		Late summer	'Henry Eilers' 'Little Henry'	Borders. Native plant gardens, Good cut flower and beneficial to birds.
<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	Brown-Eyed Susan	3-10	2-3' H	X	X		Late summer		Borders. Native plant gardens. Good cut flower and beneficial to birds.
<i>Ruellia simplex</i>	Mexican Petunia	7-10	3-4'H	X	X		Summer		Marginally hardy in zone 7. Thrives in moist soils, tolerates high heat and humidity, re-seeds and multiplies by rhizomes. Prevent naturalization in wild areas.
<i>Salvia greggii</i>	Atumn Sage	7-10	2-3'H 3-4'W	X	X		Summer through fall	'Furman's Red' 'Lipstick' 'Pink Preference' 'Wild Thing'	Needs well-drained soils. Shrubby and woody. Can be evergreen. Prune if scraggly. Attracts pollinators and hummingbirds. Has long bloom season and blooms in pink, red, purple and white.
<i>Salvia guaranitica</i>	Blue Anise Sage	7-10	2-5'H 3-4'W	X	X		Summer	'Black and Blue'	Attracts hummingbirds. Not perennial in colder parts of Tennessee. Blue blooms.
<i>Salvia leucantha</i>	Mexican Bush Sage	7-10	4-5'H&W	X	X		Fall	'Midnight' 'Santa Barbara'	Prefers good drainage, especially in winter. Marginally hardy in West to Middle TN, and generally not hardy in the Eastern regions. Velvety textured purple blooms with white tips in the late fall.
<i>Salvia nemorosa</i>	Violet Sage	4-8	1-2'H	X	X		Summer	'May Night' 'New Dimension Rose'	Prefers dry soil. 'May Night' has an early and short bloom period. Re-blooming series like Lyrical and Profusion are being developed and trialed. Drought and deer resistant. Blooms in purple, pink and white.
<i>Salvia uliginosa</i>	Bog Sage	6-9	5'H	X	X		Summer		Sprawling and aggressive. Attracts pollinators.
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	Gray Santolina, Lavendar Cotton	6-8	1-2'H 2'W	X			Foliage Evergreen July-August	'Nana'	Known more for its evergreen foliage color, texture and scent. Has yellow blooms, does not like humidity, prefers dry-medium soil and excellent drainage. Well suited for xeriscape/rock gardens.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Zone	Size	Light Needs			Bloom or Foliage Period	Cultivars of Note	Comments
				Sun	Part Sun	Shade			
<i>Santolina rosmarinifolia</i>	Green Santolina	7-8	1-2'H 2'W	X			Foliage Evergreen July- August		Known more for its evergreen foliage, color, texture and scent. Yellow blooms. Does not like humidity, prefers dry-medium soil and excellent drainage. Well suited for xeriscape/rock gardens.
<i>Sedum kamtschaticum</i>	Stonecrop	3-8	.5-.75'H	X	X		Foliage Semi- Evergreen Late summer	'Weinhenstephaner Gold'	Requires excellent drainage. Has showier flowers than most. Yellow blooms. Semi-evergreen.
<i>Sedum pallidum var. bithynicum</i>	Stonecrop	3-8	.5'H	X	X		Foliage Early summer		Spreading ground cover. Needs dry sites. Has yellow blooms.
<i>Sedum reflexum</i>	Spruce Sedum	3-9	.25-.5'H	X	X		Foliage	'Blue Spruce'	Beautiful blue foliage and is an excellent ground cover.
<i>Sedum rupestre</i>	Stonecrop	5-8	.25-.5'H	X	X		Foliage Evergreen	'Angelina'	Colorful foliage changing in winter.
<i>Sedum spectabile</i>	Stonecrop	4-9	1-2'H	X	X		Late summer- fall	'Autumn Joy' Many other cultivars	Fall blooms in pink. Long lived.
<i>Sedum takesimense</i>	Takeshima Stonecrop	4-8	.5-.75'H	X	X		Foliage	'Atlantis' variegated	Excellent clumping habit. Requires good drainage.
<i>Sedum tetractinum</i>	Chinese Sedum	5-8	.25-.5'H	X	X		Foliage	'Coral Reef'	Excellent ground cover. Highly adaptable to varying soil types.
<i>Sempervivum</i>	Hen and Chicks	3-7	.25-.5'H	X	X		Foliage	Numerous cultivars	Tolerates drought and poor soil; prefers rocky well-drained soil. Evergreen succulent. Great for containers as well. Prefers cooler parts of Tennessee.
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Autumn Goldenrod	3-9	4-5'H	X	X		August – October	'Golden Baby' 'Little Lemon'	Tolerates drought and poor soil. Deer tolerant, has yellow blooms, attracts bees and butterflies, sticks to mannerly cultivars, and natives are aggressive.
<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	Roughleaf Goldenrod	4-8	2-4'H	X	X		Late summer	'Fireworks'	Showy yellow flowers. Great for pollinators late in the season. Tolerates dry, damp and clay soil and spreads and re-seeds.
<i>Solidago sphacelata</i>	Autumn Goldenrod	4-8	1-2'H	X	X		Late summer	'Golden Fleece'	Showy yellow blooms. Great for fall color and pollinators late in the season.

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<i>Spigelia marilandica</i>	Indian Pink	5-9	1-2'H	X	X	X	Spring-summer		Native, beautiful flower and attracts hummingbirds. Blooms red with yellow throat.
<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	Lamb's Ear	4-8	.75-1.5'H	X	X		Foliage Summer	'Helen Von Stein' (aka 'Big Ears')	Grown for fuzzy leaves. Nice color contrast in the perennial garden as ground cover. Blooms purple/pink, needs well-drained soils, and is drought tolerant.
<i>Stachys monieri</i>	Betony	4-9	1.5-2'H		X		Foliage Late summer	'Humello'	2019 PPA Plant of the Year. Underutilized, needs moist well-drained soil, performs best in afternoon shade in the south, and blooms rose violet.
<i>Stokesia laevis</i>	Stokes Aster	5-9	1-2'H	X	X		Late spring-early summer	'Blue Danube' 'Peachie's Pick'	Native, drought and heat resistant, needs moist well-drained soil, can have evergreen foliage in winter, and is a good cut flower.
<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae and novi-belgii</i>	Asters	3-9	.5-6'H .5-5'W	X	X		September - November	'English Countryside' 'Purple Dome' 'Woods Dwarf'	Likes well-drained soil and is drought tolerant. Some new hybrids are tender perennials. Blooms in shades of purple, blue, white and pink with yellow centers.
<i>Symphotrichum oblongifolium</i>	Aromatic Aster	3-8	3'H&W	X	X		October - December	'October Skies' 'Raydons Favorite'	Late blooms attract native pollinators. Blooms in shades of blue and purple with yellow centers.
<i>Tiarella spp.</i>	Foam Flower	4-9	.5-1' H&W			X	Foliage April-June	'Sugar and Spice' 'Spring Symphony'	Good leaf color in fall.
<i>Tradescantia spp.</i>	Spiderwort	4-9	1.5-3'H 1-1.5'W	X	X		May-July	'Morning Grace' 'Blue and Gold' 'Sweet Kate'	Nice foliage contrast in perennial garden. Can tolerate wet sites. Spreading can be weedy.
<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>	Trillium	4-8	1-1.5'H .75-1'W			X	March-April		Good in a wooded setting. Has nice spring color in the woods.
<i>Verbena bonariensis</i>	Tall Verbena	7-11	2-4'H	X	X		June-Frost	'Meteor Shower'	Airy branched stems, short lived, re-seeds freely, and is attractive to pollinators.
<i>Verbena canadensis</i>	Rose Vervain	6-10	.75-1.5'H	X	X		Spring-Fall	'Homestead Purple' 'Snow Flurry' 'Kathy's Kandy'	Native, good for pollinators. Newer cultivars offer clumping and spreading habit along with longer flowering season. Blooms in purple, pink and white.

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				Sun	Part Sun	Shade			
<i>Verbena rigida</i>	Ridged Verbena	7-10	1-1.5'H	X	X		Summer-frost		Ground cover. Heat and drought tolerant. Spreads by rhizomes, and can be aggressive.
<i>Vernonia lettermanii</i>	Slimleaf Ironweed	4-9	2-3'H 3'W	X	X		Foliage Late summer	'Iron Butterfly'	Native. Drought tolerant. Performs best in poor unirrigated soils. Has fabulous airy, fine textured foliage and purple flowers that are attractive to pollinators.
<i>Veronica umbrosa</i>	Speedwell	6-9	.5-.75'H Spreading	X	X		Spring	'Georgia Blue' Moody Blue Series	Ground cover. Great complement to early-season bulbs. Likes well-drained soil, is perfect for rock gardens and borders, and blooms blue.



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