

Perennial Garden Flower Trials – 1999-2003

University of Kentucky Horticulture Research Farm

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Annual and perennial garden flowers have been evaluated for many years at the University of Kentucky. Trials have occurred at the University of Kentucky Arboretum since 1993. These trials were expanded at the Horticulture Research Farm in 1999 and 2000 with grants from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the Kentuckiana Greenhouse Association. Grants from the USDA New Crop Opportunities Center allowed expansion of the trials to over 20,000 square feet of trial gardens in Lexington.

The collection of perennials in our on-going trials continues to expand. We have nearly 1100 individual plants in the perennial trials with more than 175 species and cultivars in the plots at the Horticulture Research Farm in Lexington. Our trials include the Perennial Plants of the Year from the Perennial Plant Association and Kentucky native plants. We now have four years experience with some so our ratings have many observations. However, our ratings should be used only as a guide to determine which perennials you might sell or use in Kentucky landscapes. In general, those that have grown well for two or more seasons are marked as highly recommended (++), recommended (+), or did not perform well on our site or were not hardy (-), those unmarked need more time to determine a rating.

Photos and details about plant performance are continually added to the Kentucky Garden Flowers web site: <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Horticulture/gardenflowers> or simply go to the UK home page (www.uky.edu) and search for a plant name and you will be directed to the Kentucky Garden Flowers location.

Mexican Hyssop

Agastache 'Tutti Frutti' ('01-'02) (-)

Russian Hollyhock

Alcea rugosa ('03)

Amsonia

Amsonia hubrechtii ('01-'03) (++)

Amsonia tabernaemontana 'Blue Star' ('03) [KY NATIVE]

Artemisia

Artemisia absinthium 'Huntington Gardens' ('01) (-)

Artemisia vulgaris 'Oriental Limelight' ('03)

Aster

Aster apellus 'Triumph' ('00-'03) (-), *Aster azureus* ('03) – Sky Blue Aster [KY NATIVE], *Aster laevis* 'Bluebird' ('00-'03) (++) , *Aster latiflorus* 'Prince' ('00-'03) (-), *Aster novi-belgii* 'Celeste' ('01-'03)(-), *Aster novi-belgii* 'Purple Monarch' ('01-'03) (-), *Aster novi-belgii* 'Snow Cushion' ('00-'03) (-), *Aster novi-belgii* 'White Swan' ('00-'03) (++) , *Aster novi-belgii*

'Winston Churchill' ('01-'03) (-), *Aster novi-belgii* 'Woods Purple' ('00-'03) (+), *Aster x frikartii* 'Monch' ('00-'03) (+), *Aster oblongifolius* ('03) [KY NATIVE], *Aster oblongifolius* 'Raydon's Favorite' ('02-'03) (++) , *Aster simplex* ('03) – Panicled Aster [KY NATIVE], *Aster tongolensis* 'Wartburg Star' ('03) – Star Aster, *Kalimeris mongolica* ('01-'03) (++) , *Kalimeris mongolica* 'Variegata' ('00-'03) (++)

Astilbe

Astilbe 'Sprite' ('00-'03) (++)

Columbine

Aquilegia x hybrida 'Rose w/White Edge' ('02-'03), 'Songbird Cardinal' ('02-'03), 'Winky Red & White' ('02-'03)

Indigo

Baptisia leucophaea ('03) [KY NATIVE], *Baptisia pendula* ('01-'03) [KY NATIVE], *Baptisia sphaerocarpa* ('03) [KY NATIVE]

Willowleaf Oxeye

Bupthalam salicifolium 'Sun Wheels' ('00-'03) (-)

English Daisy

Bellis perennis 'Galaxy Rose' ('02-'03), 'Rose Border' ('02-'03), 'Tasso Strawberry & Cream' ('02-'03)

Feather Reed Grass

Calamagrostis acutifolia 'Karl Foerster' ('00-'03) (++) , *Calamagrostis acutifolia* 'Overdam', ('02-'03) (++) - Variegated Feather Reed Grass, *Calamagrostis brachytricha*, ('03) (++) - Korean Feather Reed Grass

River Oats, Northern Sea Oats

Chasmanthium latifolium ('00-'03) (++) [KY NATIVE]

Garden Mums

Ajania pacificum 'Pink Ice' ('00-'03) (++) ,
Chrysanthemum 'Hillside Pink' ('01-'03) (+),
Chrysanthemum yezoense ('00-'03) (+),
Dendranthema rubellum 'Clara Curtis' ('00-'03) (+),
Dendranthema rubellum 'Mary Stoker' ('00-'03) (+)

Shasta Daisy

Chrysanthemum (Leucanthemum) x superbum
'Becky' ('02-'03) (++) , 'Thomas Killen' ('03)

Cumberland Rosemary

Conradina verticillata ('02-'03) (+) [KY NATIVE]

Coreopsis

Coreopsis 'Tequila Sunrise' ('01-'03), *Coreopsis grandiflora* 'Domino' ('02-'03) (+), *Coreopsis grandiflora* 'Early Sunrise' ('02-'03) (+), *Coreopsis lanceolata* 'Baby Sun' ('02-'03) (+) - Lanceleaf
Coreopsis rosea 'American Dream' ('01-'03) (+) 'Sweet Dreams' ('03), *Coreopsis tripteris* ('03) – Tall Coreopsis [KY NATIVE], *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam' ('00-'03) (++) , 'Zagreb' ('03) – Threadleaf Coreopsis

Montbretia

Crocsmia crocosmiifolia 'Venus' ('00-'03) (-)

Pinks

Dianthus 'Brilliant Star' ('03), 'Sarah' ('03), *Dianthus allwoodii* 'Doris' ('02-'03), 'Frosty Fire' ('02-'03), 'Helen' ('03) - Allwood Pink, *Dianthus caryophyllus* 'Rosie Cheeks' ('03), 'Ruby's Tuesday' ('03), *Dianthus deltoides* 'Brilliant' ('01-'03) (++) , 'Zing Rose' ('03) - Maiden Pink, *Dianthus gratianopolitanus* 'Bath's Pink' ('02-'03) (++) , 'Spotty' ('03) - Cheddar Pink

Cone Flower

Echinacea pallida ('00-'03) (+) [KY NATIVE],
Echinacea paradoxa ('00-'03) (+) [KY NATIVE],
Echinacea purpurea ('00-'03) (++) [KY NATIVE],
Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus' ('00-'03) (++) ,

Echinacea simulata ('00-'03) (+) [KY NATIVE],

Echinacea tennesseensis ('00-'03) (++)

Silver Prairie Grass

Erianthus alopecuroides ('00-'03) [KY NATIVE]

Oregon Fleabane

Erigeron 'Azure Fairy' ('00-'03) (-)

Hardy Ageratum

Eupatorium coelestinum ('01-'03) (++) [KY NATIVE]

Joe Pye Weed

Eupatorium maculatum ('00-'03) (++) [KY NATIVE],

Eupatorium maculatum 'Carin' ('02-'03) (++) ,

Eupatorium maculatum 'Gateway' ('02-'03) (++)

Spurge

Euphorbia dulchis 'Chameleon' ('03)

Hardy Fuchsia

Fuchsia magellanica 'Ricartonii' ('02) (-)

Blanket Flower

Gaillardia grandiflora 'Summer's Kiss' ('03)

Wand Flower

Gaura lindheimeri 'Siskiyou Pink' ('01-'02) (-)

Gazania

Gazania linearis 'Colorado Gold' ('03)

Cranesbill, Hardy Geranium

Geranium 'Dusky Rose' ('00-'03), *Geranium cantabrigiense* 'Blokova' ('00-'03), *Geranium cantabrigiense* 'Karmina' ('00-'03), *Geranium cinereum* 'Ballerina' ('00-'03), *Geranium clarkei* 'Kasmir Purple' ('00-'03), *Geranium maculata* 'Claridge Druce' ('00-'03), *Geranium phaeum* 'Samobor' ('00-'03)

Sneezeweed

Helenium 'Blutentisch' ('03), 'Coppella' ('00-'03) (+), *Helenium autumnale* ('03) [KY NATIVE]

Sun Rose

Helianthemum 'Annabel' ('01-'03) (++) ,

Helianthemum nummularium 'Dazzler' ('03), 'Double Red' ('01-'03)

Sunflower

Helianthus angustifolius ('03) [KY NATIVE], 'Gold Lace' ('02-'03) (++) - Swamp Sunflower, *Helianthus helianthoides* ('03) – Oxeyed Sunflower [KY NATIVE], *Helianthus mollis* ('00-'03) (+) - Downy Sunflower [KY NATIVE], *Helianthus occidentalis* ('03) – Western Sunflower [KY NATIVE], *Heliopsis* 'Lorraine Sunshine' ('00-'03) (++) - False Sunflower

Daylily

Hemerocallis 'Stella d'Oro' ('01-'03) (++)

Alum Root, Coral Bells

Heuchera 'Amber Waves' ('03), 'Amethyst Mist' ('03), 'Purple Petticoats' ('03), *Heuchera x brizoides* 'Bressingham Hybrid' ('01-'03) (+), *Heuchera*

micrantha 'Palace Purple' (++) ('00-'03), *Heuchera sanguinea* 'Canyon Pink' ('03), *Splendens* ('03)

Garden Hibiscus

Hibiscus moscheutos 'Disco Bell Pink' ('00-'03) (++) , 'Disco White' ('00-'03) (++) , 'Kilimanjaro Red' ('01-'03) (++) , 'Lord Baltimore' ('03), 'Ranier Red' ('01-'03) (++) , 'Mauna Kea' ('01-'03) (++) , 'Etna Pink' ('01-'03) (++) , 'Matterhorn' ('01-'03) (++)

Crepe Myrtle

Lagerstroemia indica 'Supersonic Mix' ('02-'03) (++)

Tree Mallow

Lavatera thuringiaca 'Barnsley' ('03)

Liatris

Liatris aspera ('03) [KY NATIVE]

Acidsoil Lithodora

Lithodora diffusa 'Grace Ward' ('03)

Statice

Limonium latifolia ('00-'03) (+)

Lobelia

Lobelia speciosa 'Fan Burgundy' ('01-'03) (+)

Maltese Cross

Lychnis coronaria 'Angel Blush' ('01-'03) (+),

Lychnis flos-jovis nana 'Peggy' ('01-'03) (-)

Marshallia

Marshallia grandiflora ('02-'03) (+) - Barbara's buttons [KY NATIVE], *Marshallia mohrrii* ('02-'03) (+)[KY NATIVE]

Maiden Grass

Miscanthus sinensis 'Morning Light' ('01-'03) (++)

Bee Balm

Monarda didyma 'Fireball' ('02-'03) - Petite Bee Balm, 'Jacob Cline' ('01-'03), 'Marshall's Delight' ('01-'03), 'Pink Supreme' ('02-'03) - Petite Bee Balm, 'Prairie Night' ('03) (All cultivars severely infected with powdery mildew)

Catmint

Calamintha nepeta 'White Cloud' ('02-'03) (+) - Savory Calamint, *Nepeta* 'Dawn to Dusk' ('00-'03) (++) , *Nepeta* 'Subsessilis' ('00-'03) (++) , *Nepeta faassenii* 'Six Hills Giant' ('00-'03) (++) , 'Walker's Low' ('02-'03) (++)

Evening Primrose

Oenothera macrocarpa ('03)

Ornamental Oregano

Origanum laevigatum 'Herrenhausen' ('01-'03) (++)

Wild Quinine

Parthenium integrifolium ('00-'03) (++)[KY NATIVE]

Fountain Grass

Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Hameln' ('01-'03) (++)

Beard Tongue

Penstemon barbatus 'Prairie Dusk' ('01-'03), *Penstemon digitalis* 'Husker Red' ('00-'03) (++) , *Penstemon fruticosus* 'Purple Haze' ('01-'03)

Russian Sage

Perovskia atriplicifolia ('00-'03) (++) , 'Filagran' ('03), 'Little Spire' ('02-'03) (++) , 'Longin' ('03)

Fleeceflower

Persicaria amplexicaule 'Firetail' ('01-'03) (+), *Persicaria bistorta* 'Superbum' ('01-'03) (-)

Garden Phlox

Phlox maculata 'Miss Lingard' ('00-'03) (++) , 'Natasha' ('00-'03) (++) , *Phlox paniculata* 'Becky Towe' ('03), 'David' ('02-'03) (++) , 'Jill' ('02-'03) (++) , 'Margie' ('02-'03) (++) , 'Nicky' ('02-'03) (++) , 'Robert Poore' ('02-'03) (++) , *Phlox pilosa* 'Eco Happy Traveller' ('02-'03) (-) - Downy Phlox

Coneflower

Ratidiba columnifera 'Mexican Hat' ('00-'03) (++) , *Ratidiba pinnata* ('03) [KY NATIVE]

Black Eye Susan, Cone Flower

Rudbeckia fulgida ('03) [KY NATIVE], *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *fulgida* ('02-'03) (++) , *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivanti* 'Goldsturm' ('00-'03) (++) , *Rudbeckia hirta* ('03) - Black Eye Susan [KY NATIVE], 'Autumn Colors' ('03), 'Cordoba' ('03), 'Goldilocks' ('03), 'Indian Summer' ('03), 'Prairie Sun' ('03), 'Sonora' ('03), 'Toto Gold' ('03), 'Toto Lemon' ('03), 'Toto Rustic' ('03), (all cultivars of *Rudbeckia hirta* are best considered annuals) *Rudbeckia laciniata* 'Herbstonne' ('02-'03) (++) - Cutleaf Cone Flower, *Rudbeckia occidentalis* 'Black Beauty' ('02-'03) (+), *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* ('00-'03) (++) - Sweet Black Eye Susan [KY NATIVE], *Rudbeckia triloba* ('00-'03) (++) - Brown Eye Susan [KY NATIVE]

Meadow Sage

Salvia 'Blue Hill' ('00-'03) (+), 'Blue Queen' ('00-'03) (+), 'May Night' ('00-'03) (++) , 'Blue Hill' ('00-'03) (+), 'Snow Hill' ('00-'03) (+), *Salvia lyrata* 'Burgundy Bliss' ('00-'03) (-)

Pincushion Flower

Scabiosa caucasica 'Perfecta Alba' ('00-'03) (+), *Scabiosa columbaria* 'Butterfly Blue' ('00-'03), 'Pink Mist (+)' ('00-'03)

Kaffir Lily

Schizostylis coccinea ('00-'03) (-)

Sedum

Sedum spectabile 'Autumn Joy' ('00-'03) (++) , 'Brilliant' ('00-'03) (++) , 'Stardust' ('02-'03) (++) , *Sedum spurium* 'Vera Jameson' ('00-'03) (++)

Rosinweed

Silphium integrifolium ('03) [KY NATIVE]

Cup Plant

Silphium perfoliatum ('03) [KY NATIVE]

Goldenrod

Solidago rugosa 'Fireworks' ('02-'03) (++)

Meadowsweet

Spirea latifolia ('00-'03) (++) [KY NATIVE]

Prairie Dropseed

Sporobolus heterolepis ('02-'03) (++) [KY NATIVE]

Stokes Aster

Stokesia laevis 'Blue Danube' ('00-'03) (-), 'Klaus Jellito' ('00-'03), 'Mary Gregory' ('00-'03) (-), 'Omega Skyrocket' ('03), 'Purple Parasols' ('00-'03), 'Silver Moon' (-) ('00-'03)

Mulleins

Verbascum 'Helen Johnson' ('00-'03) (-), *Verbascum* 'Jackie' ('00-'03) (-)

Speedwells

Veronica 'Fascination' ('00-'03) (++) , *Veronica* 'Giles van Hess' ('00-'03), *Veronica* 'Goodness Grows' ('00-'03) (+), *Veronica* 'Royal Candles' ('03), *Veronica* 'Spring Dew' ('02-'03), *Veronica* 'Waterperry' ('01-'03) (+), *Veronica* 'White Jolanda' ('00-'03) (++) , *Veronica alpinia* 'Alba' ('01-'03) (++) , *Veronica austriaca* 'Crater Lake Blue' ('00-'03), 'Trehane' ('03) *Veronica longifolia* 'Sunny Border Blue' ('00-'03) (++) , *Veronica peduncularis* 'Georgia Blue' ('01-'03) (+), *Veronica spicata* 'Blue Carpet' ('02-'03) (+), 'Icicle' ('00-'03) (+), 'Noah Williams' ('00-'03), 'Red Fox' ('00-'03) (+), 'Rose' ('02-'03) (+), 'Sightseeing' ('02-'03) (+)

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