

PLANTS FOR TENNESSEE LANDSCAPES: SEED GROWN FLOWERS FOR THE GARDEN

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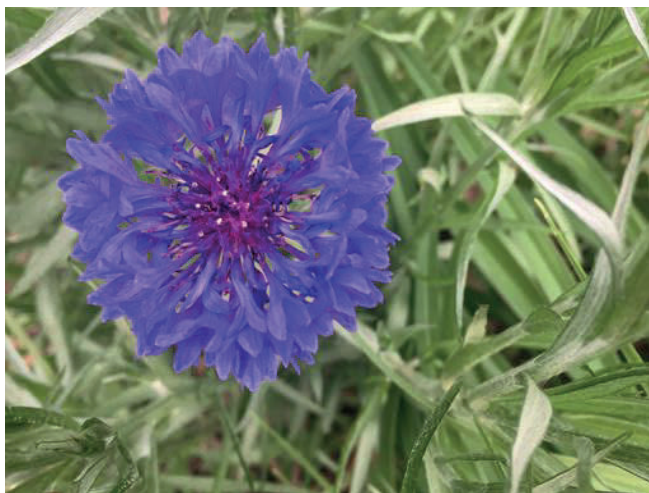
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Introduction

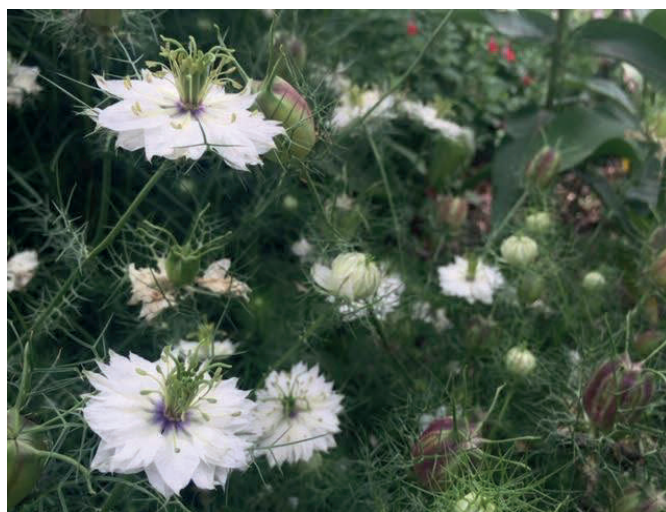
Growing ornamental plants by seed is a tradition cherished by many Tennessee gardeners. These plants passed along by friends and family hold a special place in the home garden and in our memories. This list strives to include as many of these treasured heirloom pass-along plants as possible, as well as those considered to be traditional and proven favorites. As new varieties and cultivars prove themselves in Tennessee growing conditions, this list will evolve and grow over time.



Centaurea cyanus, a cool season annual commonly called bachelors button or cornflower, is easily grown by direct seeding in Tennessee home gardens.

Seed Versus Transplant

This publication spotlights plants that are easily grown from seed and known for their stellar performance in Tennessee home gardens. However, many of these plants are often absent from local garden centers. Some do not transplant well, and others are not particularly attractive in cell packs, which ultimately effects salability and justifies their absence. Thus, these plants are separated from those in UT Extension publication “Plants for Tennessee Landscapes: Annuals and Biennials W 874-A”, which focuses on annuals that are easily sourced at garden centers.



Nigella damascena, Love-in-a-mist is a welcome addition to a cottage garden edging.

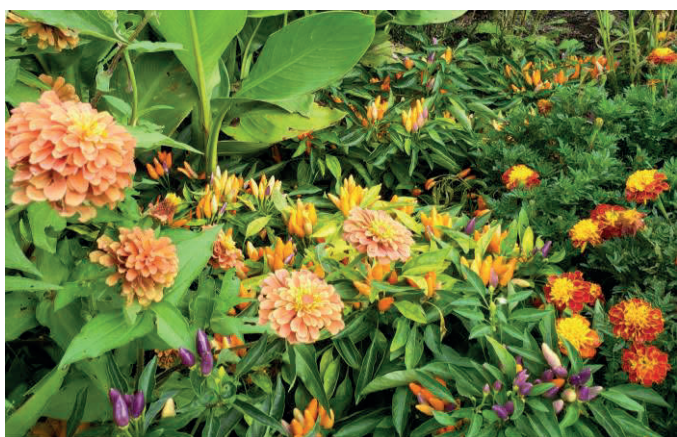
Source seeds from seed catalogues, garden centers or fellow gardeners who are eager to share. Some of the harder to find cultivars might require a search for companies or social media groups that specialize in heirlooms, new market arrivals and specialty niches.

About the List

Plants are organized in alphabetical order by scientific name, and the most widely accepted common names are also listed.

The list is predominately composed of annuals easily grown from seed, but some biennials and perennials are also included and noted in the comments column. Please refer to side bar for more detailed information on these plant groupings. Growing requirements, plant attributes and common uses will also be found in the comments column. The Direct Sow column indicates those plants that do well, or even best, when directly sown in the ground or allowed to reseed in place. Others prefer to be started indoors, and some are adapted to either method! For more tips on starting seed indoors check out UT Extension publication “The Tennessee Vegetable Garden: Garden Planning, Plant Preparation and Planting W 346-B.”

Though seed starting can require attention to soil temperature, lighting, depth, scarification and stratification, don't be intimidated. This guide promotes those easier plants to grow from seed that will provide colorful and budget friendly additions to the Tennessee home garden.



Mixed annual border at the UT Gardens, Jackson located at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center.



Sulfur cosmos, *Cosmos sulphureus*, add height and movement to the landscape.

Botanical Terms Simplified

Annuals complete their life cycle in a single growing season. They germinate, flower and set seed before dying. Some plants we treat as annuals in Tennessee, though in warmer climates they would be perennial. Summer annuals complete their mission during warm months, and winter annuals (also known as cool season annuals) prefer the cooler temperatures of fall and spring.

Biennials require two growing seasons to complete their life cycle. They produce foliage that must experience winter chilling (vernalization) which initiates flowering the following season. Those flowers produce and drop seed, which consequently germinate and begin the winter chilling process once again. Therefore, once established, they will seemingly provide an “annual” bloom display, though it took two growing seasons to achieve those blooms. Many wildflowers are biennial.

Perennials return each year when regionally adapted and proper conditions exist. Some will die to the ground with overwintering roots while others may retain basal foliage through the winter. Some are short-lived even in ideal settings, and return only for a few years, while others may live for many decades.

Tender Perennials are those that will survive winters that are mild or could benefit from micro siting in the landscape to achieve a few added degrees of protection.

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Height (feet)	Light Needs			Bloom	Direct Sow	Cultivars/ Series	Comments
		Sun	Part Sun	Shade				
<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> Okra	4-6	X			July-September	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Candle Fire . Red Burgundy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Unusual tall foliage plant . Fruit is edible and ornamental . Heat tolerant . Cut flower-pods
<i>Abelmoschus manihot</i> Ornamental Okra	4-6	X			July-September	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Unusual tall foliage plant . Large yellow flower . Heat tolerant . Cut flower-pods
<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i> Floss Flower	1-2	X	X		June-Frost		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Blue Horizon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Attracts pollinators . Cut flowers-tall varieties
<i>Alcea rugosa</i> Hollyhock	3-6	X	X		May-June	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Attracts pollinators . Cut flower . Biennial
<i>Amaranthus caudatus</i> Love-lies-bleeding	3-6	X	X		July-Frost	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Large clustered trailing flowers of red, yellow or green . Tolerates drought . Dry and cut flower . Reseeds
<i>Amaranthus cruentus</i> Amaranth	3-8	X	X		July-Frost	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Hot Biscuits . Autumn Torch . Hopi Red Dye 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Large upright plume type flower clusters . Tolerates drought . Dry and cut flower . Reseeds
<i>Ammi majus</i> False Queen Anne's Lace False Bishops Weed	1.5-2	X	X		May-July	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Attracts pollinators . Best when direct sown . Reseeds . Cut flower
<i>Asclepias curassavica</i> Annual Milkweed	2-4	X	X		June-October	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Attracts pollinators . Host plant for monarch caterpillar . Reseeds

Scientific Name Common Name	Height (feet)	Light Needs			Bloom	Direct Sow	Cultivars/ Series	Comments
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<i>Asclepias physocarpa</i> also known as <i>Gomphocarpus physocarpus</i> Swan Butterfly Weed Balloon Plant Hairy Balls	4-6	X	X		July- August	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Attracts pollinators . Host plant for monarch caterpillar . Reseeds . Dry and cut flower- seed pods
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> Butterfly Weed	1.5-2	X	X		May-July	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Native perennial . Attracts pollinators . Host plant for monarch caterpillar . Reseeds . Can be sown in the fall
<i>Beta vulgaris</i> Garden Beets	1-2	X	X		Foliage	X	. Bulls Blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Cool season edible root crop with ornamental foliage . Direct seed in early spring or late summer . Spring/Fall/Winter foliage
<i>Beta vulgaris subsp. vulgaris</i> Swiss Chard	1-2	X	X		Foliage	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Bright Lights . Rainbow . Ruby Red . Rhubarb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Cool season edible leafy green though some are quite heat and cold tolerant . Offer wide array of colorful foliage . Direct seed in early spring or late summer . Fall/Winter- Colorful spines and broad foliage
<i>Capsicum annuum</i> Ornamental Pepper	.5-2	X	X		June- Frost		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Medusa . Purple Flash . Prairie Fire . Black Pearl 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Ornamental varieties hold their fruit in an upright, showy position . Reseeds . Cut flower-fruit and foliage
<i>Celosia argentea</i> Wheat	2-3	X	X		June- Frost	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Celway . Asian Garden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Tall plant with wheat head type bloom . Attracts pollinators . Reseeds

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							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Flamingo Feather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Dry and cut flower . Heat and drought tolerant
<i>Celosia cristata</i> Cockscomb	1-2	X	X		June-Frost	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Bombay . Neo . Supercrest . Chief . Prestige Scarlet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Bright bloom colors . Attracts pollinators . Reseeds . Dry and cut flower . Heat and drought tolerant
<i>Celosia plumosa</i> Plumed	1-2	X	X		June-Frost	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Fresh Look . New Look . First Flame 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Bright bloom colors . Attracts pollinators . Reseeds . Dry and cut flower . Heat and drought tolerant
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i> Cornflower Bachelor Button	2-3	X	X		April-June	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Cool season annual . Drought and poor soil tolerant . Can be sown in the fall or late winter . Blooms in true blue, purple, pink, and white . Reseeds . Dry and cut flower
<i>Cleome hassleriana</i> Cleome Spider Flower	3-5	X	X		June-Frost	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Sparkler . Queen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Tall with unique palmately compound leaves . Sometimes has spines along the stem . Attracts hummingbirds and pollinators . Reseed . Cut flower
<i>Consolida ajacis</i> Larkspur	2-4	X	X		May-June	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Cool season annual . Blooms in blue, purple, pink and white . Direct seed in fall or winter for spring display . Best when direct seeded . Reseeds . Dry and cut flower

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<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i> Cosmos	2-5	X	X		May-Frost	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Sensation . Seashell . Sonata 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Drought tolerant . Attracts pollinators . Blooms in white, pink, yellow and magenta . Best when direct seeded and may reseed . Cut flower
<i>Cosmos sulphureus</i> Sulfur Cosmos	2-5	X	X		May-Frost	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Cosmic . Bright Lights . Sunny 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Drought tolerant . Attracts pollinators . Blooms in hues of yellow/orange . Best when direct seeded . Reseeds . Cut flower
<i>Daucus carota</i> Queen Anne's Lace	2-4	X	X		June- August	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Biennial that should be seeded in fall . White to cream colored lacy blooms . Attracts pollinators . Drought tolerant . Reseeds-can become weedy . Cut flower . Host plant for black swallowtail caterpillars
<i>Echinacea pallida</i> Pale Coneflower	1.5-3	X	X		June-July	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Short lived perennial, native . Often reseeds . Tolerates poor dry sites . Attracts pollinators and birds in winter
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> Purple Coneflower	1.5-3	X	X		June- August	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Pow Wow . White Swan . Cheyenne Spirit . Magnus . Magnus Supreme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Perennial, native . Attracts pollinators and birds in winter . Reseeds and can be propagated by division . Hybrids offer a range of colors . Does not require stratification but can be seeded in fall . Cut flower
<i>Echinacea tenesseeensis</i>	1.5-3	X	X		June-July	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Rocky Top 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Perennial, native

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Tennessee Coneflower							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires excellent drainage Attracts pollinators and birds in winter Reseeds and can be propagated by division Requires stratification, if direct seeded it must be sown in fall or winter Cut flower 	
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> Fennel	4-5	X	X		July- August	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bronze Fennel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-lived perennial Ornamental and edible plant parts with licorice flavor, feathery foliage Heat tolerance Host plant for swallowtail caterpillars Cut flower-bloom and foliage
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antares 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual vegetable Ornamental and edible plant parts with licorice flavor, feathery foliage Heat tolerance Host plant for swallowtail caterpillars
<i>Gomphrena globosa</i> Globe Amaranth	.5-2	X	X		May-Frost	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gnome Fireworks Strawberry Fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does well in most soils and tolerates drought Reseeds Tall and compact cultivars available Dry and cut flower
<i>Helianthus spp.</i> Sunflower	2-8 or more	X	X		July- October	X	<i>H. annuus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attracts pollinators and birds Many bloom colors and heights available Cut flower-look for pollen-less varieties
							<u>Perennial species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>H. angustifolia</i> <i>H. maximillianii</i> <i>H. salicifolia</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial forms bloom summer or late summer into fall Some perennial forms can be large and form aggressive colonies Excellent for wildlife plantings

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Height (feet)	Light Needs			Bloom	Direct Sow	Cultivars/ Series	Comments
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<i>Ipomoea alba</i> Moonvine	Vine	X	X		July-Frost	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White bloom flowers at night, very fragrant Attracts nighttime pollinators Vine requires support Seeds must be scarified for good germination
<i>Ipomoea imperialis</i> Morning Glory	Vine	X	X		July-Frost	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blooms in many colors Vine requires support Reseeds and is weedy
<i>Ipomoea quamoclit</i> Cypress Vine	Vine	X	X		June-Frost	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fine foliated vine with small trumpet shaped red blooms, requires support Attracts hummingbirds and other pollinators Reseeds, can become weedy
<i>Ipomoea x multifidi</i> Cardinal Climber	Vine	X	X		June-Frost	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red blooms Foliage is lacy but not as fine as Cypress Vine Reseeds, not as weedy as Cypress Vine
<i>Lathyrus odoratus</i> Sweet Pea	Vine	X	X		April-June	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attracts pollinators, bloom is fragrant Cool season annual Can be sown in late winter to early spring Prefers cooler less humid conditions Cut flower
<i>Limonium sinuatum</i> Statice	1-1.5	X	X		June-July			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires excellent drainage Prefers cooler less humid conditions Dry flower
<i>Lunaria annua</i> Dollar Plant Money Plant	2		X	X	April-May	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biennial, best in shade to part shade Blooms in white and pinkish/lavender Grown for the display of showy seed pods Reseeds Dry and cut flower

Scientific Name Common Name	Height (feet)	Light Needs			Bloom	Direct Sow	Cultivars/ Series	Comments
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<i>Lychnis coronaria</i> Rose Campion	2-2.5	X	X		May-July	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-lived perennial, may perform as a biennial Blooms in magenta or white Silver/gray foliage Reseeds and can be propagated by division
<i>Malva sylvestris</i> Malva Tall Mallow	4-6	X	X		July- Septemb	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blooms in rose-purple with darker stripes Cut flower
<i>Malvaviscus arboreus</i> <i>var. drummondii</i> Turks Cap	4-6	X	X		June- Frost	X	. Big Momma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bush-like native perennial Blooms are usually red, some pink forms, too Attracts hummingbirds and pollinators
<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i> Four O'clock	2-3	X	X		June- Frost	X	. Broken Colors . Limelight . Marbles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brightly colored flowers open in the afternoon each day, very fragrant Reseeds Tuberous roots may resprout in mild winters acting as perennials
<i>Nigella damascena</i> Love-in-a-mist	1-1.5	X	X		May-July	X	. Miss Jekyll	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cool season annual Best when direct seeded Airy ferny textured foliage Blooms in blue, white and purple Reseeds and can be sown in fall or early spring Dry flower-seed pods
<i>Ocimum basilicum</i> Basil	1-3	X	X		Summer	X	. Thai . Purple Ruffles . Spicy Globe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attracts pollinators Reseeds Downy mildew is an issue for basil, look for resistant cultivars like those suggested. Edible culinary herb Cut flower-foliage and bloom

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<i>Oenothera speciosa</i> Pink Evening Primrose	1	X	X		May-June	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Performs well in a wide range of soils and growing conditions . Perennial . Drought tolerant . Native, reseeds . Spreads aggressively by rhizomes . Bright pastel pink flowers
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i> Common Poppy Corn Poppy Flanders Poppy	1-1.5	X	X		May-June	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Blooms in a wide range of colors, patterns and forms . Should be sown in fall to winter . Best when direct seeded . Dry flower-seed pod
<i>Papaver somniferum</i> Opium Poppy	3-5	X	X		May-June	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Blooms in a wide range of colors, patterns and forms . Gray-green foliage with jagged edges . Should be sown in fall to winter . Best when direct seeded, reseeds . Dry flower-seed pod
<i>Physalis alkekengi</i> Chinese Lantern Plant	1-2	X	X		N/A	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Bloom matures into a small fruit with a showy orange papery covering . Best when direct seeded . Reseeds . Dry flower-seed pod . Perennial, often grown as an annual
<i>Plectranthus scutellarioides</i> also known as <i>Solenostomon scutellarioides</i>	1-3	X	X	X	Foliage		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Kong . Kong Jr. . Pineapple Surprise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Grown for its many colors of foliage . Most seed grown cultivars are inferior to vegetatively grown cultivars . Seed grown varieties need blooms pinched off regularly to promote more colorful foliage and bushy habit . Cut flower-foliage

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		Sun	Part Sun	Shade				
Coleus								
<i>Ricinus communis</i> Castor Bean	6-12	X	X		August- Frost	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Carmencita . Red Impala . Red Giant . Zanzibar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Huge leaves on towering plant . Bold tropical effect . Beans are toxic so remove if in places of concern . Reseeds
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> Gloriosa Daisy	1-2	X	X		June-Frost	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Cherokee . Goldilocks . Indian Summer . Prairie Sun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Drought tolerant . Tender perennial used as annual . Fuzzy green foliage . Large daisy like blooms in mixed shades of yellow, gold, to burnt orange . Reseeds, native . Cut flower
<i>Salvia coccinea</i> Texas Sage	1.5-3	X	X		June-Frost	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Lady in Red . Summer Jewels . Nymph . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Attracts hummingbirds and pollinators . Native . Reseeds . Tolerates heat and drought
<i>Salvia farinacea</i> Mealycup Sage	1-2.5	X	X		June-Frost		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Victoria Blue . Evolution Violet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Attracts pollinators . Cut flower . Tolerates heat and drought
<i>Salvia splendens</i> Scarlet Sage	1-2	X	X		June-Frost		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Lighthouse . Early Bonfire . Rambo Red 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Attract pollinators . Cut flower . Tolerates heat and drought

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		Sun	Part Sun	Shade				
<i>Tagetes erecta</i> African Marigolds	1.5-2.5	X	X		June- Frost	X	. Big Duck . Moon Song . Marvel . Taishan	. Blooms up to three inches in diameter . Cut flower-long stem cultivars . Tolerates heat and drought
<i>Tagetes patula</i> French Marigolds	.5-1	X	X		June- Frost		. Jane . Super Hero . Bonanza . Durango . Hero	. Blooms are smaller than <i>T. erecta</i> but plentiful . Used as edging or front of borders . Tolerates heat and drought
<i>Talinum paniculatum</i> Jewels of Opar	1-1.5	X			June- Frost	X	. Kingwood Gold	. Tolerant of heat, drought and poor soil . Attracts pollinators . Reseeds . Dry and cut flower-seed heads 'jewels'
<i>Thunbergia alata</i> Black-eyed Susan Vine	Vine	X	X		June- Frost	X	. Susie	. Prefers well-drained soil . Vine requires support . Bloom is usually small yellow/orange trumpet shape with an open bell and dark center . Attractive to pollinators . Reseeds
<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i> Mexican Sunflower	3-6	X			June- Frost	X	. Fiesta Del Sol . Torch . Goldfinger	. Attracts butterflies, birds and pollinators . Cut flower . Tolerates heat and drought . Reseeds
<i>Torenia fournieri</i> Torenia	.5-1		X	X	May-Frost		. Clown . Kauai	. Reseeds . Blooms in blue, yellow, pink, white

Scientific Name Common Name	Height (feet)	Light Needs			Bloom	Direct Sow	Cultivars/ Series	Comments
		Sun	Part Sun	Shade				
<i>Tropaeolum majus</i> Nasturtium	1	X	X		April-May	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Prefers well-drained soil . Sprawling habit . Dislikes heat and humidity grows best in cooler regions of the state . Can be planted in late winter to very early spring . Edible, cut flower
<i>Verbena bonariensis</i> Stick Verbena Brazilian Verbena	3-5	X	X		June-Frost	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Airy vertical effect in gardens . Perennial, but also reseeds . Drought and heat tolerant . Long bloom season . Attracts pollinators . Cut flower-used as accent
<i>Xerochrysum bracteatum</i> Strawflower Everlasting Flower	1-2	X			July-Frost	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Requires dry sunny conditions . Dry and cut flower
<i>Zinnia angustifolia</i> Zinnia	1	X	X		May-Frost	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Crystal . Star 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Drought tolerant, disease resistant . Mounding habit, needs no deadheading . Useful in containers and landscape . Attracts pollinators
<i>Zinnia elegans</i> Zinnia	2-3	X	X		May-Frost	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Magellan . Zowie! Yellow Flame . Queeny . Benary . Uproar Rose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Attracts pollinators . Long season of color . Use succession planting and deadheading to extend bloom period . Powdery mildew and leaf spotting of foliage can be unsightly later in the season . resistance . Excellent cut flower cultivars available

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<i>Zinnia hybrids</i>	1	X	X		May-Frost	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Profusion . Zahara 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Profusion and Zahara Series have excellent mildew resistance . Do not require deadheading . Excellent mounding habit but stems too short for cut flower use



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