

twisted on the stem and remain as they are arranged.

Oregano (*Origanum vulgare*). Besides its usefulness in the herb garden, oregano also is an attractive addition to the flower garden. The plant grows about 2 feet in height with a similar width. Its growth habit is rounded to sprawling. The white or pinkish-purple flowers appear from mid- to late summer. Trim plants back before flowering to encourage a bushier plant. Oregano should be planted in full sun and a well-drained soil. The variegated or yellow leaf forms are especially attractive in flower gardens.

Pink turtlehead
(*Chelone lyonii*).

This upright plant grows 3 feet in height and 2 feet in width. The pink, hooded flowers resemble the head of a turtle with its mouth open.

This is an excellent plant for partially shaded, wet sites along streams or ponds.



Salvia has a great deal to offer perennial flower gardeners. Azure salvia (*Salvia azurea*) is a species that blooms with beautiful blue flowers in late summer and fall. Plants are hardy in USDA hardiness zones 5-9. They measure about 4 feet in height when flowering. Plant in full sun and a well-drained soil. They tolerate heat and humidity.

Sweet autumn clematis (*Clematis terniflora*).

This vine can grow to 20 feet and is covered with small, white, vanilla-scented flowers in late summer. After flowering, the plant produces attractive seed heads. Plant in full sun.

For more information

Horticultural information on selection, planting, cultural practices, and environmental quality is available from your local Iowa State University Extension office and from these Web sites:

ISU Extension Publications—
www.extension.iastate.edu/store

ISU Horticulture—
www.YardandGarden.extension.iastate.edu

Reiman Gardens—
www.reimangardens.iastate.edu

If you want to learn more about horticulture through training and volunteer work, ask your ISU Extension office for information about the ISU Extension Master Gardener program.

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REIMAN
GARDENS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Late Season Perennial Flowers



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

Mums, 'Autumn Joy' sedum, and rudbeckia are familiar perennials that bloom in late summer to fall. Adding any of the following less common, late season perennials also will extend the color in your garden.

Anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*) is also known as anise mint. This plant has an erect growth habit and grows 3 feet in height. Blue flowers are borne on 4- to 5-inch-long, terminal spikes. Grow in full sun and a moist, well-drained soil. Plants attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Leaves and flowers can be used in teas, salads, cookies, and drinks.

Bigleaf goldenray (*Ligularia dentata*). This mounding plant requires cool temperatures, moist to wet soils, and filtered shade. Plants grow 3 to 4 feet in height and 4 feet in width. Yellowish orange, daisy-like flowers are produced from midsummer to early fall.

Blazing star (*Liatis scariosa*) is an erect plant that grows 3 feet in height. Dense flower spikes are produced at the tips of the stems. Flowers may be rose, lavender, or white. Plant in full sun or light shade and well-drained soils. *Liatis* is a long-lived cut flower and also dries well. 'September Glory' and 'White Spire' are excellent varieties.

Boltonia (*Boltonia asteroides*). Daisy-like flowers in white, lilac, or purple top these 3- to 6-foot-tall plants. Taller varieties need staking. Grow in full sun. 'Snowbank' is a 3- to 4-foot-tall variety that is self-supporting.

Canadian burnet (*Sanguisorba canadensis*) is a native of North America. It thrives in moist to wet soils and full sun. Plants grow 4 to 5 feet in height with a 2- to 3-foot spread. White flowers are borne on terminal, 4- to 8-inch-long, bottlebrush-like spikes in late summer. The jagged edges of the compound foliage look like they were cut with a pinking shears. Canadian burnet is useful in a native garden or the perennial border.

False sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*). Plants grow 3 to 4 feet in height and produce yellow or orange daisy-like flowers in late summer to early fall. Foliage has a rough, coarse texture. Plant in full sun or partial shade with moderately moist soil. Flowers make excellent cut flowers.

Fleabane (*Erigeron* hybrids) is a good choice for rock gardens or sandy soils. Plants grow about 2 feet in height and width. Flowers are similar to fall-blooming asters with pink, lavender, or violet "petals" (ray flowers) and yellow centers. Flowering begins in midsummer and continues sporadically into the fall. Frequent removal of spent flowers will prolong flowering. Plant in full sun and a well-drained soil. They also make excellent fresh cut flowers.

Garden monkshood (*Aconitum napellus*). This erect plant (3 to 4 feet in height and 1 to 1½ feet in width) does best in partial shade and evenly moist soils that contain large amounts of organic matter. The foliage is dark, glossy green. The helmet or hood-shaped flowers are blue or violet and borne on upright, spike-like racemes. This plant is poisonous and should be planted with caution where young children are present.

Goldenrod (*Solidago* hybrids). Most hybrid varieties are shorter than the native roadside plants and more useful in flower beds. Grows best in full sun to partial shade. It is also an effective cut flower.

Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*) is an excellent choice when a large plant is wanted since it grows 5 to 7 feet in height and 3 to

4 feet in width. Tiny, purple flowers are produced in large, terminal, flower heads up to 18 inches in diameter. It grows best in full sun with abundant moisture and is useful for naturalizing, especially near water.

Kamchatka bugbane (*Cimicifuga simplex*) grows 3 to 4 feet in height and 2 to 3 feet in width. Plants produce white, bottlebrush-like flower spikes in late summer. Does best in moist, partially shaded locations. Suitable planting sites include the woodland garden and shaded border.

New York aster (*Aster novi-belgii*). An old favorite, this perennial ranges in height from 1 foot to over 5 feet, depending on the cultivar. Plants perform best in full sun. Divide frequently for best appearance. Pinching the stems back until the first part of July creates bushier, more compact plants with additional flowers. Cultivars are available with white, pink, red, lilac, or purple flowers. Powdery mildew can be a problem, especially in partially shaded sites or those with poor air circulation.

Obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*) is useful for cut flowers, backgrounds, and naturalization. Plants have an erect growth habit and grow 2 to 4 feet in height and about 3 feet in width. The flower spikes are rose-purple or white in color. Obedient plant grows well in sun or partial shade. Staking may be necessary if grown in highly fertile soils. It has an aggressive habit and requires the frequent removal of unwanted plants to control its spread. The common name obedient plant refers to the ability of individual flowers to be

Ornamental grasses

Several ornamental grasses develop their most attractive features in late summer and fall. Flower heads mature and foliage changes to its fall color. Some grasses to consider include plume grass (*Erianthus ravennae*), Japanese silver grass or eulalia grass (*Miscanthus sinensis* cultivars), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), and northern sea oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*).