



## Perennials for Fall Interest

Fall in the garden can be just as exciting as any other time in the growing season. As the days get cooler and the nights get longer, many plants are energized and triggered into their glory. The contrast of the autumn perennials amongst the falling leaves can be magnificent. When a fall perennial looks its best will depend on the specific variety of plant, the location where it is planted, and the type of weather we are experiencing.

### How Soon Will It Happen?

First of all, there are a number of wonderful summer perennials that continue to perform well into the fall. Of those that do their best in fall, some will begin in mid to late August and others will wait almost until frost. Most landscapes also offer several *micro-climates*, small areas that are slightly colder or warmer than average. For instance, an area along the south side of a dark brick home may be a half zone warmer because of the shelter and the heat-retaining quality of the brick. Perennials planted in warmer exposures might develop several weeks earlier than their counterparts in a cool location in the landscape.

### Blooms and Foliage

While blooms may be the showiest part of the fall, don't overlook all of the plants with interesting foliage. Since foliage stays all season and the flowers are fleeting, the appearance of the foliage is very important. Look at the shape and size of the leaves as well as texture and structure. The overall shape and size of the plant can play an important role in the garden too.

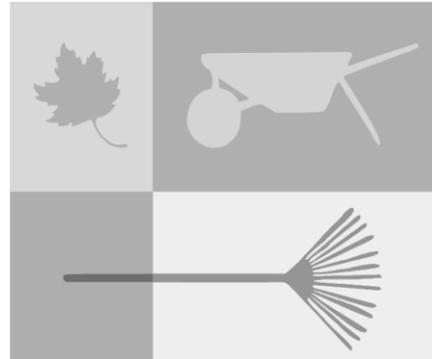
When selecting perennials for their bloom, try to imagine what else will be blooming or what other foliage plants will be nearby to complement the flowers. Perennials are wonderful, but their strength is their ability to come back year after year. In exchange for this virtue, we give up the constant blooms we can expect from annuals. The duration of bloom on a perennial varies greatly. Some are very fleeting, lasting only a few days. Most bloom for 2-3 weeks and a few will bloom for a month or so.

### Fall Perennials

- Autumn Joy Sedum *Sedum x 'Autumn Joy'*
- Chrysanthemums *Dendranthemum*
- Asters *Aster x 'frikartii'*
- Boneset *Eupatorium perfoliatum*
- Joe Pye Weed *Eupatorium 'Atropurpureum'*
- Japanese Anemone *Anemone x hybrid*
- Japanese Anemone *Anemone tomentosa*
- Goldenrod *Solidago*
- Fall Crocus *Colchicum autumnale*
- Ornamental Grasses, various types
- Autumn Snow Candytuft *Iberis sempervirens*
- Crested Gentian *Gentiana septemfida*
- Turtlehead *Chelone*
- Garden Sage *Salvia x superba*
- Toad Lily *Tricyrtis*

### Perennials with Attractive Foliage in Fall

- Lamb's Ears *Stachys*
- Ornamental Grasses
- Ferns, various types
- Ligularia, both varieties
- Lamium Groundcovers
- Snow on the Mountain  
*Aegopodium*
- Barrenwort *Epimedium*
- Wild Ginger *Asarum*



### Summer Perennials that Bloom into the Fall

- Yarrow *Achillea*
- Wolfsbane *Aconitum*
- Turtlehead *Chelone*
- Snakeroot *Cimicifuga*
- Coreopsis *Coreopsis*
- Fernleaf Bleeding Heart *Dicentra  
eximia*
- *inalis*
- Shasta Daisies *Leucanthemum*
- Russian Sage *Perovskia*
- Summer Phlox *Phlox maculata and  
paniculata*
- Obedient Plant *Physostegia*
- Culver's Root *Veronicastrum*
- Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia*
- Veronica *Veronica*
- Dahlias, various types