

## NGC-HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE 2/2020 Northeast Drought-Tolerant Plant Guide

borrowed from Better Homes and Gardens and other sources.

<https://www.bhg.com/bin/plants/> <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com>

<http://www.nativeplanttrust.org>

### *Artemisia*



Grown primarily for its silver foliage, artemisia is a wonderful accent plant in many settings. Artemisias come in numerous different foliage shapes, sizes, and heights. A few well-known artemisias are 'Silver Mound' and the herb tarragon. Use these plants to add texture and subtle color to gardens, containers, and borders. Artemesias are also extremely versatile and drought tolerant.

**LIGHT:** Sun

**HEIGHT:** 1 to 3 feet

### Black Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*)



At their peak bloom, black-eyed Susans steal the garden show. These natives lend themselves well to mass plantings, appearing as a pool of gold. Black-eyed Susans have long been a staple in perennial gardens, and we can't imagine that changing any time soon.

**LIGHT:** Sun

**HEIGHT:** 1 to 3 feet, 3 to 8 feet

### Blanket flower (*Gaillardia*)



With such an extensive bloom time, few other perennials can rival what blanket flower brings to the garden. On top of their visual appeal, the bright, cheery blossoms of blanket flower are a wonderful food source for pollinators. Come fall, small birds also love to pick seeds off of spent blooms. The biggest problem with blanket flowers? They bloom too much!

**LIGHT:** Sun

**HEIGHT:** 1 to 3 feet

### Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)



Special Appeal to Monarchs and Tolerant of Extreme Conditions!

This Butterfly Weed is much more than a pretty face - it is the 2017 Perennial Plant of the Year! When its big orange flowerheads burst into bloom in mid- to late summer, Butterfly Weed attracts every butterfly in the neighborhood to your garden, stealing the show with color so rich it almost glows!

This lovely perennial is especially attractive to Monarchs, acting as a nectar source and a host plant and supplying a place for the butterflies to lay eggs.

With handsome foliage, Butterfly Weed remains dazzling long after it blooms. Easy to grow, it requires only for sun and plenty of it; it tolerates heat and drought with ease, survives winter unscathed, and remains dependable year after year. It reaches 2 feet in height and about 3 feet in width with a lush, rangy shape that complements other plantings. The decorative blooms are super for cutting! Zones 3-9.

From website of Jackson & Perkins, SC

**LIGHT:** Full Sun

**HEIGHT:** 18 in - 24 in

## Catmint (*Nepeta*)



One of the perennial powerhouses of the plant world, catmint is extremely versatile and easy to grow. Rich purple blooms explode into color in early summer for a spectacular show that can last quite a while. These plants can also handle a variety of tricky soil situations, so as long as you have sun, you can probably grow catmint.

**LIGHT:** Part Sun, Sun

**HEIGHT:** 6 to 12 inches, 1 to 3 feet, 3 to 8 feet

## Coreopsis



Coreopsis has a lot going for it. People like it for its sunny, long-lasting blooms. Birds love it for the tasty seeds it provides. Butterflies and other pollinators enjoy its tasty nectar. We adore it for everything it brings to a garden.

**LIGHT:** Sun

**HEIGHT:** Under 6 inches, 6 to 12 inches, 1 to 3 feet, 3 to 8 feet

## Daylily (*Hemerocallis*)

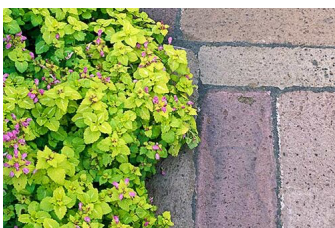


Daylilies are some of the easiest perennials to grow, filling almost any space in the garden with a variety of shapes, colors, and sizes. Countless new hybrids are released every year in addition to the tens of thousands of cultivars already registered. Since the flowers last only one day for most plants (hence the name), you may want to grow lots of different varieties for a long-term display of color. Or look for reblooming varieties; some bloom continuously for months and others bloom a second time in the fall.

**LIGHT:** Part Sun, Sun

**HEIGHT:** 1 to 3 feet, 3 to 8 feet

## Deadnettle (*Lamium*)

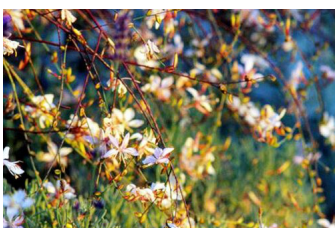


Shade gardens can offer some tricky planting situations that just a few plants adapt to well. Deadnettle is one of the plants that does well in shade and a wide variety of other growing conditions. The plant is easy to grow and brings lots of color to a shady corner with colorful foliage and long-blooming flowers.

**LIGHT:** Part Sun, Shade

**HEIGHT:** 6 to 12 inches, 1 to 3 feet

## Gaura



Attract birds to your yard with the long stems of delicate blossoms of gaura. Use it as a specimen plant to add drama among small grasses and larger perennials or create a gaura bed for a showy display.

**LIGHT:** Part Sun, Sun

**HEIGHT:** 1 to 3 feet, 3 to 8 feet

## Globe thistle (*Echinops*)



The globe thistle resembles a weed until bloom time when the plant explodes with perfect steely blue spheres. This charmer looks like a peppy pom-pom in fresh arrangements. Snip a few for drying, and you'll enjoy globe thistle long after the growing season.

**LIGHT:** Sun

**HEIGHT:** 1 to 3 feet

## Goldenrod (*Solidago*)



Goldenrod, a genus of more than 100 species (mostly from North America), brightens the landscape with its vibrant yellow or gold flowers. It also bursts into bloom when many other perennials are winding down in preparation for winter's colder weather. Along with its visual star power, this tough perennial attracts bees, butterflies, and other pollinators with its tasty pollen.

About that pollen: For years goldenrod has been falsely accused of causing misery for allergy sufferers. The true culprit is ragweed, *Ambrosia sp.*, which blooms about the same time as goldenrod. Ragweed produces copious amounts of airborne pollen, while goldenrod's heavy, sticky pollen relies upon insects—not wind—for pollination.

**LIGHT:** Part Sun, Sun

**HEIGHT:** 1 to 3 feet, 3 to 8 feet

## Hens-and-chicks (*Sempervivum*)



A favorite of our grandmothers and great-grandmothers, hens and chicks (also called houseleek) is popular once again with gardeners looking for a drought-tolerant, low-maintenance plant. The darling of today's xeriscape gardens, trough gardens, and rooftop gardens, this succulent is appreciated for its easy-care nature and tolerance for extremely dry conditions. The mother rosette (or hen) multiplies freely by runners that spread in all directions to form offsets (or chicks). Eventually the hen blooms, sets seed, and dies—leaving behind all its chicks to form colonies and carry on the botanical process. Hens and chicks grows very small, fine roots, which allows it to penetrate tiny cracks and thrive in rock gardens. Hens and chicks also adds color and texture to regular gardens, to living succulent wreaths, and between pavers on patios and walkways.

**LIGHT:** Sun

**HEIGHT:** 6 to 12 inches

## Lamb's ears (*Stachys*)



With its soft, fuzzy leaves reminiscent of a lamb's ear, this plant creates a lush carpet in any garden. The dense layer of tiny white hairs makes the plant extremely silky and pleasing to the touch—making the plant great for sensory garden settings and for children to play with. While lamb's ear is most commonly grown for its fuzzy leaves, it does bloom; some species are grown specifically for their prolific blooms.

**LIGHT:** Part Sun, Sun

**HEIGHT:** 6 to 12 inches, 1 to 3 feet



## Lavender (*Lavandula*)



While the delicate blossoms of sea lavender look fragile, it is a hardy perennial. Sea lavender is often grown as a cut flower and, because it is easy to preserve, used in dried floral bouquets. Sea lavender can be grown in almost any garden given the right conditions. It can even grow on the side of a cliff and is capable of thriving in hot and windy conditions.

**LIGHT:** Sun

**HEIGHT:** 1 to 3 feet

## *Liatris*



There's probably nothing more versatile and easy to grow in the garden than liatris blazing star plants (*Liatris* sp). These 1- to 5-foot (.3-2.5 m.) tall plants emerge from mounds of narrow, grass-like leaves. Liatris flowers form along the tall spikes, and these fuzzy, thistle-like blossoms, which are usually purple, flower from the top to the bottom rather than in the traditional bottom to top blooming of most plants. There are also rose colored and white varieties available. In addition to their attractive blooms, the foliage remains green throughout the growing season before turning into a rich bronze color in fall.

**LIGHT:** Full Sun, some varieties tolerate a little Shade

**HEIGHT:** 1 to 5 feet

## Mullein (*Verbascum*)



A favorite plant of hummingbirds and pollinators, mullein attracts the attention of non-winged garden visitors too. This showy cottage garden favorite makes a joyful statement in the early summer garden as it sends up a tall flower spike and then begins to open pretty blossoms in shades of yellow, pink, white, and purple depending on the variety.

Sometimes called verbascum, this group of plants is made up of many different varieties. Most types of mullein are perennials, coming back year-after-year, some plants are biennials and come back for a couple of years, and a few mulleins are annuals. Add several types of mullein to a cottage garden and enjoy their diversity.

**LIGHT:** Sun

**HEIGHT:** Under 6 inches, 6 to 12 inches, 1 to 3 feet, 3 to 8 feet

## Perennial *Geranium*



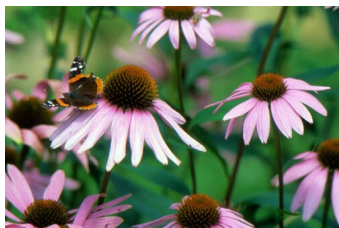
With more than 300 species to choose from, there is bound to be a geranium to fit your garden needs. Coming in a wide range of shapes, colors, and sizes, perennial geraniums are an extremely diverse group of plants. Do you have small nooks and crannies to fill? There's a geranium for that. Looking for a flowering groundcover to spruce up a shady spot? There's a geranium for that too! No matter your yard's conditions, you are bound to be happy with the choices you have in perennial geraniums.

**LIGHT:** Part Sun, Shade, Sun

**HEIGHT:** 6 to 12 inches, 1 to 3 feet, 3 to 8 feet



## Purple coneflower (*Echinacea*)



This North American native is loved by both people and pollinators. With colorful blooms from summer to fall, these plants look great in a variety of settings. Purple coneflower has seen a resurgence in popularity, which has led to more options. There's a coneflower for every garden, including bright single flowers and double blossoms.

**LIGHT:** Sun

**HEIGHT:** 1 to 3 feet

## Sea holly (*Eryngium*)



Most people don't have many good things to say about thistles. However, sea holly may change that opinion with stunning steely-blue thistlelike flower heads that last a long time and add texture to the garden. They are extremely tough plants that can thrive even if neglected. Sea holly can grow in some truly tricky situations, such as gravel.

**LIGHT:** Sun

**HEIGHT:** 1 to 3 feet, 3 to 8 feet

## Spurge (*Euphorbia*)



Spurge is one of the most diverse and largest classes of plants with over 2,000 species in the family. Showy modified leaves, called bracts, provide visual interest. Most are green, but other colors are available, too. This tough and vigorous grower quickly fills a garden space.

**LIGHT:** Part Sun, Sun

**HEIGHT:** 1 to 3 feet

## Yarrow (*Achillea*)



Yarrow is a classic garden perennial known for its ruggedness and drought tolerance. It works well in a cottage garden setting and in wildflower gardens. With its tall stems of flat blooms and fern-like foliage, this plant fits well in any garden setting. Multiple colors are available.

**LIGHT:** Sun

**HEIGHT:** 6 to 12 inches, 1 to 3 feet