

TOP 20 SUN PERENNIALS

FLAME ANISCANTHUS - (*Anisacanthus quadrifidus* v. *wrightii*) This 2'-3' plant produces tubular red-orange flowers from June through October. It is one of the best for attracting hummingbirds. Bloom quality is better in sunny locations, but it will also bloom in shady areas. This is extremely tough, hardy performer.

TEXAS ASTER – (*Aster oblongifolius*) Fall Asters add exciting color to the landscape from September to November when most all other perennials have stopped blooming. The plants mound at 2'-3' and are covered with 1½" wide lavender flowers. Excellent drought tolerance. Prefers a sunny, well drained location, but will flower in partial shade.

ARTEMISIA 'POWIS CASTLE'- (*Artemisia* x. 'Powis Castel") Grows up to 2' – 3' and provides excellent gray, finely divided foliage. Accent and relief from green leafed plants is outstanding. Very aromatic. Full sun and well drained soil.

BLACKEYED SUSAN – (*Rudbeckia* sp.) Many varieties of the old time favorite are available. 'Golstrum' is a compact variety of one of Texas' favorite native species. Grows 18" – 24" tall, and is covered with masses of golden yellow, black-eyed daisies from June to September. 'Irish Eye' is a yellow bloomer with green center. Grows best in full sun and well drained soil.

BUTTERFLY BUSH – (*Buddleia* sp.) One of the most appropriate common names for this plant is truly one of the butterflies' favorites. Grows 3' – 4' to 6' – 7', depending on the selection. Flowers are beautiful panicles and colors include purple, red, white, pink, blue and yellow. Every gardener who likes butterflies definitely should include this plant. Excellent drainage is a must.

CALYOPHUS – (*Calylophus drummondianus*) Outstanding yellow, 2" wide flowers, cover this Texas native from March till November. Mature flowers turn orange. Prefers full sun and well drained soil. Grows 1'- 1.5' tall and wide. Excellent in mass plantings as well as hot dry beds. Per square foot of bloom, no plant is showier.

MOONBEAM COREOPSIS – (*Coreopsis verticulata* 'Moonbeam') At the top of the class for outstanding performance. This easy to grow perennial is covered with lemon-yellow daisies and has dark green, airy, thin leaves. It grows 18", does well in full sun or light shade. Two other threadleaf varieties are 'Zagreb' and 'Rosa' which blooms pink. Upright, broadleaf choices to consider are 'Nana' 10" – 12", 'Sunray' & 'Early Sunrise' both 18" – 24". All will bloom from June until first frost. Needs well drained soil.

PURPLE CONEFLOWER – (*Echinacea purpurea*) One of the most hardy, long flowering plants available. The 2' - 3' tall plants have rose-purple daisies with dark cones from May through September. Attractive to butterflies. Excellent as a cut flower and for arrangements. Full sun or partial shade. Also in white.

OXEYE DAISY – (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*) Grows 18" – 36" tall. Blooms are classic white daisies with yellow centers and occur March to May. Grow in sun to partial shade. Excellent cut flowers.

GUARA – (*Guara lindeheimeri*) The effect is like floating butterflies. Grows 36" to 48". The small pink and white flowers seem to float above the foliage. Flowering is prolific spring to fall. Prefers full sun or partial shade. Too much shade causes flopping!

UPRIGHT GERMANDER – (*Terucrium chamaedrys*) Low growing, 1' – 2', strong evergreen ground cover or perennial border plant. Use in mass plantings or as a low hedge. Tiny pink flower spikes in summer. Full sun or partial shade in any well drained soil.

TEXAS LANTATA – (*L. Horrida*) Tall growing, 4' to 5' tall and wide. Orange yellow or pink-yellow bloomer is an extremely reliable perennial. New-improved varieties may or may not come back after our winters. Grows well in dry, sunny, hot locations and blooms profusely from April to November. Outstanding butterfly attractor.

ROCK ROSE – (*Pavonia lasiopetala*) Excellent drought tolerant, shrubby perennial best used in mass plantings or in containers. Rock Rose is covered with bright rose-pink single flowers from April to October. The flowers close in the afternoon and open again in the morning. Grows 2'- 3' tall. Needs good drainage and full sun.

GREGG'S SALVIA – (*Salvia Greggii*) One of the toughest, most beautiful and frequently planted natives for hot, dry, sunny areas. Colors available are cardinal red, light red, pink, white, yellow, coral and raspberry. Blooms from March till frost, with most prolific blooming in spring and fall. Hummingbirds love this plant. To keep it low-growing and dense, cut it back by half, twice a year: mid February and mid June.

RUSSIAN SAGE – (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) A very under-utilized plant. This perennial is noteworthy for its violet-blue flowers, silvery foliage and blooms from June – October. It grows 3' – 3 ½' tall in full sun. Russian Sage is unbeatable for mass color and fragrance.

SEDUM - (*Sedum* sp.) Many groundcover selections are available: '**S. acre**' (yellow bloom), '**Dragons Blood**' (blood red foliage), '**Tricolor**' (variegated foliage). Upright varieties include: '**Autumn Joy**' (bright pink flowers), '**Vera Jameson**' (purple leaves and light pink flowers), '**Mohrchen**' (burgundy leaves and red flowers). All sedum bloom in late summer or early fall.

VERONICA – (*Veronica* sp.) Veronicas are among the most trouble free and long blooming of all perennials. These lush, uniform, mound shaped plants (18" – 24" tall), are covered with long flower spikes and rich, glossy, dark green foliage. They bloom all season long, April until frost, in full sun or light shade. '**Sunny Border Blue**', '**Red Fox**', '**Icicle**', and '**Blue Charm**' are excellent choices.

WILD PETUNIA – (*Ruellia* sp.) This is the perfect plant for those troublesome shady areas where no other flowering plant will grow. This plant will also grow in full sun. Blooms from April to November. A few choices are: **R Katie's Dwarf**, **R. nudiflora**, **R. malacosperma**, **R. carolinensis**.

WINECUPS – (*callirhoe involucrate*) A low growing, 10"-12", early spring boomer, February to June. Blooms are wine-red and unmatched by any flower in the garden. Generally goes dormant in July if not given extra water.

YARROW – (*Achillea* sp.) Upright lacy foliage with flat topped clusters of flowers. The variety seen most often along the roadsides blooms white. Colors of hybrids include white, rose, pink, red, and yellow. Some have silvery gray foliage. Growth habit is 1' to 3' depending on variety. Prefers full sun. Blooms early spring to summer.