

LANDSCAPE PERENNIALS

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The following is a list of easy to use "Landscape Perennials" This should help choose some of the better, easy to grow plants from the thousands that are available for sale. The list is not complete, just a small sampling. Most are cultivars that have been around for many years.

The description following the plants name is brief but should provide a starting point. Names are listed alphabetically according to the genus species name followed by the common name. Remember that no matter which plant you choose proper site preparation will determine how successful that planting will be!!!!!!

Perennials for full sun

Achillea hybrid Yarrow "Coronation Gold"

30-36" tall, space 18-24"

golden yellow flowers starting mid June, lasting for a month

makes good dried flowers

doesn't need to be staked like the old fashion cultivars

Achillea hybrid Yarrow "Moonshine"

18-25" tall, space 18-24"

sulfur yellow flowers starting end of May to early June

has silver gray foliage

goes good with bronze foliage Heuchera

after the blooming period, cut back and the plant will fill in with new gray foliage

Asclepias tuberosa " Butterfly Weed"

24" plus tall, space 14-24"

native Wisconsin prairie plant

does best on well drained normal to poor soils

bright orange flowers in early July

"undisputed king of the milkweeds" (Neil Dibold, Prairie Nur.)

Asters

Undisputed kings and Queens of the fall garden

Bloom in September and October

Height varies from 12" to 36" depending on cultivar

Could have a small mildew problem, but worth the try

Many different colors

Many of the large varieties provide the backbone of the fall garden
Some cultivars:

- ❖ Alma Potschke-36" by 36", large rose-pink
- ❖ Purple Dome - 18" by 18", heavy bloomer, purple
- ❖ Woods Pink – 16" by 12", clear pink flowers
- ❖ New England Showy – native purple, blue aster
- ❖ Hella Lacy – 36", blue
- ❖ Professor Kippenberg –12", lavender

Baptisia australis

of 3-4 feet

blooms with light purple blossoms for about 3 weeks starting in early June

produces lima bean like seed pods

native to Wisconsin

great large bold plant for the full sun to a small amount of shade 30-36" tall with a spread

Boltonia asteroides "Snow Bank"

3-5' tall, space 2-3'

looks like a giant aster, large floral display

blooms September and October

Campanula "Blue or White Clips"

6-8" tall, space 12-18"

blue or white bell shaped flowers, starting to bloom end of to early July, last for 4 plus weeks

the white flowers are a very pure white

Campanula persicifolia "Peach Leaf Bell Flower"

30-40" tall, space 12-18"

white or blue flowers, starting in early June

flowers are on a floral spike

old fashion plant

Chelone lyonii "Turtle Head"

24-30" tall

pink flowers in September

likes moist soil but tolerates normal soil conditions

I have only used this plant 3-4 years, but turning out to be a good late blooming plant

Coreopsis verticillata Coreopsis "Golden Showers"

24-30" tall, space 24-30"

will spread up to an over 40"

hundreds of small yellow daisy-like flowers starting at the end of June

can be somewhat aggressive, but easily controlled

Coreopsis verticillata Coreopsis "Moonbeam"

18-24" tall, space 18-24"

soft yellow flowers starting in mid June

a very popular plant

has a good bloom through out most of the summer

Coreopsis verticillata Coreopsis "Zagreb"

12-18" tall, space 12-18"

a miniature version of Golden Showers

not aggressive

Echinacea purpurea "Purple Cone Flower Bright Star"

3-4' tall, space 18-24"

there are some short types starting to be seen on the market

large 5-6" purple flowers starting in mid-July

other cultivars of this plant are equally good plants

there are also white flowering and native Wisconsin varieties

- ❖ Bravado – rosy red with maroon center
- ❖ Magnus – deep rose, non drooping, maroon center
- ❖ White Swan – white flowers with coppery cone

Eupatorium maculatum "Gateway"

3-5' tall, space 24-30"

great large plants with long lasting blossoms

blooms end of summer into early fall

the species is native to Wisconsin and also a good plant

Euphorbia epithymoides "Cushion Spurge"

12-18" tall, space 18-24"

will spread up to 30"

bright chateau yellow colored bracts in mid-April

one of the first plants to show color in the spring

Filipenula rubra venusta "Queen of the Prairie"

3-5' tall, space 2'
 large pink , plume flowers
 many take a few years to get established
 full sun to semi-shade
 prefers moist soil
 native prairie plant

Geraniums Cranesbill

don't get this confused with the annual Geranium
 comes in many colors such as white, pinks, reds and shades of
 blue and purple
 there are dozens of cultivars
 indispensable for the landscape
 some cultivars:

- ❖ Sanquineum - low growing space 12-18", deep magenta flowers, often called blood red
- ❖ Sanquineum striatum - same form as the above plant but with light pink flowers with dark veins, blooms heavy in June and occasionally through out the entire summer
- ❖ Biokovo - 12" tall space 12-18", color is white to very light pink, leaves have a reddish edge
- ❖ Wargrave Pink - 12" tall, space 12-18", clear pink flowers, blooms early to mid May through mid June and occasionally through out the summer
- ❖ Ibericum – one of the nicest purple colors in the perennials, blooms end of may, 24" tall, space 24"
- ❖ Ingwersen's Variety – very aggressive, nice pink flowers, fragrant foliage
- ❖ Many, many more good cultivars

Heliopsis scabra "False Sun Flower Summer Sun"

3-4' tall, space 24-30"
 can reach 5'
 flowers in early July and can last until September if deadheaded
 there are many good cultivars of this plant on the market

- ❖ Golden Greenheart – large yellow flowers
- ❖ Karat-large yellow flowers
- ❖ Summer Sun – smaller yellow single flowers
- ❖ Loraine Sunshine-yellow flowers, extremely variegated foliage

Hemerocallis hybrids "Daylily"

12-40" tall, space 18-24"
 many colors
 most bloom starting late June to early August
 thousands of good cultivars
 try the improved tetraploid cultivars
 excellent for mass planting in the landscape

- ❖ Stella D'Oro – almost ever blooming 18" golden yellow
- ❖ Chicago Apache – very dark red
- ❖ Rocket City – extremely bright orange
- ❖ Happy Returns – one of if not the best yellow
- ❖ Prairie Blue Eyes –very good purple
- ❖ Joan Senior – almost white
- ❖ Perennial Pleasure – nice light yellow
- ❖ Thousands more

Heuchera Coral Bells "Palace Purple"

6" tall foliage with 16-24" plus tall flower stalks
space 12-18"

this coral bell is grown for its purple foliage
dozens of new cultivars have come from this plant
the leaf edges can scorch in full sun if it gets to dry
prefers semi-shaded sites
one of the first bronze/purple types on the market

Heuchera new cultivars

Fantastic plant
Purple, bronze, variegated foliage
Probably better in semi shade
There has been a proliferation of new cultivars

- ❖ Pewter Veil
- ❖ Persian Carpet
- ❖ White Marble
- ❖ Chocolate Ruffles
- ❖ Many, many, many more

Heuchera "Coral Bells"

6" tall foliage with 16-24" tall flower stalks
space 12-18"

red to pink colored flowers
start blooming at the end of May
dozens of different varieties

- ❖ Raspberry Regal
a very different form of flower
much tighter floral head
a very good plant

Iris siberica "Siberian Iris"

3'+ feet tall, space 18-24"
shades of blue, purple and white flowers
start blooming end of May early July
hundreds of good cultivars

excellent for mass planting
 foliage holds up

- ❖ Halcyon – dark blue
- ❖ Gulls Wings – best of the whites, large flowers
- ❖ Butter and Sugar – white and yellow mix
- ❖ Heliotrope Bouquet – lavender and purple
- ❖ Many more

Liatris spicata "Liatris Kobold"

18-24" tall, space 18-24"

purple spiked flowers

start blooming at the end of June

there are many good tall and native Liatris

attracts butterfly□s

should be planted with other plants that have good foliage

the foliage of this plant deteriorates when done blooming

Lilium hybrid "Asiatic Lily"

30-48" tall, best planted in-groups of 3 or more 1' apart

yellow, orange, white, red and pink flowers

start blooming mid June through July

many good cultivars

Malva fastigiata "Malva"

3' tall, space 2'

large pink flowers that start at the end of June and bloom
 through most of the summer

nice green foliage, develops early and hangs on late

can become a "thug" in the garden!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

has a tendency to spread by seeds

remove seedpods to control spread

Paeonia hybrid "Peony"

2-3' tall, space 36"

pink, red and white

comes in singles and doubles

great old fashion plant

use Peony hoops or English garden supports to optimize the performance of these
 plants and help to avoid the "Peony flop"

a great looking foliage plant when not blooming

Perovskia atriplicifolia "Russian Sage"

3-4 feet tall by 2-3 spread
 Perennial plant of the year
 silver gray foliage with lavender blue flowers
 looks like a big sage bush
 great combo with this plant is Purple Cone Flower cultivars

Phlox subulata "Creeping phlox"

6" tall, space 12-24"
 red, pink and white flowers
 starts blooming around mid-may for 2-3 weeks
 attractive moss like foliage
 does best in full sun, well drained

- ❖ Emerald Blue – lavender
- ❖ Emerald Pink – great compact pink
- ❖ White delight - nice white
- ❖ Red Wing – good red
- ❖ Candy Stripe – white and pink flowers

Platycodon grandiflorus "Balloon Flower"

18-24" tall, space 12-18"
 closer spacing helps the plants support each other
 starts to bloom in early July
 very late to emerge from the ground in the spring

Rudbeckia fulgida "Rudbeckia Goldstrum"

24-30" tall, space 18-24"
 deep golden yellow daisy flowers
 starts blooming mid-July and will last for over 6 weeks
 I have had plantings of this plant that are approaching 12 years old
 it will reseed and naturalize providing lot of plants to give away

- ❖ Little Suzie- less than 24" tall

Rudbeckia maxima

has neat bluish foliage
 most of the foliage is at the base, tapering to the top
 doesn't produce a lot of flowers
 large yellow Daisy
 very interesting different type of plant

Rudbeckia nitida "Herbstonne"

a very large reaching 6 feet or more in height
 large yellow daisy like flowers with a green center
 likes full sun, long period of bloom

Rudbeckia subtomentosa Sweet Cone Flower

3-4' tall, space 2-3'
 a large version of Goldstrum
 it is a native to Wisconsin
 blooms after Goldstrum
 has smaller more yellow flowers

Salvia superba "Perennial Salvia cultivars"

18-24" tall, space 18-24"
 deep purple to violet spike flowers
 end of May early June
 ❖ May Night - is one of the best cultivars

Scabiosa "Butterfly Blue and Pink Mist"

one of the more prolific blooming ornamental perennials
 in the fall of 1998, there were blossoms on my plants in December
 50 cents size small flowers produced by the hundreds
 dead head when the number of dead flowers becomes large
 dead heading will help promote more blossoms

Sedum kamschaticum

4-6" tall, space 12-18"
 orange yellow flowers beginning of June for around 2 weeks
 after the flowers there are red seed pods

Sedum kamschaticum ellacombianum

6-8" tall, space 12-18"
 yellow flowers starting in mid June
 there is a nice variegated variety

Sedum Matrona

18-24" tall
 busy plant with dark purple/maroon foliage
 pink flowers

Sedum spectabile "Sedum Autumn Joy"

18-24" tall, space 18-24"
 reddish flowers starting in September lasting through October
 indestructible plant
 will attract a few bees
 anchor of the fall gardens

Veronica alpina alba

12" tall, space 12-18"
 small white spike flowers starting at the beginning of June
 great small plant
 may rebloom in fall

Veronica "Goodness Grows"

8-10" tall flower stalks, space 18-24"
 foliage forms a low mat
 seems to bloom just about the entire summer
 blue spike flowers

Veronica spicata "Red Fox"

12" tall, space 12-18"
 deep rose red flowers starting late June and lasting 4-6 weeks
 very drought tolerant

Veronica "Sunny Border Blue"

18-24" tall, space 18-24"
 violet blue flowers in July, spiked flowers
 has a long period of bloom
 1993 Perennial Plant of the Year
 Veronica Blue Charm is similar to this plant except the flowers are more lavender blue

Perennials for the shade and semi shade**Ajuga pyramidalis "Pyramidal Ajuga"**

8-12" tall, space 12"
 produces spikes of true blue flowers toward the end of May
 it has green foliage
 a clump forming Ajuga non aggressive Ajuga
 best in semi-shade

Ajuga reptans "Bronze Ajuga Gaiety"

4-6" tall, space 12-18"

considered a good ground cover plant

has bronze foliage and blue flowers in mid May

can be aggressive but controllable

best in semi-shade but will tolerate full sun if kept moist

❖ Catlin Giant – larger leaves, deep bronze foliage

Alchemilla mollis "Ladys' Mantel"

12" tall, space 12-18"

yellow flowers in early June

best in semi-shade

can become a little floppy but a little nip with the shears

will solve this

Aquilegia canadensis "Native Columbine"

24-30" tall, space 18-24"

orange red flowers starting in early May

a native wild flower to Wisconsin

will naturalize, there is a light yellow cultivar

Aruncus aethusifolius

This is a dwarf Goats Beard

12" tall, white flowers

excellent foliage

Aruncus dioicus "Kneffi"

24" tall

white plume flowers

fine cut foliage

Astilbe hybrids "Astilbe"

24-30" tall, space 12-18"

pink, white and red flowers starting in June

needs rich soil and plenty of moisture

does best in semi-shade

dozens of hybrids

❖ Deutschland – nice white

❖ Rhineland – and old but very good pink

❖ Bronze Elegans – light rose with bronze foliage

❖ Obergartner Jurgens – my favorite red with dark foliage

❖ Many more

Astilbe chinensis pumila

10" tall. space 12-18"

raspberry pink spiked flowers starting end of June early May
 a good ground cover Astillbe
 will tolerate drier conditions than many other Astillbe
 does best in semi-shade
 the genus simplicifolia is similar in physical stature to pumila "Sprite is a great
 cultivar

Astillbe chinensis superba

3' tall, space 18-24+"
 rose purple colored spiked flowers starting in mid July
 does best in semi-shade
 a good tall bold, Astillbe

Bergenia cordifolia "Bergenia"

12" tall, space 12-18"
 pink flowers in early may
 thick glossy foliage
 best in semi-shade
 it has coarse foliage, which looks best if mass planted
 Silver Lights is a great cultivar

Dicentra spectabilis "Bleeding Heart"

30-36" tall, space 18-24+"
 red or white colored flowers bloom in early May
 will tolerate sun but best for semi-shade
 good old fashion plant
 foliage starts to disappear in mid summer
 ❖ Alba – white form

Dodecatheon media "Shooting Star"

18"plus tall, space 12-18"
 grows best in moist moderate soils
 native to Wisconsin
 does best in semi-shade
 nodding white flowers in the spring

Epimedium "Barrenwort"

12-14" tall, space 12-18"
 yellow, red or pink flowers in early may
 very attractive foliage, cultivar rubrum is tinged red
 a little more expensive of a perennial

Hosta cultivars "Hosta"

12-30" tall, space 12-30"

grown for the foliage: white and gold variegated
green, blue, yellow

some flower stalks can reach 5'

does best in semi-shade to shade

thousands of cultivars

- ❖ Francee - white edge variegation
- ❖ Krossa Regal - blue vase shaped
- ❖ Royal Standard - green with beautiful white flowers
- ❖ Ventricosa - green with deep purple flowers
- ❖ Sum and Substance - heavy substance yellow leaves
- ❖ Gold Standard - yellowish leaves with green edges
- ❖ Sieboldiana elata - large blue leaves
- ❖ Ground Master - short plant with variegated leaves
- ❖ Plantaginea grandiflora - light green foliage, large white flowers
- ❖ Patriot – the best of the white variegated hosta
- ❖ Blue Angel – gigantic blue
- ❖ Golden Tiara – small, green with gold edge, fast
- ❖ Francis Williams – blue with gold edge
- ❖ Many, many more.....

Lamium maculatum "White Nancy"

4-8" tall, space 12"

frosty white foliage with white flowers

does best in semi-shade

- ❖ Beacon Silver is similar except for pink flowers and
- ❖ Pewter Pink

Lamaistrum galeobdolon "Herman's Pride"

12" tall, space 12-18" , does best in semi shade

green leaves with silver variegation

yellow flowers in the nodes of the leaves

great plant

Pachysandra terminalis "Pachysandra"

6" tall, space 1-4 plants per square foot

evergreen ground cover

must be in the shade

good ground cover that has been used for many decades

Polygonatum odoratum "Variegated Solomon's Seal"

24" plus tall, space 12-18"

Vertical arching stems with variegated foliage
 Small white flowers
 Spreads by rhizomes
 great yellow fall foliage

Pulmonaria "Lung Wort"

12' or so tall depending on cultivars
 space 12-18"
likes semi-shade, moist conditions, but tolerates normal
 beautiful foliage
 some reseed and naturalize
 a proliferation of new cultivars

- ❖ Excalibur
- ❖ Roy Davidson
- ❖ Spilled Milk
- ❖ Many... Many... more

Vinca minor "Vinca Periwinkle "

4" tall, space 1-4 plants per square foot
 a creeping vine, evergreen ground cover
 has purple flowers
 best in the semi-shade to full shade
 good old fashion ground cover that has been around for decade

GRASSES

Although grasses have been used and are very popular on the coasts, they are relatively new to the northern states. There are dozens having different types but I have only used a few.

Calamagrostis Carl Forester

Large plant 4-5 feet tall
 very hardy
 long lasting seed heads

Festuca glauca "Blue Fescue Grass"

foliage is 10-12" tall, space 12-18"
 grown for its bluish colored hemispherical mound
 shows its color best in the fall, needs a well drained site
can be a hit and miss plant when it comes to hardiness
 the cultivars seem to be the best such as:

- ❖ Sea Urchin
- ❖ Elijah Blue - the best cultivar I have used

Imperata cylindrica rubra Japanese Blood Grass

This grass has very red foliage, hence the name gets 12-24" tall for me
 somewhat slow to fill out in the spring
 not real robust but worth the time growing
 I have seen it grown in a bit of shade

Miscanthus sinensis Maiden Grass

beautiful, graceful grass
 5-6 feet tall
 looks very good as dried grass in the gardens in the winter
 so far it is about 75% hardy for me
 time will tell how hardy it really is

- ❖ Morning Light – variegated type
- ❖ Zebra – great yellow variegated, up to 8'
- ❖ Purpurescens – some what red fall foliage

Molinia caerulea “Sky Racer”

3 year plants in my garden have reached 5-6' tall
 this is a very fine grass, with a nice green color
 the seed stalks are very tall
 this plant is almost transparent
 seed stalks will lodge in the late winter

Panicum “Heavy Metal”

bright metallic blue foliage
 Yellow and red fall high lights
 40”

Panicum “Rotstrahbusch”

ff you can get past the name it is a great plant
 allow 3 by 3 feet
 fine seed heads in late summer
 very fine textured
 “one of my favorite grasses”

Schizacharium scoparium Little Blue Stem

Although I haven't personally grown this plant, it is native to the prairies of Wisconsin, which makes it hardy. What intrigues me about this plant is the new selections being made by people like Neil Dibol, of Prairie Nursery. They are coming up with some very blue strain that I

