

ANNUALS or PERENNIALS or BIENNIALS

Plants are classified as annuals, perennials or biennials according to their life span. A plant can grow like an annual in your hardiness zone but is really a perennial in another zone. This chart will be filled out using hardiness zone #5 for southeastern Wisconsin. Plant hardiness zones goes from 1 (coldest) to 11 (warmest, tropical). Each step varies by 10 degrees F as to the average coldest winter temperature. Hardiness Zone #5 has an average of -10 to -20 degrees F. This is the average coldest temperature the plants need to withstand.

	Life Span	Vegetative Cycle	Flowering Cycle	Misc
Annual	1 season	Completes in each growing season	Completes in each growing season	Most annuals continue to bloom through out the entire season because they internally know the only way their will be more of their kind is to flower and produce seed. All offspring come from the seeds produced.
Perennial	2 or more seasons	Completes in each growing season	Completes in each growing season	Most perennials bloom for a limited period of time from 1 week to 6-8 plus weeks. They internally know that parts will over winter and it takes lots of energy to flower and produce seeds, so seeds are an added bonus. Offspring come from seeds and over wintered plants.
Biennial	2 seasons	Completes in it's first year of growth	Completes in it's second year of growth	Biennials grow vegetatively one season and than flower, set seed and die the next. All offspring come from the seed produced the second growing season
Tender Perennial	2 or more seasons	Completes in each growing season	Completes in each growing season	This is a catch all group for plants that are perennials in a warmer zone but are touchy or die in our hardiness zone. They can be woody or herbaceous.

