

The Growing Scene, Inc.

Garden Center • Landscaping • Farm Stand

17009 Harmony Road, Marengo 60152

www.thegrowingscene.com

FOOL-PROOF PROVEN PERENNIALS

NAME	FLOWER COLOR	HEIGHT	LIGHTING	FLOWER TIME
Artemisia 'Silver Brocade'	silver foliage	10"	Sun	
Astilbe chinensis 'Pumila'	pink	18"	P. shade/Shade	August-September
Chrysanthemum 'Snow Lady'	white	12"	Sun	June-July
Coreopsis 'Moonbeam'	lemon yellow	18"	Sun/P. shade	June-August
Coreopsis 'Zagreb'	yellow	12"	Sun/P. shade	July-August
Coreopsis 'Rosea'	pink	12"	Sun/P. shade	June-September
Dicentra exima 'Luxuriant'	rose	15"	Sun/P. shade	April-October
Echinacea 'White Swan'	white	24"	Sun/P. shade	July-August
Echinacea 'Magnus'	purple	30"	Sun	June-August
Gaillardia 'Baby Cole'	orange	8"	Sun	June-October
Hemerocallis 'Stella de Oro'	gold	18"	Sun	July-October
Hemerocallis 'Happy Returns'	yellow	18"	Sun/P. shade	July-October
Heuchera 'Purple Palace'	purple foliage	18"	Sun/P. shade	August
Hosta	lavender or white	varies	Sun/Shade	July-August
Lamium 'White Nancy'	white	8"	Sun/P. shade	June
Phlox carolina 'Miss Lingard'	white	30"	Sun/P. shade	June-August
Rudbeckia 'Goldsturm'	yellow	30"	Sun	July-September
Salvia 'May Night'	deep blue	18"	Sun	June-August
Sedum 'Autumn Joy'	purple	18"	Sun	August-September
Veronica 'Sunny Border Blue'	sky blue	10"	Sun/P. shade	June-August

This list is by no means inclusive of all the fool-proof perennials for landscaping. It is a good list of plants that will thrive under a wide variety of conditions and will flower for a long period.

SITE PREPARATION

Lay out your bed with string, or follow the contour of a garden hose for a natural curving look. Perennials will grow in most good garden soils. The site should be thoroughly cleared of all weeds and existing vegetation. Soil preparation consists of plowing or tilling the soil a number of times to soften it up. Depending on the condition of the soil, some organic matter, such as peat moss or mushroom compost may be mixed in. Rake to level and to remove stones, soil clumps and weed roots.

Place pots where they will be planted before starting. Once you are satisfied that the plants are spaced correctly and look good, dig a hole in the previously tilled soil. The hole should be the same size as the plant in the pot. Gently turn the pot over and knock the perennial out of the pot. Be careful not to pull it out by the stem, as you may damage the crown. A perfectly rooted plant will have just enough roots growing to the edge of the pot to keep the soil intact. If there is a large tangle of roots circling the pot, gently pry them apart so that they will grow into the soil, instead of continuing in a circle. Place the plant into the hole, firming up the soil so that it is planted the same level as it was in the pot. Carefully firm the soil around the plant as too many open soil spaces will hold air and not water next to the roots.

The perennials should be watered well after planting. Depending on weather conditions, water every week, decreasing frequency once the plants are established.

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FIRST YEAR MAINTENANCE

Most of the perennials that are listed are descendants of native prairie plants and once established are drought and disease resistant. Insect problems are minimal, natural predators will control most infestations. Weeds may be a problem the first year. A hardwood bark mulch will suppress many weeds, coupled with spot manual weeding. A pre-emergent herbicide may also be applied. As the planting matures in two or three years, it will fill in and choke out most emerging weeds.

A late fall or early spring mowing will eliminate any tree seedlings that may grow, as well as remove spent flower stalks and stems. All mowed material must be removed. It can serve as a site for over wintering insects, as well as a source for weed seeds.

All of the perennials listed are very hardy. They naturally die down to the ground and go dormant. The main concern in winter is that the ground does not freeze, thaw and re-freeze, resulting in frost heaving of the roots. A snow cover prevents this, as it insulates the ground from the warming of the sun. In the absence of snow cover, a covering of shredded leaves also may be applied once the ground has completely frozen in late fall.

Remove the leaves in early spring, along with any remaining stems, flower stalks and weeds. A light application of fertilizer may be applied at this time.

FIVE YEAR UPKEEP

After five years, the perennials will benefit from being divided and replanted. The soil can be rejuvenated at this time with an application of fertilizer and added organic matter.

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