

Abelia to Ziziphora: 30 Years of Plant Trials

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Actaea simplex 'Hillside Black Beauty' – bugbane (Zones 4-7) Shade to Partial Sun
Pale pink flowers, mid-September to mid-October, fragrant; dark purple leaves; 36-60 in. tall × 30+ in. wide; darkest purple-leaved form in trial; formerly *Cimicifuga ramosa*

Agastache 'Rosie Posie' – hyssop (Zones 5/6-8) Full Sun
Purple-pink flowers with darker rosy calyces, mid-July to early October; 22 in. tall × 24 in. wide

Amsonia 'Blue Ice' – blue star (Zones 5-9) Full Sun to Partial Shade
Deep lavender-blue flowers, May and June; 20 in. tall × 36 in. wide; compact habit; yellow fall color

Aruncus 'Misty Lace' – goat's beard (Zones 3-7) Full Sun to Partial Shade
White flowers, in plumes to 14 in. long, late May to mid-June; 25 in. tall × 30 in. wide; flowers are about half the height of the plant; hybrid of *Aruncus dioicus* and *Aruncus aethusifolius*

Asclepias tuberosa – butterfly weed (Zones 4-9) Full Sun
Orange to yellow or red flowers, mid to late summer; dark green leaves; 12-36 in. tall × 24 in. wide

Astilboides tabularis – astilboides (Zones 5-7) Partial Shade to Full Shade
Round, pale green leaves, 1-3 feet wide, peltate with bristly petioles; creamy flowers, mid-June to mid-July; 16 in. tall (to 57 in. with flowers) × 36 in. wide; consistent moisture needed for healthy leaves

Athyrium 'Branford Beauty' – Japanese painted fern hybrid (Zones 4-8) Partial to Full Shade
Bright silvery green fronds with purple rachis; clumping with irregular arching habit, 18 in. tall × 40 in. wide; morning sun enhances leaf color; deer-resistant; five-star rated in trial

Baptisia 'Lunar Eclipse' – false indigo (Zones 4-8) Full Sun
Cream, lavender, and violet flowers, to 12 in. long, late May to mid-June; 33 in. tall × 63 in. wide

Brunnera macrophylla 'Silver Heart' – heartleaf brunnera (Zones 4-8) Partial to Full Shade
Cobalt blue flowers in early spring; silver leaves with green veins; 12 in. tall × 24 in. wide; thicker leaves are more heat- and humidity-tolerant than 'Looking Glass'; moist, well-drained soils

Calamintha nepeta 'Montrose White' – calamint (Zones 5-7) Full Sun
Small white flowers, early July to frost; sterile; 25 in. tall × 36 in. wide; somewhat drought-tolerant

Campanula 'Viking' – bellflower (Zones 5-8) Full Sun
Lavender bell-shaped flowers, 2 in. long, mid-June to early August; 18 in. tall × 32 in. wide; slow spreader

Clematis 'Cleminov 51' – **Sapphire Indigo™** clematis (Zones 4-8) Full Sun
Deep purple-blue flowers, 5 in. wide, early June to September; non-climber, 36 in. long stems

Coreopsis verticillata 'Novcorcar' – **Crème Caramel™** threadleaf tickseed (Zones 5-8) Full Sun
Orange flowers, age to pinky peach and pale red, 2 in. wide, mid-July to frost; 17 in. tall × 29 in. wide; terracotta-hued flowers are similar but darker than 'Sienna Sunset' and 'Sweet Marmalade'

***Dianthus* 'Paint the Town Magenta'** – pinks (Zones 4-9) Full Sun to Part Shade
Magenta flowers, 1¼ in. wide, mid-May to late June, repeat in fall; 8 in. tall × 14 in. wide; blue leaves

Echinacea tennesseensis – Tennessee coneflower (Zones 5-9) Full Sun
Pink flowers, 2-3 in. wide, June to Aug and into October; 18-24 in. tall and wide; upward-facing ray florets; long-lived plants; Federally Endangered Species; **'Rocky Top'** is comparable to the species

***Geranium* 'Azure Rush'** – cranesbill (Zones 5-9) Full Sun to Light Shade
Light blue flowers, 1□ in. wide, mid-June to October; 9-14 in. tall × 39 in. wide; sport of 'Rozanne'

***Geum* 'Sangria'** – geum (Zones 5-7) Full Sun to Partial Shade
Bright orange-red flowers, 1¾ in. wide, mid-June to mid-July; 35 in. tall × 30 in. wide

Gillenia trifoliata – Bowman's root (Zones 4-7) Partial Shade
White, starlike flowers, 1 in. wide, late May to late June; persistent red calyces; green trifoliate leaves; 24-36 in. tall × 36 in. wide; extra moisture need in full sun; formerly *Porteranthus trifoliatum*

***Helianthus angustifolia* 'Gold Lace'** – swamp sunflower (Zones 5-9) Full Sun
Glowing golden yellow flowers, 2½ inches wide, late September through November; 48-60 in. tall × 36 in. wide; fine-textured dark green leaves

***Heuchera* 'Cherry Cola'** – coral bells (Zone 4-9) Full Sun to Partial Shade
Vivid orangey red leaves, flower stems, and calyces; small white petals, late May to mid-September; 11 in. tall (17 in. with flowers) × 24 in. wide; excelled in full sun

***Hibiscus* 'Midnight Marvel'** – rose mallow (Zones 4-9) Full Sun to Partial Shade
Scarlet-red flowers, 8 in. wide, late July to early September; 48 in. tall × 48 in. wide; purple, maple-like leaves

Iris tectorum – Japanese roof iris (Zones 4-8) Full Sun to Partial Shade
Lavender-blue flowers to 4 in. wide in May; 18 in. tall and wide; rhizomatous habit; broad, sword-shaped, light green leaves; slightly arching; evergreen in warmer winters; great textural plant

***Lamprocapnos spectabilis* 'Gold Heart'** – bleeding heart (Zones 2-8) Shade
Pink and white flowers, late April to late May; golden-yellow leaves, fade to chartreuse; 30-36 in. tall and wide; may go dormant in high summer heat; long-lived perennial; formerly *Dicentra spectabilis*

***Lavandula angustifolia* 'Imperial Gem'** – English lavender (Zones 5-9) Full Sun
Dark lavender flowers with dark purple calyces, ¼ in. wide, late June to mid-September; 22 in. tall with flowers × 45 in. wide; gray-green leaves; sharp drainage is best for longevity

***Leucanthemum* ×*superbum* 'Daisy Duke'** – **Daisy May**® Shasta daisy (Zones 5-8) Full Sun
White flowers, 3¼ in. wide, late June to late July; 20 in. tall × 27 in. wide; compact, uniform habit

***Lychnis flos-cuculi* 'Lychjen'** – **Jenny**™ ragged robin (Zones 3-7) Full Sun
Double, bubblegum pink flowers, 1¼ in. wide, early June to mid-July, sporadically into Aug to Oct; 16-20 in. tall × 28 in. wide; 6 in. tall to top of rosette; extremely floriferous; prefers moist soil for best growth

- Molinia caerulea* ssp. *caerulea* 'Heidebraut'** – purple moor grass (Zones 5-9) Full Sun
Green and purple-black flowers, 12 in. tall inflorescences, mid-July; fine-textured green leaves; strong upright habit, 28 in. tall (58 in. with flowers) × 68 in. wide; golden-yellow fall color
- Monarda* 'Jacob Cline'** – bee balm (Zones 3-7) Full Sun
Deep red flowers, 4 inches wide, mid-June to mid-July; 54 in. tall × 36 in. wide; large leaves and robust habit; highly mildew-resistant
- Nepeta* 'Novanepjun'** – **Junior Walker™** catmint (Zones 5-9) Full Sun
Lavender-blue flowers, late May to October; non-seeding; blue-green leaves; compact, 22 in. tall × 35 in. wide
- Paeonia* 'Yellow Doodle Dandy'** – **Yumi™** Itoh peony (Zones 4-8) Full Sun
Soft butter-yellow flowers, semi-double, 8 in. wide, early June to early July; dark green leaves; strong stems; 30 in. tall × 45 in. wide; intersectional hybrid of garden and tree peonies
- Panicum virgatum* 'Apache Rose'** – **Prairie Winds®** switch grass (Zones 4-9) Full Sun
Rose-pink flowers, late August; strictly upright, dense clumps, 50 in. tall × 44 in. wide; blue-green leaves with rosy red tips in fall
- Penstemon digitalis* 'Precious Gem'** – beardtongue (Zones 4-8) Full Sun
Light purple-pink flowers, 1¼ in. long, early June to early July; 26 in. tall × 40 in. wide; bronze to coppery leaves, especially at tips; chocolatey purple fruit
- Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Golden Arrow'** – mountain knotweed (Zones 4-7) Partial Shade to Full Sun
Bright rosy pink flowers, early July to early October; golden-yellow leaves, fade to yellow-green; 26 in. tall × 42 in. wide; foliage will bleach out in too much sunlight; shorter than most
- Phlox maculata* 'Flower Power'** – wild sweet William (Zones 5-8) Full Sun to Partial Shade
White flowers with a pink blush, fragrant, early July to September; 48 in. tall × 36 in. wide; robust habit with erect dark stems; resistant to powdery mildew but troubled by rabbits
- Pycnanthemum muticum*** – blunt mountain mint (Zones 4-8) Full Sun to Partial Shade
Tiny pinkish white flowers, late June to mid-October; excellent pollinator plant; aromatic bright green leaves with silver terminals; 44 in. tall × 57 in. wide; rhizomatous so beware; does not like wet soils
- Rodgersia pinnata* 'Chocolate Wing'** – featherleaf rodgersia (Zones 4-9) Partial to Full Shade
Light pink flowers (rosy buds), 6 in. panicles, early to late June; crinkled leaves, chocolatey bronze early, turning dark green with bronze cast in summer; 21 in. tall (32 in. with flowers) × 27 in. wide; will grow in full sun with consistent moisture
- Rudbeckia* 'American Gold Rush'** – black-eyed Susan (Zone 4-9) Full Sun
Golden yellow flowers, 2¼ in. wide, drooping rays, late July to mid-October; dense bushy mounds, 27 in. tall × 40 in. wide; hairy foliage resistant to Septoria leaf spot
- Salvia nemorosa* 'Crystal Blue'** – sage (Zones 3-8) Full Sun
Light lavender-blue flowers with chartreuse calyces, 8 in. long, mid-May to mid-July; 20 in. tall × 21 in. wide; unique flower color

Saruma henryi – upright wild ginger (Zones 5-8) Full Sun to Partial Shade

Yellow flowers, 1 in. wide, mid-April to early June; 24 in. tall × 36 in. wide; relative of wild ginger (*Asarum*); spreading habit and will reseed; flowers arise from leaf axils

Solidago 'Wichita Mountains' – goldenrod (Zones 4-8) Full Sun

Yellow flowers, erect plumes to 12 in. long, mid-September to mid-November; 30-36 in. tall × 18-24 in. wide; clumping habit; drought-tolerant

Spigelia marilandica – Indian pink (Zones 5-9) Full Sun to Light Shade

Red and yellow flowers, 2 in. long, one-sided inflorescences, mid-June to late August including second bloom; dark green oval leaves; 24 in. tall × 22 in. wide; prefers moist soils

Sporobolus heterolepis 'Tara' – prairie dropseed (Zones 4-8) Full Sun to Light Shade

Fine-textured green leaves; vase-shaped habit; 24 in. tall (w/flowers) × 18-24 in. wide; fragrant flowers; darker seed heads than species; orange fall color; drought tolerant

Stachys officinalis 'Pink Cotton Candy' – wood betony (Zones 4-8) Full Sun

Two-tone bright pink flowers, late June to late August; 24 in. tall and wide; dark green leaves; robust habit

Stokesia laevis 'Honeysong Purple' – Stokes' aster (Zones 5-9) Full Sun to Light Shade

Dark purple flowers, 3 inches wide, early July into September; 18 in. tall × 24 in. wide; most consistent performer in our trials; uniform habit; does not like wet winter soils

Symphotrichum ericoides 'Snow Flurry' – heath aster (Zones 5-8) Full Sun

White flowers, □ in. wide, mid-September to mid-October; 8 in. tall × 42 in. wide; low, mounding habit

Syneilesis aconitifolia – shredded umbrella plant (Zone 5-8) Light to Full Shade

Pale pink disk florets on stems to 42 in. tall in midsummer; dissected leaves to 12 in. wide; 18-24 in. tall × 24 in. wide; spreads slowly by rhizomes; moist soils are best but adaptable to dry soils

Thalictrum kiusianum – Kyushu meadow rue (Zones 3-8) Full Sun to Partial Shade

Lavender to pink starry flowers (no tepals), ½ in. wide, late June to mid-August; 5 in. tall × 15 in. wide; early purple leaves fade to green; good drainage needed

Thermopsis chinensis 'Sophia' – false lupine (Zones 5-8) Full Sun

Soft yellow flowers in erect spikes, early May to early June; bushy clumps, 24 in. tall × 48 in. wide; drought tolerant; butterfly plant; will bloom as early as late March in mild winters

Vernonia 'Summer's Swan Song' – ironweed (Zones 4-9) Full Sun

Deep purple flowers, □ in. wide, late August to early October; 36 in. tall × 40 in. wide; compact hybrid developed by Dr. Jim Ault

Veronica gentianoides 'Pallida' – gentian speedwell (Zones 4-7) Full Sun

Pale blue flowers (purple anthers), ½ in. wide, mid-May to mid-June; 24 in. tall and wide; mat-forming habit; 'Barbara Sherwood' is a good alternative with deeper blue flowers