

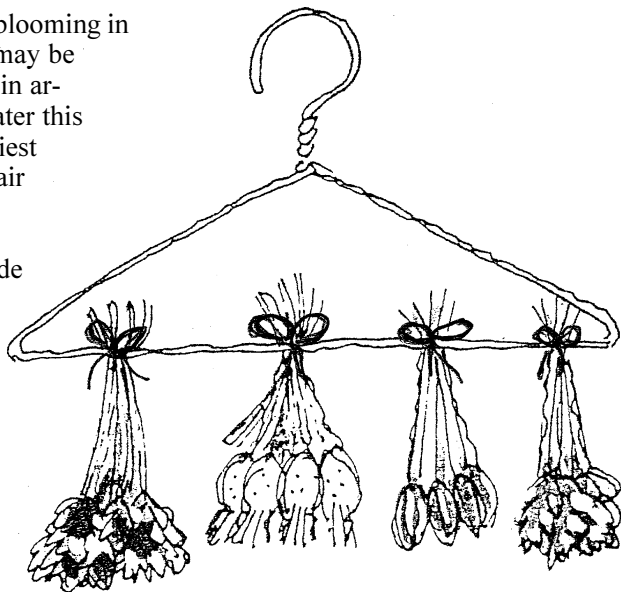


Horticulture

Perennials with Colorful Foliage

An Easy Way To Dry Flowers

Flowers blooming in your garden may be dried for use in arrangements later this year. The easiest method is to air dry plants by hanging bunches upside down in a dark, dry, well ventilated area, such as a closet or attic. Select flowers that are near their peak of maturity.



Remove unnecessary foliage and gather the flowers by their stems into small bunches. Wrap a rubber band around the end of the stems and with the last loop, attach the stems to a hanger. The drying process is complete in three to five weeks.

Annual flowers suitable for hang drying include celosia (*Celosia cristata* or *plumosa*), larkspur (*Consolida ambigua*), globe amaranth (*Gomphrena globosa*), strawflower (*Helichrysum bracteatum*), statice (*Limonium sinuatum*) and blue salvia (*Salvia farinacea*).

Try the following **perennials**: yarrow (*Achillea* spp.), ornamental onion (*Allium* spp.), delphinium (*Delphinium x cultorum*), German statice

(*Goniolimon talaricum*), baby's breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*), coral bells (*Huchera sanguinea*), lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*), liatris (*Liatris pycnostachya*), sea lavender (*Limonium latifolium*), Chinese lantern (*Physalis alkekengi*) and rose (*Rosa* spp.).

Wildflowers are also popular to dry. Try milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*), Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carsta*), dock (*Rumex acetosa*), goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.) and cattails (*Typha* spp.).

Do not be afraid to experiment with flowers not listed here. Be creative and have fun with this project. (MJF)

Most perennials are grown for their attractive flowers. They bloom for a few days or weeks, but are green, unassuming plants during the remainder of the growing season. There are, however, some perennials that have colorful foliage. These perennials add color to the garden from spring to fall. The following is a partial list of perennials that have attractive foliage.

Hostas are a favorite foliage perennial. There are hundreds of hosta varieties. The varieties differ in leaf color, leaf shape, plant size and flower color. The foliage may be green, blue, gold or variegated. The leaves may be long and narrow, nearly round or heart-shaped. Hosta varieties vary in height from two to three inches to three to four feet. Flowers may be white, blue or purple. Some varieties have fragrant flowers.

Lungworts or pulmonarias are clump-forming perennials that possess distinctive white or silver spots on their foliage. Lungworts do best in partial to heavy shade.

Sedums are fleshy-leaved perennials that are grown chiefly for their late summer bloom. However, several varieties have colorful foliage. Sedums are easy to grow, tolerate dry conditions and have few pests. They perform best in full sun



Penstemon digitalis 'Husker Red'

and well-drained soils.

A perennial with burgundy foliage is **Penstemon digitalis 'Husker Red.'** 'Husker Red' grows two to three feet tall. It blooms in early summer. The flowers are white with a pink tinge. The foliage is burgundy or maroon-red. It does best in well-drained soils and full sun. As you might guess, 'Husker Red' was introduced by the University of Nebraska. It was selected as the 1996 Perennial Plant of the Year by the Perennial Plant Association.

Coral bells have been grown for many years for their showy flowers. In recent years, their popularity has soared due

to the introduction of several new varieties with attractive foliage. One of the most popular varieties is *Heuchera micrantha* 'Palace Purple'. In fact, it was selected as the 1991 Perennial Plant of the Year. 'Palace Purple' has maple-shaped leaves that are greenish-purple to dark purple. Plants are 15 to 18 inches tall with a similar spread. White flowers are produced in summer. Coral bells perform best in well-drained soils and partial shade to full sun.

Other perennials with colorful foliage include **snow-on-the-mountain, ajuga, lamb's ear, sage, houttuynia** and **artemisia**. (MJF)

All America Rose Selections, All Time Classics

What makes an All America Rose Selections (AARS) rose award winner a classic? That all

depends on who you ask. Even so, these five winners are mentioned again and again as gardener's all time favorites.

Peace, 1946 AARS Winner

1995 marked the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Also celebrating its 50th anniversary was the Peace rose, a true symbol that beauty and hope can survive even in the face of destruction. Widely regarded as "the rose of the century," Peace was the only AARS award winner in 1946. This rugged, leathery foliaged rose bears huge, yellow shaded flowers with a pink edge that last forever.

Mr. Lincoln, 1965 AARS Winner

For more than 30 years Mister Lincoln has been the gardener's rose of choice. Large, well-formed, dark red flowers bloom with an intense fragrance. This tall, robust hybrid tea is highly productive. The long-stemmed, beautiful blooms are set off by dark, green foliage and last through fall.

Queen Elizabeth, 1955 AARS Winner

Tall, stately plants are the idealization of grandifloras and Queen Elizabeth is truly the queen of this rose classification. This rose can produce an enormous display of coral shaded pink blooms. Queen Elizabeth is extremely hardy and



Peace rose

disease resistant.

Tropicana, 1963 AARS Winner

This extremely popular hybrid tea rose has been described as ranging from coral orange to red orange. Its brilliant colors are offset with dark green foliage. Not only do Tropicana's large colorful blooms last forever, but so does its intense fruity fragrance. Big pointed buds are borne on long stout stems, making Tropicana an excellent choice for cutting gardens.

Double Delight, 1977 AARS Winner

Double Delight is nicely formed and features creamy white blooms with bright strawberry markings on the outer petal edges. This hybrid tea is very free blooming, intensely fragrant and certainly one of the most popular varieties since it won the 1977 award. Double Delight is highly prized as a cut flower during the summer's heat when its colors are most intense. (MJF)

2002 August/September Garden Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	2 Raise mower height to 3.5 inches	3 Use drip irrigation to conserve water
4	5 Cut herbs to dry	6	7	8 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	9	10
11	12	13 Pick summer squash & zucchini	14 Remove old or non-producing plants from the garden	15 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	16 Stop fertilizing roses	17
18	19 Control yellow nutsedge	20	21 Over seed tall fescue	22 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	23	24
25	26 Divide peonies	27	28	29 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	30	31 Divide daylilies
1	2 Pick flowers to dry or press	3 Evaluate garden plants	4 Power rake or aerify bluegrass lawn	5	6 Over seed bluegrass	7
8	9 Control perennial broadleaf weeds	10	11	12 Update garden journal	13	14 NU Landscape Connections, East Campus 9 a.m.
15	16 Check outdoor houseplants for insects	17 Divide lily-of-the-valley	18 Save annual flower seeds, like marigolds and zinnias	19	20 Turn compost pile	21
22/29	23/30	24 Bring outdoor houseplants inside before frost	25 Dig tender bulbs, tubers and corms before frost	26 Begin light/dark treatment to poinsettias	27	28

Many of us need reminders. That is the purpose of this calendar. Check the calendar each month and follow the recommendations if they are necessary in your landscape situation. (MJF)