August Blooming Perennials

Are most of your early summer perennials done blooming for the year? Wouldn’t it be nice to have a selection of perennials that bloom in late summer? There are many attractive August blooming perennials available and many bloom up until frost. Maybe next year you can add a selection of late summer blooming perennials to your flower garden.

—Mary Jane Froege, Extension Associate

### Common name | Color | Height
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Aster | Pink, blue, purple | 2–4 ft
Black Eyed Susan | Yellow | 2–3 ft
Goyfeather | Rose, purple | 1–2 ft
Goldenrod | Yellow | 3 ft
Helium | Yellow | 3 ft
Hosta | Lavender, white | 1–3 ft
Obedient Plant | Pink | 2–4 ft
Pitcher Sage | Blue | 2–4 ft
Swamp milkweed | Pink | 2–4 ft
Tall Sedum | Pink, red, white | 2–3 ft

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### Controlling Flies Found in and Around the Home

**Sonni Cochran**
Extension Associate

Several species of flies enter homes in Nebraska. Most are nuisance flies like cluster flies and fruit flies. However, house flies and blow flies are filth-breeding flies and can transmit disease. These flies breed in animal manure and garbage and can transmit disease pathogens. It has been shown that each house fly can easily carry one million bacteria on its body.

Some of the disease-causing agents transmitted by house flies to humans are: *typhilla* spp. (diabetes and diarrhea – *typhilosis*), *salmonella* spp. (typhoid fever, *Escherichia coli*, traveller’s diarrhea), and *Villicus comma* (cholera).

**Sanitation is Key**

Remove breeding areas to control filth-breeding flies like house flies, *Musca domestica*. Keep garbage cans and remove garbage regularly. Clean up spilled animal feed and manure. Learn how to carefully manage any compost piles to prevent flies from using those as a breeding source.

If you are dealing with fruit flies, remove overripe fruit or spoiled vegetables. These are the preferred breeding sites for fruit flies in the home. Drain flies breed in the gelatinous material in our drains. Loosen this material with boiling water and check for any plumbing problems or seepages.

**Keep Them Out!**

Screening and other exclusion techniques are also important tools when trying to eliminate an indoor fly problem. Caulk or cover all openings to prevent flies from entering. Late summer is a great time to get this done before flies like cluster flies look for overwintering sites around doors and windows.

**What About Insecticides?**

If insecticides are used, they should only be used to supplement other controls. Fly populations are difficult to control with insecticides in part due to insecticide-resistant flies. If you must use an insecticide, spot treat areas of high fly activity. Be sure to read and follow all label directions.

**Using Traps**

There are several types of traps available for flies. These can supplement other controls. Fly paper and electrocution light traps can kill flies but are only effective when exclusion and sanitation have reduced fly populations to low numbers.

Food-based traps are available for sale at farm supply, hardware or discount stores. These traps may contain protein baits, sometimes with the addition of a pheromone (sex attractant). In the case of fruit flies, you can also make your own trap. As with other traps, these are only supplements to sanitation and exclusion.

**Common Flies**

Common flies found in and around the home and strategies for controlling them:

- **Blow fly** (*Calliphoridae*): Tightly seal garbage containers and remove animal/pet manure (especially dog) from around the home. Screen windows in summer. Use fly paper or fly traps.

- **Cluster fly** (left) and face fly (right) (both magnified)

- **Fungus gnat** (*scaptomyza* spp): Reduce watering of house plants. Keep plants dry. This will help reduce fly populations. If you have problems with face flies, treat with insecticides labeled for fly control on exterior walls around openings like windows and doors. This must be done before flies look for overwintering sites. Read and follow all label directions carefully.

- **House fly** (*Musca domestica*): Tightly seal garbage containers. Screen windows in summer. Use fly paper or traps to attract and capture flies. Spot treat room corners with insecticides to kill resting flies if needed.

- **Fruit fly** (*Drosophila spp*): Remove breeding sources like overripe fruit and vegetables, fermenting materials like stale beer or soft drinks. Some of these flies may emerge from open sewers or standing water. Dill produce seeds that fall around the parent plant and come up as volunteers the following spring.

- **Fungus gnat** (*scaptomyza* spp): Reduce watering of house plants. Keep plants dry. This will help reduce fly populations. If you have problems with face flies, treat with insecticides labeled for fly control on exterior walls around openings like windows and doors. This must be done before flies look for overwintering sites. Read and follow all label directions carefully.

- **Cluster fly** (left) and face fly (right) (both magnified)

- **Fungus gnat** (*scaptomyza* spp): Reduce watering of house plants. Keep plants dry. This will help reduce fly populations. If you have problems with face flies, treat with insecticides labeled for fly control on exterior walls around openings like windows and doors. This must be done before flies look for overwintering sites. Read and follow all label directions carefully.

- **Life cycle of a house fly includes eggs (right), larva (bottom), pupa (left) and adult (top) (all magnified).**

**Drain fly** (*Psychoda* spp): If wet conditions from plumbing leaks are permitting fly breeding, first correct any plumbing problems to control flies coming out of drains, thoroughly clean pipes by removing the gelatinous crud that builds up on the inside of pipes. To loosen the gelatinous crud, pour boiling water down the drain. Never pour insecticides down the drain. Don’t forget to clean out the garbage disposal.

**GARDEN GUIDE**

**THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH**

Mary Jane Froege, Extension Associate

Every weed that produces seed means more weeds next year. Control weeds before they go to seed.

- **Face fly** (*Musca autumnalis*): Seal homes in late summer prior to periods when flies enter to overwinter. Try to reduce cabbage in particular in late summer. If

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Visit http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest-or-contact-your-local-Extension-office. In Lancaster County, residents can bring samples for free identification to Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County at 444 Cherry Street, Suite C, PO Box 117, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.