



## Late Season Field-Grown Cut Flowers

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Have you ever seen a list of the cut flowers that the Dutch send to the United States in late summer and early fall? There is a tremendous variety of herbaceous perennials and annuals being sent to the United States which could be grown in our own fields! Old "stand-bys" such as Phlox, Callistephus, Solidago, Dahlia and Echinops are being sold to florists as well as unusual flowers such as Eryngium, Sedum spectabile, Aster tataricus, Scabiosa atropurpurea and Cimicifuga.

Although cut flower gardens require some work to produce good quality flowers, they are well worth the effort. Their flowers offer a variety of form and color with differing stem lengths. The perfumed fragrance of many of the field-grown flowers is an added benefit. Field-grown cut flowers are ideal for the cottage industry system which is so popular in New England.

In selecting annuals and perennials to be grown in the field, flower characteristics and cultural requirements are important. Flower color, shape, size and stem length should be suitable for the many floral uses. The culture of the plant should not be too specific as to make it impractical for the grower; consider the soil type, pH and moisture requirements for the plants. If the flowers will require staking, plant beds three to four feet wide and allow the plants to gradually grow together. This system may make it easier to provide support for the flowers.

\* *The superiority of locally-grown flowers over imported flowers makes them well worth the higher prices.*

The postharvest lives of field grown cut flowers will be extended if flowers are harvested in the early morning or late afternoon. Inflorescences should be cut with the longest possible stems, and the foliage from the lower parts of the stems should be removed before placing in water. Similar species should be gathered together and wrapped at the bottom with rubber bands. Plants with woody stems, such as Rudbeckia and Aster, often have their stem ends crushed before being placed into water. Always add commercial flower preservatives to the holding water.

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Powdery mildew can be a big problem during the late season due to the warm days and cool nights. Avoid problems by irrigating plants only in the morning before noon. Select cultivars which are resistant to mildews and space the plants adequately to give good air circulation.

A late season flower garden which is to be used for cut flower production requires some planning. The succession of bloom and the variety of flower colors need to be considered. Decide on the colors your market will require and the times during the fall for maximum production. Then schedule your flowers around this plan.

**Table 1. Herbaceous perennials which flower late in the season and are useful as cut flowers.**

<i>Botanical Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Months of Bloom</i>
<i>Achillea filipendulina</i>	Fernleaf Yarrow	July - August
<i>Aconitum napellus</i>	Monkshood; Helmet Flower	July - September
<i>Anaphalis triplinervis</i>	Pearly Everlasting	Aug - Sept
<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i>	Golden Marguerite	July - September
<i>Aster x frikartii</i>	Hardy Aster	July - Sept
<i>Aster novi-belgii</i>	New York Aster	July - Sept
<i>Chrysanthemum x morifolium</i>	Hardy Chrysanthemum	August - frost
<i>Chrysanthemum nipponicum</i>	Nippon Daisy	Mid- to late fall

<i>Chrysanthemum x superbum</i>	Shasta Daisy	Early summer - frost
<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i>	Black Snakeroot; Bugbane	Mid-summer
<i>Cimicifuga simplex</i>	Kamchatka Bugbane	Late sum. - mid-fall
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Tickseed	Early - late summer
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	Threadleaf Coreopsis	Late sprg. - late sum.
<i>Crococsmia masoniorum</i>	Crococsmia; Montbretia	Mid- to late summer
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Queen Anne's Lace	
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower	July - September
<i>Echinops ritro</i>	Globe Thistle	July - Sept.
<i>Erigeron hybrids</i>	Fleabane	Sporadic into fall
<i>Eryngium bourgatii</i>	Mediterranean Sea-Holly	Late summer
<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>	Mist-Flower; Hardy Ageratum	Mid-summer - frost
<i>Gaillardia x grandiflora</i>	Blanket Flower	Summer
<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>	Perennial Baby's-Breath	June - August
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Sneezeweed, Helen's Flower	August - September
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides scabra</i>	Hardy Zinnia; False Sunflower	July - September
<i>Liatris scariosa</i>	Blazing Star; Tall Gayfeather	Summer - late fall
<i>Lilium 'Oriental hybrids'</i>	Garden Lilies	August
<i>Limonium latifolium</i>	Sea-Lavender; Statice	Mid- to late summer
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower; Scarlet Lobelia	Early - late summer
<i>Lycoris squamigera</i>	Autumn Amaryllis; Magic Lily	Mid- to late summer
<i>Macleaya cordata</i>	Plume Poppy	Mid- to late summer
<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Summer Phlox	July - August
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	Obedient Plant; False Dragonhead	Late summer - fall
<i>Platycodon grandiflorus</i>	Balloon Flower	June - September
<i>Rudbeckia hirta pulcherrima</i>	Black-eyed Susan	July - September
<i>Rudbeckia nitida</i>	Coneflower	Mid- to late summer
<i>Scabiosa caucasica</i>	Pincushion Flower	Summer
<i>Sedum spectabile</i>	Showy Stonecrop Sedum	August - September
<i>Stokesia laevis</i>	Stokes Aster	Summer
<i>Thalictrum rochebrunianum</i>	Lavender Mist Meadow Rue	Late summer

**Table 2. Annuals to be used as cut flowers late in the season.**

<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i> *	Snapdragon
<i>Arctotis stoechadifolia</i>	African Daisy; Blue-eyed African Daisy
<i>Callistephus chinensis</i> *	China Aster
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i> *	Bachelor's Button, Cornflower
<i>Callistephus chinensis</i> *	China Aster; Annual Aster
<i>Celosia cristata</i>	Cockscomb
<i>Celosia plumosa</i>	Feather or Plume Cockscomb
<i>Cleome hasslerana</i>	Spider Flower; Cleome
<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>	Cosmos
<i>Cosmos sulphureus</i>	Klondike Cosmos; Yellow Cosmos
<i>Dahlia hybrids</i>	Garden Dahlia
<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Blanket Flower
<i>Gerbera jamesonii</i>	Transvaal Daisy; Gerbera
<i>Gomphrena globosa</i>	Globe Amaranth
<i>Gypsophila elegans</i>	Annual Baby's-Breath
<i>Helichrysum bracteatum</i>	Strawflower
<i>Heliotropium arborescens</i>	Heliotrope
<i>Limonium sinuatum</i>	Notchleaf Statice
<i>Molucella laevis</i>	Bells-of-Ireland; Irish Bells
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Flowering Tobacco; Ornamental Tobacco
<i>Salpiglossis sinuata</i>	Painted Tongue
<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>	Pincushion Flower
<i>Tagetes erecta</i>	American Marigold; African Marigold
<i>Zinnia elegans</i>	Zinnia

\* Flowers best in cool seasons; these plants need to be sown in late summer for autumn flowering.