

ANNUALS

Annuals are a way to express an impulse, put a splash of color in an empty corner, or plug a gap in the perennial garden.

Ageratum houstonianum ○ 

Ageratum/Floss Flower

A. b. 'Blue Horizon' – Abundant, medium-blue flowers bloom on sturdy 2½' stems. Vigorous, weather tolerant and a superb cut flower. Does not need to be deadheaded.

Alternanthera ○ 

Joseph's Coat

Known for their colorful leaves, these plants have small, insignificant flowers. Great for hanging baskets!

☺ **A. *dentata* 'Purple Knight'** – With its bold, dark purple leaves and spreading growth habit, this plant is ideal for baskets and containers.

☺ **A. *d.* 'Red Thread'** – Narrow red leaves with a compact growth habit. 6-12".

Angelonia angustifolia ○ 

Summer Snapdragon

The small, 1" orchid-like flowers are shallowly cupped and double-lipped. Vigorous and upright. Blooms all summer. Performs well in the heat. Adaptable, but provide plenty of water and good drainage. 18-24", unless otherwise noted.

☺ **A. a. 'Angel Face® Blue'** – Large blue flowers.

A. a. 'Angel Mist® Blue' – Compact plant with large blue flowers.

A. a. 'Serena® Pink' – Pink perfection.

A. a. 'Serena® Purple' – Deep purple flowers.

A. a. 'Serena® White' – Slightly larger than most Angel Face varieties.

Begonia 

Begonia

Begonias have fleshy leaves and stems and grow from rhizomes, fibrous roots or tubers. Foliage may be a single color or resemble a kaleidoscope. The varieties offered may be grown as houseplants, in mixed containers or in the landscape.

☺ **B. *semperflorens* 'Doublet® Pink'** – Fully double pink blooms appear over green-bronze foliage.

☺ **B. s. 'Doublet® White'** – Double white flowers with green-bronze foliage.

B. × b. 'Dragon Wing™ Pink' – Angel-Wing Begonia. Big pink blooms, glossy green leaves and an easy habit make this plant a showstopper wherever it grows. Do not over-water; protect from continuous, direct sunlight, and you will have a treasure to ornament any container or hanging basket. 12-15".

B. × b. 'Dragon Wing™ Red' – Similar to the previous listing, except this has lovely red flowers accented with a yellow eye.

Calibrachoa ○

Million Bells

Hundreds of small, petunia-like flowers bloom from spring through late fall. Low-growing, compact and self-cleaning. Moist, well-drained soil. Reaches 12" tall and wide, unless otherwise noted.

C. 'Million Bells® Crackling Fire' – Forms a mounding cascade of blazing orange flowers.

☺ **C. 'Minifamous™ Perfect Red'** – Bright red flowers. A vigorous grower. 6-12".

☺ **C. 'Minifamous™ Dark Blue'** – Deep blue-purple flowers. A trailing plant, this reaches only 6-12" in height and spreads 12-18".

Coleus blumei ○▶●

Coleus

This attractive foliage plant is great for containers and underplanting. It will tolerate the sun, but the color of the leaves is enhanced in shade. Small, insignificant flowers will appear in late summer. Pinch off blooms and growing shoots of young plants to encourage bushier foliage. Prefers moist, well-drained soil.

C. 'Black Prince' – Medium-sized and vigorous, with the darkest bronze foliage. 24".

☺ **C. 'Blackberry Waffle'** – Deep purple leaves have a waffle-like texture. 18-24".

☺ **C. 'Borneo Red'** – Deep red leaves.

☺ **C. 'Burgundy Giant'** – Burgundy-red leaves show maroon veins. Upright growth habit.

C. 'Inky Fingers' – Electric lime green and dark purple, this plant has duckfoot-shaped leaves. Great for containers.

☺ **C. 'Rustic Orange'** – Bronze-orange leaves have yellow-green margins. 8-10".

☺ **Cordyline 'Sundance'** ○▶

Green and Red Grass Palm

Green strap-like leaves have a thin stripe of pink down the midrib and along each leaf's base. This plant is drought tolerant and prefers good drainage. Fragrant white flowers bloom on clusters on the mature plant in late spring. A wonderful focal point in containers!

☺ **Dichondra 'Silver Falls'** ○▶

Dichondra

Cascading silver-green foliage of velvety soft leaves. A wonderful addition to

containers and hanging baskets. Heat and drought tolerant. 2-3'.

Euphorbia ○

Spurge

A succulent plant, this is great for rock gardens, mixed or shrub borders. Requires full sun and permanently moist soil. Ranges from prominent, upright succulents to low-growing, spreading plants.

E. 'Diamond Frost'® – Gray-green foliage with white flowers. Drought tolerant. Prefers full sun to part shade. 12-18".

Fuchsia ▶ 

Fuchsia

Shrubby or trailing in habit, colorful pendant flowers bloom in summer. Prefers rich, well-drained, evenly moist soil. Site in partial shade or a location with morning sun and afternoon shade. Dig, repot and place this tender perennial in a frost-free environment during winter months.

F. 'Gartenmeister Bonstedt' – This plant has an upright habit with dull, bronze-green leaves and long, tubular, red-orange flowers. Reasonably tolerant of heat and humidity. 1-1½'.

Hedera helix ▶●

Ornamental English Ivy

☺ **H. h. 'Goldchild'** – Small, variegated leaves are a mix of green, yellow, and white. Tolerates most soil conditions.

Impatiens ▶

Impatiens

Brittle, fleshy foliage with colorful flowers. Prefers light shade. Provides longlasting summer color.

☺ **I. 'Fusion Glow'** – Creamy yellow flowers have a splash of orange in the center.

Ipomoea batatas ○**Ornamental Sweet Potato**

These plants are rapid growers, with a trailing growth habit. Great for containers!

I. b. 'Limelight' – Chartreuse green trailing vine.

I. b. 'Sweet Caroline Bronze' – Compact, vining plant has copper-bronze foliage with deeper copper-colored veins. Trails 12-24".

Lantana ○  **Lantana**

Blooms continuously from summer to frost. Glossy dark green leaves are strongly scented. These plants prefer hot, sunny locations, although they will tolerate light shade. 18-24".

☺ **L. 'Lemon Drop'** – A trailing plant with yellow-white flowers.

☺ **L. 'Dallas Red'** – Bright red flowers.

☺ **L. 'Pink Capris'** – Soft pink blooms.

L. 'Trailing Lavender' – Profuse lavender flowers.

☺ **L. camara 'Confetti'** – Upright, mounding habit with medium green leaves topped with multicolored pink, salmon, and apricot flowers.

☺ ***Laurentia axillaris***
'Blue Stars' ○**Blue Star Creeper**

Light blue, star-shaped flowers. Fills out containers and hanging baskets very nicely. Wonderfully fragrant! 9-12".

Nicotiana ○ **Ornamental Tobacco**

From summer to frost, clusters of flowers with narrow tubular bases and flaring, flat-to-cup-shaped faces abound. Flowers of some *Nicotiana* open only in late afternoon and are fragrant at night. Needs evenly moist, well-drained soil

and dappled afternoon sun in high heat. Deadhead for continuous bloom. Full sun.

☺ ***N. sylvestris*** – White, fragrant flowers. Full sun. 3-5'.

Origanum ○**Ornamental Oregano**

Clusters of tiny, two-lipped flowers have prominent, often colorful bracts beneath, which remain showy for several weeks. Aromatic leaves are borne on square stems. Performs best in poor to average, well-drained soil with neutral to alkaline pH.

☺ ***O. rotundifolium* 'Kent Beauty'** – Grey-green foliage and mauve-bracted flowers that brighten with age. 8".

Pennisetum ○**Annual Fountain Grass/
Ornamental Millet**

Arching foliage is topped by attractive flower spikes from June into autumn.

☺ ***P. setaceum* 'Purple Fountain'** – Purple-maroon blades are topped by rose-red flower spikes summer through fall. This plant is a wonderful focal point in containers. 2-4'.

☺ ***Pentas lanceolata*** ○  **Egyptian Star Cluster**

Star-shaped flowers bloom in a multitude of colors ranging from pink, red, and blue to white. Long, lance-shaped hairy leaves. 3'.

Petunia ○  **Petunia**

Showy saucer- or trumpet-shaped flowers appear over dark green leaves and bloom all summer long. The trailing growth habit makes them great for hanging baskets and containers. Needs well-drained soil and protection from wind. Deadhead to prolong blooming.

☺ ***P. Supertunia*® ‘Cotton Candy’** – Bright pink flowers. Trailing habit. Drought tolerant. 6-10”.

☺ ***P. Supertunia*® ‘Royal Velvet’** – Blue-purple flowers. Same growth habit as other *Supertunia*® series.

☺ ***P. ‘Sky Blue’*** – These flowers resemble typical old-fashioned petunias; however, their blooms are a brilliant sky blue. 8”.

***Plectranthus* ▶**

Plectranthus

At a young stage this plant is upright, but upon maturity, it begins to trail and spread. It has heart-shaped leaves with wavy margins. Leaves are soft, fuzzy, and aromatic. An easy-care plant, it prefers well-drained soil and partial shade.

☺ ***P. argentatus* ‘Silver Shield’** – A rapid grower of gray-green-silver foliage. Tolerates heat and drought. 24-30”.

***Salvia* ○**

Ornamental Sage/Salvia

This plant is characterized by opposite leaves, square stems, and spikes of whorled two-lipped flowers in a wide range of colors. Good drainage is a must. It is heat and drought tolerant and blooms from summer to fall. 1-2’.

S. ‘Summer Sky’ – Sky blue flowers. 2’.

***S. farinacea* ‘Victoria Blue’** – Dense, 8” racemes of blue flowers. 2-3’.

☺ ***S. greggii* ‘Stampede Cherry’** – Cherry-red flowers. 18”.

☺ ***S. guaranitica* ‘Black and Blue’** – Dark black calyxes clasp deep blue flowers. 2-3’.

***Scaevola aemula* ○**

Fan Flower

☺ ***S. a. ‘Blue Wonder’*** – Masses of dainty, blue, fan-shaped flowers bloom

all summer. A compact grower with a horizontal branching habit. 8-12”.

S. a. ‘Whirlwind White’ – Masses of dainty, white, fan-shaped flowers bloom all summer. A compact grower with a horizontal branching habit. 8-12”.

☺ ***Scirpus cernuus* ○ ▶**

Fiber Optic Grass

Thin green grassy foliage with small flowers on the tips. The flowers resemble little fiber optic lights. Clumping growth habit. Prefers moist soil. 10-12”.

☺ ***Strobilanthes dyerianus* ○ ▶**

Persian Shield

This foliage plant bears dark green, purple-flushed leaves with an iridescent silver overlay above and dark purple beneath. Keep it pinched back to ensure a full plant. 2-4’.

***Sutera* ○ ▶**

Bacopa

Free flowering, this warm-season annual blooms all summer and into fall. It has a heavy branching habit with shiny, fleshy foliage and a profusion of small blossoms. Prefers rich, well-drained soil. A true trailing plant, 3” tall, spreading to 1½’.

S. ‘Snowstorm*® *Glacier Blue’ – Lavender-blue flowers bloom in abundance. Sun/part shade.

S. ‘Gold ‘n’ Pearls’ – The gold and green variegated foliage, covered with tiny, pearly white blossoms, prefers part shade or morning sun.

***Tradescantia* ▶**

Purple Heart

This hardy plant has saucer-shaped flowers with long, ovate, often purple leaves. Grow in moist, fertile soil in full sun or partial shade.

T. pallida 'Purpurea' – This rapid grower has succulent purple leaves. Great for xeriscaping!

Verbena ○ 

Verbena

☺ **V. 'Lascar™ Red'** – Keep these deep red flowers blooming by deadheading.

☺ **V. 'Lascar™ Blue'** – Stunning dark blue flowers. 8-10".

☺ **V. 'Lascar™ Hot Rose'** – Brilliant rose-colored flowers. 8-10".

☺ **V. 'Lascar™ White'** – Pristine white flowers. 8-10".

V. 'Lavender Star' – A vigorous grower with lavender-blue blooms.

☺ **V. 'Superbena® Burgundy'** – Large, deep burgundy flowers.

CONTAINERS

You'll love these unusual and stunningly beautiful container combinations. As always, these containers are expertly planned, produced, and planted by the staff and volunteers of the Chicago Botanic Garden.

FERNS

Ferns are indispensable for summer interest along a woodland path or in a wild garden. Their needs are simple: dappled shade; a loose, woodland, humusy soil; and ample moisture. Water in hot, dry spells. If they are not in a woodland area, apply an annual top-dressing of leaf mold or compost. Those grown from creeping rootstock should be planted with the rootstock barely beneath the soil surface. Those grown from crowns should be planted with the crown slightly above soil. Ferns need no fertilizer but require good drainage.

Adiantum pedatum ▶ ●

Northern Maidenhair Fern

The stipes (stems) fork in half, then curve, and have three to five finger-like divisions that bear multiple, rounded, yellow-green segmented leaves. Divide by cutting the short, creeping rhizome and replanting just under the soil surface. Deciduous. 12-20". Zones 3-8.

Athyrium ▶ ●

Lady Fern

This deciduous, terrestrial fern may be erect or creeping. Zones 4-8, unless noted otherwise.

A. 'Branford Beauty' – Hybrid of the Japanese painted fern and the red-stemmed lady fern, it has attributes of each. The silvery-gray fronds and reddish stems combine to form an upright clump. Deciduous. 2'.