

## Maintaining a Succession of Cut Flowers

Many people enjoy having fresh flower arrangements in their home. With the right plants, it is possible to have fresh cut flowers most months of the year. The tables in this fact sheet list various types of plants along with the approximate time of bloom in the central part of Maryland. Plants may flower 7 to 10 days earlier on the Lower Eastern Shore, or 7 to 14 days later in Western Maryland. The flowering date will also vary according to seasonal weather, with an early, warm spring bringing an early bloom. If plants are protected by a building or near a large body of water, their date of bloom will also vary.

### Perennials and Hardy Bulbs

Many of the plants in Table 1 will flower over a period of several weeks, particularly if you plant several different cultivars. Some types, such as the Coreopsis or Gaillardia, will flower for 6 to 8 weeks, especially if the old bloom is picked off. The biggest display of bloom on all perennials is their first flower of the season. The later blooms are more scattered and sometimes on shorter stems. The date of flowering will vary according to the environment and prevailing weather conditions in the part of Maryland where you live.

**Table 1. Perennials and hardy bulbs and their month of bloom**

April
Wild columbine-- <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> Virginia bluebell-- <i>Mertensia virginica</i> Daffodil-- <i>Narcissus</i> spp. Wild phlox-- <i>Phlox divaricata</i> Tulip--early cultivars and species of <i>Tulipa</i> Long-spurred columbine-- <i>Aquilegia chrysantha</i> Sweet-william-- <i>Dianthus barbatus</i>
May
Leopardbane-- <i>Doronicum caucasicum</i> Early daylily-- <i>Hemerocallis flava</i> Iris-- <i>Iris</i> spp. Peony-- <i>Paeonia</i> spp. Globeflower-- <i>Trollius europaeus</i> Tulip--Cottage, Breeder, Darwin hybrids of <i>Tulipa</i>

## June

Achillea--*Achillea ptarmica*  
Fernleaf yarrow--*Achillea filipendulina*  
Perennial spirea--*Astilbe X arendsii*  
Peachleaf bellflower--*Campanula persicifolia*  
Canterbury-bells--*Campanula medium*  
Mountain-bluet--*Centaurea montana*  
Shasta daisy--*Chrysanthemum maximum*  
Coreopsis--*Coreopsis grandiflora*  
Delphinium--*Delphinium* hybrids  
Foxglove--*Digitalis purpurea*  
Meadowsweet--*Filipendula hexapetala*  
Blanketflower--*Gaillardia aristata*  
Daylily--*Hemerocallis aurantiaca*  
Coralbells--*Heuchera lithophila*; *H. sanguinea*  
Siberian iris--*Iris sibirica*  
Lily--*Lilium* species and cultivars  
Maltese cross--*Lychnis chalcedonica*  
Beebalm--*Monarda didyma*  
Beardtongue--*Penstemon barbatus*  
Painted daisy--*Chrysanthemum coccineum* (*Pyrethrum roseum*)  
Carolina lupine--*Thermopsis caroliniana*

## July

Butterflyweed--*Asclepias tuberosa*  
Blackberry-lily--*Belamcanda chinensis*  
Peachleaf bellflower--*Campanula persicifolia*  
Globe centaurea--*Centaurea macrocephala*  
Bugbane--*Cimicifuga racemosa*  
Blanketflower--*Gaillardia aristata*  
Babysbreath--*Gypsophila paniculata*  
Sneezeweed--*Helenium autumnale*  
Sunflower heliopsis--*Heliopsis helianthoides*  
Daylily--many cultivars  
Torchlily--*Kniphofia uvaria*  
Gayfeather--*Liatris pycnostachya*  
Lily--*Lilium* species and cultivars  
Statice--*Limonium latifolium*  
Garden phlox--*Philox paniculata*  
Black-eyed-susan--*Rudbeckia hirta*

August
Monkshood-- <i>Aconitum napellus</i> White mugwort-- <i>Artemisia lactiflora</i> Frikart aster-- <i>Aster X Frikartii</i> Tube clematis-- <i>Clematis heracleifolia</i> Joe-pye-weed-- <i>Eupatorium purpureum</i> Blanketflower-- <i>Gaillardia aristata</i> Sunflower heliopsis-- <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i> White plantainlily-- <i>Hosta plantaginea</i> Gayfeather-- <i>Liatris scariosa</i> Lily-- <i>Lilium henryi</i> ; <i>L. trigrinium</i> ; <i>L. formosanum</i> False-dragonhead-- <i>Physostegia virginiana</i> Coneflower-- <i>Rudbeckia maxima</i> ; <i>R. speciosa</i> Perennial black-eyed-susan-- <i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> Goldsturm Showy stonecrop-- <i>Sedum spectabile</i> Stokes aster-- <i>Stokesia laevis</i>
September
Japanese anemone-- <i>Anemone japonica</i> New England aster-- <i>Aster novae-angliae</i> Fall chrysanthemum-- <i>Chrysanthemum morifolium</i> Coreopsis-- <i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i> Delphinium--many <i>Delphinium</i> cultivars Mistflower-- <i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i> Willowleaf sunflower-- <i>Helianthus salicifolius</i> Blue salvia-- <i>Salvia azurea</i>
October
Fischers monkshood-- <i>Aconitium fischeri</i> Tartarian aster-- <i>Aster tataricus</i> Fall chrysanthemum-- <i>Chrysanthemum morifolium</i>

## Tender Roots and Bulbs

The plants in Table 2 are suitable for cut flowers. They are not winter hardy, however, and must be planted each year. The medium-sized or "B" types of dahlias are best for cut flowers. In addition, the Unwin and the Coltness hybrids grown as annuals each year from seed are useful for smaller cut flowers.

**Table 2. Tender roots and bulbs**

Canna-- <i>Canna indica</i> Dahlia--the medium sized or "B", Pompon, Unwin and Coltness hybrids Tuberose-- <i>Polianthes tuberosa</i> Gladiolus--many small, flowered types and species Montbretia-- <i>Tritonia crocata</i>
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## Annuals

Table 3 contains annual flowers that are suitable for cutting or picking. The time that annuals bloom depends in part on whether the seed is sown indoors or outdoors. If the flowers are always picked, and as much foliage is left on the plant as practical, many of these will continue to produce flowers until the first frost.

**Table 3. Flowering annuals**

Ageratum-- <i>Ageratum houstonianum</i> (tall growing varieties)
Snapdragon-- <i>Antirrhinum majus</i>
Calendula-- <i>Calendula officinalis</i>
China-aster-- <i>Callistephus chinensis</i>
Cornflower-- <i>Centaurea cyanus</i>
Calliopsis-- <i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>
Cosmos-- <i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>
Larkspur-- <i>Delphinium ajacis</i>
Annual gailardia-- <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>
Strawflower-- <i>Helichrysum bracteatum</i>
Feverfew-- <i>Chrysanthemum parthenium</i>
Annual phlox-- <i>Phlox drummondi</i>
Annual rudbeckia-- <i>Rudbeckia bicolor</i>
Mealycup sage-- <i>Salvia farinacea</i>
Scarlet sage-- <i>Salvia splendens</i>
Pincushion flower-- <i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>
Tall marigold-- <i>Tagetes erecta</i>
Mexican sunflower-- <i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>
Nasturtium-- <i>Tropaeolum majus</i>
Tuber verbena-- <i>Verbena venosa</i>
Pansy-- <i>Viola tricolor</i>
Zinnia-- <i>Zinnia elegans</i>

The annuals listed in Table 4 may be sown in the fall for earlier flowering in the spring. The smaller of these plants will benefit from a light winter protection.

**Table 4. Annuals that may be sown in the fall for an early spring bloom**

Snapdragon-- <i>Antirrhinum majus</i>
Cornflower-- <i>Centaurea cyanus</i>
Larkspur-- <i>Delphinium ajacis</i>
Annual babysbreath-- <i>Gypsophila elegans</i>
Pansy-- <i>Viola tricolor</i>

## Flowering Shrubs and Trees

Shrubs and trees are also a good source of fresh flowers. The shrubs and trees in Table 5 are arranged in their approximate order of flowering. In many cases, certain shrubs and trees may have an extended period of bloom in which case they are listed only in the month in which they first begin to flower. Examples include abelia, rose-of-sharon and butterfly bush. Plant different species and cultivars for a long period of flowering.

**Table 5. Flowering shrubs and trees and their month of bloom**

February
Spicebush-- <i>Lindera benzoin</i>
Japanese witchhazel-- <i>Hamamelis japonica</i>
Winter jasmine-- <i>Jasminum nudiflorum</i>

<b>March</b>
Cornelian cherry-- <i>Cornus mas</i> Garlandflower-- <i>Daphne cneorum</i> Spring heath-- <i>Erica carnea</i> Golden bells-- <i>Forsythia x-intermedia</i> ; <i>F. ovata</i> ; <i>F. suspensa</i> ; <i>F. viridissima</i> and cultivars. Winter honeysuckle-- <i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>
<b>April</b>
Shadblow or shadbush-- <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> Rhododendron-- <i>Rhododendron carolinianum</i> ; <i>R. catawbiense</i> ; <i>R. maximum</i> and many cultivars Azaleas-- <i>Rhododendron</i> spp. Flowering quince-- <i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i> Flowering dogwood-- <i>Cornus florida</i> Star magnolia-- <i>Magnolia stellata</i> Flowering crabapples--many <i>Malus</i> cultivars Japanese pieris-- <i>Pieris japonica</i> Flowering cherries and plums--many <i>Prunus</i> cultivars
<b>May</b>
Fringetree-- <i>Chionanthus virginica</i> Dogwood-- <i>Cornus florida</i> Hawthorn-- <i>Crataegus oxyacantha</i> Deutzia-- <i>Deutzia gracilis</i> Pearl bush-- <i>Exochorda racemosa</i> Mountain-laurel-- <i>Kalmia latifolia</i> Kerria-- <i>Kerria japonica</i> Beauty bush-- <i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i> Privet-- <i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i> Rose--many <i>Rosa</i> cultivars Spirea-- <i>Spirea thunbergii</i> Lilac-- <i>Syringa vulgaris</i> and other cultivars Viburnum-- <i>Viburnum carlesii</i> ; <i>V. X. burkwoodii</i> Weigela-- <i>Weigela florida</i> and other cultivars
<b>June</b>
Snowhill hydrangea-- <i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> Mockorange-- <i>Philadelphus coronarius</i> Anthony Waterer spirea-- <i>Spirea bumalda</i>
<b>July</b>
Glossy abelia-- <i>Abelia grandiflora</i> Butterfly bush-- <i>Buddleia davidii</i> Summersweet-- <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> Rose-of-sharon or shrub althea-- <i>Hibiscus syriacus</i> St. Johnswort-- <i>Hypericum calycinum</i> Crapemyrtle-- <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> Smoketree-- <i>Continus coggygria</i> ( <i>Rhus continus</i> )
<b>August</b>
Bushclover-- <i>Lespedeza bicolor</i> Chastetree-- <i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>
<b>October</b>
Witchhazel-- <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>

## ***Educating People To Help Themselves***

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by

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