Mix & Match:
Using Annuals and Perennials Together
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Reasons for using annuals and perennials together in the garden

Annuals and perennials are two different groups of plants, each with their own benefits. Perennials let us enjoy favorite plants every year without replanting. Since they are permanent and mature over time, they provide a framework or structure to the garden. Perennials can offer us bold shapes and sizes that may be less common among annuals. There are also a number of perennials that have colored foliage, so we don't always have to rely solely on flowers.

Annuals generally flower for most of the season. They can fill in at time when perennials may not be in flower. Using different annuals in among the framework of our perennials allows us the option give the garden a different look every year. Annuals can be more easily replaced if we choose wrong. Overall, annuals offer a lot of flexibility.

Should we plant the perennials or the annuals first?

There are different ways to approach this. If you normally plant only annuals, select a few perennials and place them where you want more permanence (where you want the structure of the garden to be). If you have an established perennial garden, remove plants that may not be performing well or just no longer suit your taste. Fill in those empty areas with annuals. If you are starting a new garden from scratch, you can make a plan now and plant it this year (or install it over the next 2 to 3 years).

What do we want from this mix of annuals and perennials?

We really want two things: color over the entire season and color combinations that please us.

More About Color: The Color Wheel
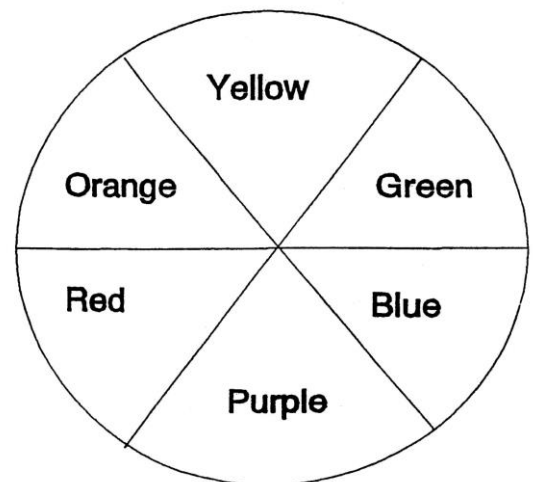
Red, orange and yellow are warm colors
- they stand out in the landscape.
- when planted at a distance, they make that distance seem shorter.
- serve as good accents in the garden, since they are so showy.

Green, blue and purple are cool colors
- they recede into the landscape.
- best used in masses or in areas where they will be viewed close up.

White, gray and silver
- good buffer between two colors that don't look good together.
- extend the time that the garden can be enjoyed (seen later in the evening).

Color Wheel

Other plants to consider including
Spring bulbs (like tulips and daffodils): They are perennials and help give color in early spring.
Ornamental grasses: Some are annual and some are perennial. They can extend your garden's beauty into fall and winter.
Tropical plants: They are not hardy here, but could be used as annuals. They can provide bold colors and shapes beyond those of the standard annuals we use.

A Selection of Annuals (blooming all season unless noted otherwise)

Scientific Name Common Name	Height	Flower color	Culture	Comments
Ageratum houstonianum Ageratum, floss flower	4-30"	Blue, pink, white	Full sun to light shade;	
Antirrhinum majus Snapdragon	6-48"	Wide range of colors	Full sun	Flowers earlier than most annuals
Begonia hybrids Begonia	6-16"	White, pink, red	Sun to shade; drought tolerant	
Brassica oleracea Ornamental Kale and Cabbage	8-24"	Grown for colorful foliage	Full sun	Good for cool temps early spring/ late fall
Catharanthus roseus Periwinkle, annual vinca	6-12"	Wide range of colors	Full sun	
Celosia species Cockscomb	6-36"	Red, yellow, orange, pink	Full sun	
Gomphrena globosa Globe amaranth	8-24"	White, pink, purple, red	Full sun	
Impatiens hawkeri New Guinea Impatiens	12-24"	Wide range of colors	Full sun to light shade	
Iresine herbstii Chicken Gizzards, Bloodleaf	2-3 feet	Grown for foliage	Full sun to light shade; tolerates wet	
Osteospermum hybrids African Daisy	1-3 feet	Range of colors	Full sun; drought tolerant	
Petunia hybrids Petunia	8-15"	Wide range of colors	Full sun; drought tolerant	
Salvia splendens Scarlet Sage	12-15"	Wide range of colors	Full sun	
Senecio cineraria Dusty Miller	6-18"	Grown for silvery white folaige	Full sun; drought tolerant; avoid wet	Good for cool temps early spring/ late fall
Solenostemon scutellarioides Coleus	1-3 feet	grown mostly for colorful foliage	Sun to shade	
Strobilanthes dyerianus Persian Shield	1-3 feet	Grown for foliage	Full sun, part shade; tolerates wet	
Tagetes erecta American Marigold	12-36"	Orange, yellow, cream	Full sun; drought tolerant	
Tagetes patula French Marigold	6-18"	Orange, yellow, red	Full sun; drought tolerant	
Torenia hybrids Wishbone flower	6-12"	Blue, purple, burgundy	Part to full shade; moist but not wet	

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Scientific Name Common Name	Height	Flower color	Culture	Comments
Tropaeolum majus Nasturtium	8-12"	Range of colors	Full sun	
Viola x *wittrockiana* Pansy	4-12"	Wide range of colors	Full sun to partial shade	Blooms primarily in spring and fall
Zinnia elegans Zinnia	1-4 feet	Wide range of colors	Full sun	

Selected Perennials According to <u>Start</u> of Flowering Period (common name, scientific name and flower colors)

April
Rock Cress, *Arabis caucasica* (white)
Jack in the Pulpit, *Arisaema triphyllum* (green, purplish)
Purple Rockcress, *Aubrieta deltoidea* (purple)
Basket of Gold, *Aurinia saxatilis* (yellow)
Siberian Bugloss, *Brunnera macrophylla,* (blue)
Glory of the Snow, *Chionodoxa luciliae* (white, pink)
Bleeding Heart, *Dicentra spectabilis* (pink, white)
Fringed Bleeding Heart, *Dicentra eximia* (pink)
Prairie Smoke, *Geum triflorum* (deep pink)
Netted Iris, *Iris reticulata* (purple)
Virginia Bluebells, *Mertensia virginica* (blue)
Moss Phlox, *Phlox subulata* (white, pink, rosy purple)

May
Willow Bluestar, *Amsonia tabernaemontana* (light blue)
Hybrid Columbine, *Aquilegia* x *hybrida* (wide range of colors)
Sea Pink, *Armeria maritima* (pink, white)
Blue False Indigo, *Baptisia australis* (blue-purple)
Mountain Bluet, *Centaurea montana* (blue , white)
Yellow Corydalis, *Corydalis lutea,* (yellow, blooms all season)
Cottage Pinks, *Dianthus plumarius* (pink, white, red)
Iris, *Iris* hybrids, (wide range of colors)
Peony, *Paeonia* hybrids (red, pink, white)
Oriental Poppy, *Papaver orientale* (orange, red, pink, white)
Bethlehem Sage, *Pulmonaria saccharata,* (purple, pink, blue)
Spiderwort, *Tradescantia* x *andersoniana* (blue, purple, white, pink)

June
Fern-leaf Yarrow, *Achillea filipendulina* (yellow)
Lady's Mantle, *Alchemilla mollis* (yellow green)
Goatsbeard, *Aruncus dioicus, (*white)
Astilbe, *Astilbe* hybrids and species (white, pink, red, rosy purple)
Carpathian Harebell, *Campanula carpatica* (white, blue, purple)
Blanket Flower, *Gaillardia* x *grandiflora* (red, yellow)

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Daylily, *Hemerocallis* hybrids, (wide range of colors)
Coralbells, *Heuchera* species (white, pink, red)
Veronica, *Veronica* species (blue, purple, white)

July
Butterflyweed, *Asclepias tuberosa,* (orange)
Blackberry Lily, *Belamcanda chinensis* (orange)
Bugbane, *Cimicifuga* species (white)
Threadleaf coreopsis, *Coreopsis verticillata* (yellow)
Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea* (purple, white)
Rattlesnake Master, *Eryngium yuccifolium* (white)
Joe-Pye Weed, *Eupatorium maculatum* (dusty pink)
Sneezeweed, *Helenium autumnale* (red, yellow)
Blazing Star, *Liatris spicata* (purple, white)
Bee Balm, *Monarda didyma* (white, pink, red)
Russian Sage, *Perovskia atriplicifolia* (lavender)
Garden Phlox, *Phlox paniculata* (white, pink, purple, rosy red)
Obedient Plant, *Physostegia virginiana* (purple, white)
Balloonflower, *Platycodon grandiflorus* (purple, white, pink)
Black-eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia fulgida* (yellow)
Perennial Blue Salvia, *Salvia* x *superba* (blue)

August
New England Aster, *Aster novae-angliae* (purple, blue, pink)
Turtlehead, *Chelone* species (pink, white)
Garden mum, *Chrysanthemum* x *morifolium* (wide range of colors)
Closed Gentian, *Gentiana andrewsii* (blue)
Hosta, *Hosta* species and hybrids (white, purple; often grown just for foliage)
Cardinal Flower, *Lobelia cardinalis* (red)
Showy Sedum, *Sedum spectabile* (white, pink)

September
Goldenrod, *Solidago* species and hybrids (yellow)
Toadlily, *Tricyrtis* species (white, purple, lavender)