

Where Gardeners Grow

1. Choose repeat-blooming annual plants for cutting gardens because you will get a longer season of bloom than with many perennials plants.
2. In general, a good cut flower has a stem long enough and sturdy enough to hold the flower in an arrangement
3. A cut flower should be one that lasts and looks good for several days.

- **Ageratum (Floss Flower)** Tight clusters of purple / blue flowers. Low grower.
- **Amaranthus caudatus (Love Lies Bleeding)** Hanging ropes of magenta blossoms with the texture of chenille.
- **Amaranthus hybrids** * Spiky blooms in shades from bronze to red.
- **Ammi majus (Bishop's Flower, False Queen Anne's Lace, White Dill)** The names sum it up.
- **Anemone (Anemone sylvestris)** Delicate white cups with yellow centers.
- **Bells of Ireland (Moluccella laevis)*** Green, bell shaped flowers line tall spikes.
- **Blue Lace Flower (Trachymene coerulea)** A smaller, blue version of Queen Anne's Lace.
- **Calendula (Calendula officinalis)** Daisy like flowers in hot hues of orange and yellow.
- **Callistephus chinensis (China Aster)** Spidery pom-poms in assorted colors.
- **Castor Bean (Ricinus communis)** Panicles of small, fluffy red flowers are followed by reddish-brown seed pods. (Beware-seeds are poisonous.)
- **Celosia, cristata (Cockscomb)*** Cauliflower shaped flower heads in brilliant colors.
- **Celosia, plumosa (Feather)*** Plumes in similar shades to C. Cristata.
- **Celosia, spicata (Wheat)*** Fluffy flower spikes.
- **Centaurea (Bachelors' Button)** Periwinkle blue daisy-like flowers
- **Cleome (Spider Flower)** Gangly plants with spidery explosions of flower buds in pink, purple and white.
- **Cosmos (Cosmos bipinnatus)** Profuse bloomer in a wide assortment of colors and flower shapes.
- **Dill** Flat umbels of yellow flowers.
- **Drumstick Flower (Craspedia globosa)*** One-inch yellow globes on tall, stiff stems.
- **Forget-Me-Not (Myosotis sylvatica)** Profuse bloomer in a rare true blue
- **Gomphrena (Globe Amaranth)*** Small clover-like globe shaped flowers in many colors, on long stems.
- **Helichrysum (Strawflower)** Papery daisy-like flowers in autumn colors
- **Heliotrope** Dense purple flower heads with a light, vanilla scent.
- **Kiss Me Over the Garden Gate (Polygonum orientale)** Long, drooping, reddish flower spikes.
- **Larkspur (Consolida ambigua)*** Considered an 'annual delphinium', with similar flower spikes and colors.
- **Lisianthus (Eustoma grandiflorum)** Flowers could easily be mistaken for a rose, in white, pinks and deep purples.
- **Marigold (Tagetes erecta)** Pom-poms held on tall stems, in shades from soft yellow to deep gold.
- **Nigella damascena (Love In A Mist)*** Balloon shaped buds and star-shaped blooms are cloaked in delicate netting. Blue, pinks, purple and white.
- **Reseda Odorata (Mignonette)** The spikes cream-colored flowers aren't showy, but they are heavily scented and wonderful in arrangements.
- **Salpiglossis (Painted Tongue)** Soft, velvety trumpet-shaped flowers in a range of colors.
- **Salvia coccinea (Lady in Red)** Spikes of tubular, scarlet red flowers
- **Salvia farinacea** Thin, but sturdy spikes of delicate flowers in shades of blue and white
- **Statice (Limonium sinuatum)*** Sprays of dense, tiny pastel blossoms on very sturdy stems.
- **Strawflower (Bracteantha bracteata)*** Another daisy-like flower from the Aster family, but these have a dry, papery feel even when fresh. Comes in colors from pastels to hot.
- **Stock (Matthiola)** Dense flower spikes with a spicy scent. Comes in pastels and jewel tones.
- **Sunflower** * Short or giant, sunflowers make long lasting cut flowers.
- **Sweet Annie (Artemisia annua)*** Grown for its fern-like, dark green foliage. Also has delicate, sweet scented white blooms.
- **Sweet Pea** Old fashioned, tall growing sweet peas have pea like blossoms and deceptively strong stems and come in a wide variety of colors and spicy scents.
- **Verbena bonariensis** Small clusters of purple flowers top long (4') stems that waft in the breeze and intermingle with other plants.
- **Zinnia elegans** Pom-poms with dense petals and contrasting centers. Profuse bloomer.

* Also good for drying.

Tip offered by Ward's Nursery Inc., 600 Main St. Great Barrington, MA- 413-528-0166;
www.wardsnursery.com. Selected from "Top Choices for Cut Flowers: Choosing Flowers for Your Cutting Garden"- Annuals by Marie Iannotti, About.com Guide, May 8, 2012