

Water-Wise Gardens Plant Guide – Perennials

Common Name	Botanical Name	Size (height)	Exposure	Bloom Time	Features
Yarrow	<i>Achillea species</i>	30 cm to 75 cm (12 in to 30 in)	Full sun	June to frost	Leggy with overwatering
Monkshood	<i>Aconitum species</i>	120 cm to 150 cm (48 in to 60 in)	Sun to partial shade	June to July	Hood-like bloom
Marsh Mallow	<i>Althaea officinalis</i>	45 cm to 120 cm (18 in to 48in)	Full sun to partial shade	August to September	Attracts butterflies
Prairie Crocus, Pasque Flower	<i>Pulsatilla vulgaris</i>	45 cm to 120 cm (18 in to 48 in)	Full sun	April to May	Likes good drainage and sun
Golden Marguerite	<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i>	60 cm to 90 cm (24 in to 36 in)	Full sun to partial shade	July to August	Dry, well-drained soil
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia species</i>	20 cm to 30 cm (8 in to 12 in)	Full sun to partial shade	May to June	Self-seeds
Thrift, Sea Pink	<i>Armeria species</i>	35 cm to 45 cm (14 in to 18 in)	Full sun to partial shade	June to July	Do not fertilize
Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	30 cm to 50 cm (12 in to 20 in)	Full sun	July to August	Drought tolerant
False Indigo	<i>Baptisia australis</i>	75 cm to 120 cm (30 in to 48 in)	Full sun to partial shade	June to July	Showy violet flowers
Cornflower	<i>Centaurea species</i>	60 cm to 75 cm (24 in to 30 in)	Full sun to partial shade	June to July	Drought tolerant
Red Valerian, Jupiter's Beard	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	60 cm to 90 cm (24 in to 36 in)	Sun to partial shade	June to September	Needs sun to bloom
Coreopsis, Tickseed	<i>Coreopsis species</i>	10 cm to 60 cm (4 in to 24 in)	Sun to light shade	June to frost	Likes well-drained soil
Pinks, Carnation	<i>Dianthus species</i>	10 cm to 45 cm (4 in to 18 in)	Sun to partial shade	May to early July	Good in rock gardens
Burning Bush, Gas Plant	<i>Dictamnus albus</i>	90 cm to 120 cm (36 in to 48 in)	Sun to partial shade	May to June	Drought tolerant

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Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea species</i>	45 cm to 90 cm (18 in to 36 in)	Full sun to partial shade	July to September	Drought tolerant
Globe Thistle	<i>Echinops species</i>	60 cm (24 in)	Full sun	July to August	Nice dried flower
Fleabane, Spanish Daisy	<i>Erigeron species</i>	35 cm to 60 cm (14 in to 24 in)	Sun to partial shade	June to September	Likes poor soil
Sea Holly	<i>Eryngium</i>	60 cm to 90 cm (24 in to 36 in)	Full sun	All summer	Likes dry, hot area
Spurge	<i>Euphorbia species</i>	45 cm to 75 cm (18 in to 30 in)	Full sun	June to July	Good in rock gardens
Blanket Flower	<i>Gaillardia species</i>	15 cm to 60 cm (6 in to 24 in)	Full sun	July to August	Self-seeds
Cranesbill	<i>Geranium species</i>	15 cm to 90 cm (6 in to 36 in), dependent on species	Sun to partial shade	May to September	Needs good drainage
Baby's Breath	<i>Gypsophila species</i>	15 cm to 90 cm (6 in to 36 in), dependent on species	Sun to partial shade	May to June	Drought tolerant
Rock Rose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	30 cm (12 in)	Full sun	June and through midsummer	Drought tolerant
Perennial Sunflower	<i>Helianthus species</i>	1 m to 2 m (3 ft to 6 ft)	Full sun	July to frost	Drought tolerant
Dame's Rocket, Sweet Rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	80 cm (32 in)	Full sun	June	Sweet smelling
St. John's Wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	25 cm to 35 cm (10 in to 14 in)	Sun	July to August	Drought tolerant
Gayfeather, Blazing Star	<i>Liatris species</i>	60 cm to 120 cm (24 in to 48 in)	Full sun	July to frost	Drought tolerant
Flax	<i>Linium species</i>	25 cm to 45 cm (10 in to 18 in)	Full sun to partial shade	May to June	Dies back in late summer

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Campion	<i>Lychnis species</i>	25 cm to 90 cm (10 in to 36 in)	Full sun to partial shade	July to September	Hummingbirds love these
Bergamot, Bee Balm	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	60 cm to 120 cm (24 in to 48 in)	Sun to light shade	July to September	Strong lemony fragrance
Evening Primrose, Ozark Sundrops	<i>Oenothera species</i>	25 cm to 45 cm (10 in to 18 in)	Full sun	July to September	Heat and drought tolerant
Cactus, Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia species</i>	25 cm (10 in)	Full sun	August	Well-drained soil
Oriental Poppy	<i>Papaver orientale</i>	30 cm to 120 cm (12 in to 48 in)	Full sun	June to July	Drought resistant
Peony	<i>Paeonia species</i>	75 cm to 120 cm (30 in to 48 in)	Sun to light shade	May to June	
Beardtongue, Penstemon	<i>Penstemon species</i>	45 cm to 60 cm (18 in to 24 in)	Partial shade	July to August	Very showy flowers
Russian Sage	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	60 cm to 120 cm (24 in to 48 in)	Full sun	July to frost	Hot, dry location
Coneflower, Mexican Hat	<i>Ratibida species</i>	45 cm to 60 cm (18 in to 24 in)	Full sun	July to August	Self-seeds
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia species</i>	45 cm to 75 cm (18 in to 30 in)	Full sun to partial shade	July to early September	Drought tolerant
Soapwort	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	60 cm to 90 cm (24 in to 36 in)	Sun to part shade	All summer	Drought tolerant
Salvia, Sage	<i>Salvia species</i>	35 cm to 60 cm (14 in to 24 in)	Full sun to partial shade	June to September	Needs to be divided eventually
Stonecrop	<i>Sedum species</i>	45 cm to 60 cm (18 in to 24 in)	Full sun	August to September	Requires good drainage
Johnny Jump Up	<i>Viola species</i>	15 cm to 20 cm (6 in to 8 in)	Sun	April to July, longer in shade	Early spring. Self seeds
Adam's Needles	<i>Yucca species</i>	45 cm to 60 cm (18 in to 24 in)	Full sun	July to August	Loves it hot, dry and sunny

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Native Perennials

Common Name	Botanical Name	Size (height)	Exposure	Bloom Time	Features
Wild Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Up to 45 cm (18 in)	Does well in dry shade	Spring early summer	Beautiful red flowers with yellow centres
New England Aster	<i>Aster Laevis</i>	Up to 80 cm (32 in)	Sun to part shade	Late fall into November	Dry soil, blue flowers
Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	30 com to 60 cm (12in to 24 in)	Sun to full sun	August to September	Bright orange flowers attracts butterflies
Spreading Dogbane	<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>	60 cm to 100cm (24 to 40 in)	Sun to part shade	June to July	Fragrant pink flowers
Showy Tick-trefoil	<i>Desmodium canadensis</i>	Up to 1.2 m (4 ft)	Sun to shade	July to August	Magenta flowers dry to moist conditions
Long-leaved Bluets	<i>Hedyotis longifolia</i>	Up to 20 cm (8 in)	Full sun	May to June	White flowers great for rock gardens
Wild Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Up to 80 cm (32 in)	Sun to part shade	Mid June to July	Lavender flowers
Foxglove Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	60 cm to 120 cm (2 ft to 4 ft)	Sun to part shade	May to July	White with pink
Wild Lupin	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	27 cm (12 in)	Sun to part shade	June early summer	Purple stalks of flowers
Iron weed	<i>Vernonia fasciculata</i>	1.2 m to 2.4 m (4 ft to 6 ft)	Sun	July-September	Deep pink spires