Annuals and perennials are an excellent source of color and accent to North Dakota landscapes. Annuals are used for their continuous flower color throughout most of the growing season. Because North Dakota summers are so unpredictable, it is usually a good idea to use transplants after killing frost threats have passed. Perennials are used for their permanence in the landscape setting, offering specific periods of bloom, relatively low maintenance, and wide adaptability.

Where annuals are started anew each growing season, perennials can usually be divided in the spring or fall. These new divisions can either be replanted or given to a friend or neighbor.

The organization of this circular is to provide annual suggestions for specific locations in and around the landscape: Low growing plants, tall, shade, full sun/dry locations, for massing, naturalizing, and fragrance. This does not mean that a plant selected for a particular location absolutely cannot grow in another type of location. It is merely a guide indicating where the selected plants grow best under those conditions. Some plants may be listed in more than one category.
**Annuals**

### Low Growing (6"-8")
- Ageratum
- Alyssum – ‘Carpet of Snow’
- Dahlberg Daisy
- Dianthus – Princes Series
- Dusty Miller
- Lobelia
- Marigolds (Dwarf)
- Moss Rose
- Nemophila
- Nierembergia
- Pansy
- Snapdragons (Dwarf)
- Vinca – Carpet Series
- Zinnia (Dwarf)

### Tall Plants (24" - 48"+)
- Cannas
- Celosia
- Cleome
- Cosmos – Sensation Mix
- Fountain Grass
- Marigold – Climax & Jubilee Series
- Nicotiana
- Snapdragon – Rocket Strains
- Statice
- Sweet Pea – Vine to 6’+
- Zinnia – Specific cultivars

### Intermediate Height (10"-20")
- Begonia (wax)
- Gaillardia ‘Red Humel’
- Gomphrena
- Geranium
- Impatiens
- Marigold – Zenith, Discovery
- Petunia
- Salvia splendens
- Verbena
- Vinca
- Zinnia angustifolia

### Plants For Shade
- Begonia – Wax and Tuberous
- Coleus
- Dahlberg Daisy – Light
- Impatiens
- Lobelia – Light
- Myosotis – (Forget-Me-Not)
- Nemisia – Light
- Nemophila – Light
- Nicotiana – Light
- Nigella
- Pansy
- Poppy – Light, or east side
- Rudbeckia – Light
- Torenia – Light

### Full Sun/Dry Locations
- Calendula – Prince Series
- California Poppy
- Cleome
- Dusty Miller (Senecio)
- Eustoma (Lisanthus)
- Gaillardia
- Moss Rose – ‘Magic Carpet’
- Statice (Limonium)
- Sanvitalia
- Tithonia (Mexican Sunflower)
- Verbena

### Striking Flower Show – Massed Plantings
- Alyssum – ‘Carpet of Snow’
- Dianthus – Princess Series
- Dahlberg Daisy
- Geranium – Orbit & Ringo Series
- Marigold – Jubilee Series
- Petunia – Multifloras
- Portulaca (Moss Rose)
- Salvia – Sizzler Series
- Snapdragon – Sweetheart Series
- Verbena
- Zinnia

### Plants For Naturalizing
- Campanula (Tall Bellflower)
- Cleome
- Forget-Me-Not (Myosotis)
- Fountain Grass (Pennisetum spp.)
- Gaillardia (Indian Blanket)
- Hare’s Tail (Lagarus ovatus)
- Lupinus
  - (Texas Bluebonnet)
- Nigella (Love-In-A-Mist)
- Rudbeckia
  - (Black-Eyed-Susan)

### Annuals Planted For Fragrance
- Alyssum
- Four-O’Clock
- Heliotrope
- Mignonette
- Moonflower (vine)
- Nasturtium
- Nicotiana
- Pincushion Flower
- Snapdragon
- Stock
- Sweet Pea

### Annuals For Drying
- Amaranthus caudatus
- Fountain Grass
- Gomphrena
- Helichrysum (strawflower)
- Quaking Grass
- Salvia farinacea
- Statice
Perennials

Perennials are often used to solve trouble some spots in the landscape. Some of these areas might be wet, dry, shady, or possess infertile soil. Perennials are effective background plantings, for naturalizing, or simply as a border to define a planting bed.

Wet areas could be planted with Iris sibirica, Monarda didyma, and Viola odorata. For dry areas, the use of Achillea or Hemerocallis might be considered. Where the soil is poor, Gypsophila or Blue False Indigo (Baptisia australis) could be used. For tall background plantings, consider Phlox paniculata or Boltonia asteroides ‘Snowbank’. Naturalized plantings may use the Prairie Gayfeather (Liatris) or Echinacea, while rocky areas will accommodate plantings of Columbine (Aquilegia) and Basket-of-Gold (Aurinia saxatilis ‘Citrina’). Borders can be accented effectively with Snow-In-Summer (Cerastium tomentosum) or Phlox subulata (Moss Pink).

Perennial selection can be made on the basis of flower color and the season of bloom. The following selections will highlight these qualities.

Color Guide

Blue to Purple
Ajug
Aquilegia
Aster
Campanula
Delphinium
Echinacea
Hosta
Iris
Liatris
Phlox
Platycodon
Salvia
Scabiosa
Veronica
Viola

Pink to Red
Achillea millefolium
Aster
Astilbe
Boltonia
Dianthus
Dicentra
Echinacea
Erigeron
Geranium
Hemerocallis
Heuchera
Iris
Lobelia cardinalis
Lychnis calcedonica
Paeonia
Phlox
Physostegia
Salvia ‘Rose Queen’
Sedum spectabile

Yellow to Orange
Achillea ‘Coronation Gold’
Alchemilla
Aurinia saxatilis
Coreopsis
Gaillardia
Hemerocallis
Heliopsis
Iris
Ligularia
Linum flavum
Oenothera
Papaver orientale
Ratibida
Rudbeckia
Sedum
Solidago

White
Achillea ‘Angels Breath’
Arabis albida
Aruncus
Aster
Astilbe
Boltonia
Cerastium
Dendranthemum
Dianthus
Dicentra
Dictamnus
Echinacea
Gypsophila
Hosta
Iris
Paeonia
Phlox
Veronica
Yucca

Gray to Blue, & Variegated Foliage
Achillea
Ajuga
Artemisia
Cerastium
Dianthus
Echinops
Gypsophila
Heuchera
Hosta
Lamium
Sedum
Thymus

Perennials
Season of Bloom

May to June
Ajuga
Aster
Cerastium
Dicentra
Dictamnus
Erigeron
Geranium
Iris
Paeonia
Lychnis chalcedonica
Viola

June to July
Aruncus
Campanula
Delphinium
Heuchera
Salvia ‘Rose Queen’
Yucca

July to August
Achillea ‘Angels Breath’
Ligularia
Lobelia cardinalis
Monarda
Physostegia
Ratibida

August to September
Aster
Boltonia
Sedum spectabile

Extended Season of Bloom
Achillea millefolium
Aquilegia
Coreopsis
Echinacea
Dianthus
Gaillardia
Gypsophila
Heliosis
Hemerocallis
Hosta
Liatris
Linum flavum
Oenothera
Phlox
Rudbeckia
Sedum
Salvia
Viola

Under 12"
Ajuga
Asarum
Aurinia
Cerastium
Dianthus deltoides
Coreopsis ‘Golden Shower’
Iris cristata
Iris pumila
Oenothera missourensis
Phlox subulata
Sedum
Viola

12-24"
Achillea ‘Baby’s Breath’
Achillea ‘Moonshine’
Achillea ‘Fire King’
Arum
Asarum
Campanula rotundifolia
Coreopsis auriculata ‘Nana’
Dendranthemum
Dianthus barbatus
Dictamnus albus
Erigeron ‘Walker’
Geranium
Heuchera sanguinea
Hosta lancifolia
Iris, Bearded
Linum perenne
Lychnis X arkwrightii
Paeonia tenuifolia
Phlox divaricata
Sedum aizoon
Sedum ‘Autumn Joy’
Sedum spectabile
Veronica ‘Crater Lake Blue’
Veronica ‘Spicata’

Foliar Impacts
Gray, Blue, & Variegated – Season Long
Achillea
Ajuga
Artemisia
Cerastium
Dianthus
Echinops
Gypsophila
Heuchera
Hosta
Lamium
Perovskia
Sedum
Thymus

Shade Tolerant Perennials
Ajuga spp.
Aquilegia canadensis
Asarum canadense
Astilbe spp.
Bergenia cordifolia
Campanula spp.
Centaurea macrocephala
Cimicifuga racemosa
Coreopsis spp.
Dicentra spectabilis
Digitalis spp.
Hosta spp.
Lamium spp.
Mertensia virginica
Myosotis spp.
Phlox divaricata
Ranunculus repens
Sedum kamtschaticum

Heights:
Over 24"
Achillea filpendulina
Aquilegia canadensis
Aster
Astilbe
Boltonia asteroides
‘Snowbank’
Campanula glomerata
Coreopsis ‘Golden Shower’
Delphinium elatum
Dictamnus albus
‘Purpureus’
Echinacea purpurea
Echinops vitro
Eryngium X zabelii ‘Amethyst’
Gypsophila paniculata
Hosta sieboldiana
Iris
Liatris spicata
Lychnis chalcedonica
Monarda didyma
Papaver orientale
Phlox paniculata
Physostegia virginiana
Rudbeckia
Salvia
Solidago ‘Gold Dwarf’
Veronica virginica
Yucca

Under 12"
Achillea
Asarum
Aurinia
Cerastium
Dianthus deltoides
Coreopsis ‘Golden Shower’
Iris cristata
Iris pumila
Oenothera missourensis
Phlox subulata
Sedum
Viola

12-24"
Achillea ‘Baby’s Breath’
Achillea ‘Moonshine’
Achillea ‘Fire King’
Arum
Asarum
Campanula rotundifolia
Coreopsis auriculata ‘Nana’
Dendranthemum
Dianthus barbatus
Dictamnus albus
Erigeron ‘Walker’
Geranium
Heuchera sanguinea
Hosta lancifolia
Iris, Bearded
Linum perenne
Lychnis X arkwrightii
Paeonia tenuifolia
Phlox divaricata
Sedum aizoon
Sedum ‘Autumn Joy’
Sedum spectabile
Veronica ‘Crater Lake Blue’
Veronica ‘Spicata’
The red, white and blue logo of All-America Selections (AAS) on vegetable and flower seed packets, bedding plant tags, in catalogs and in garden articles is a promise of gardening success under most circumstances — even in North Dakota! For the past 68 years, AAS has taken the guess work out of finding flower and vegetable varieties that will be reliable, vigorous, productive and that show marked improvements over other varieties currently available.

While not a trial grounds, the campus gardens on the western part of the NDSU campus are AAS Display gardens that attract hundreds of visitors during the growing season. The upcoming 1999 AAS plants were trialed in our gardens in Fargo and at the Dickinson Research and Extension Center. To get a glimpse of what will be available to the public for the next gardening year, visit our gardens at either site.

Recent AAS winners are:

**1998**

**Impatiens F, ‘Victorian Rose’** — soft rose, consistently double flowers are improvements. More free flowering than other double flowers. Needs shady growing location.

**Petunia F, ‘Prism Sunshine’** — A large, creamy yellow, single flowering plant that provides color all season long, and combines well with other colors.

**1999**

**Tritoma ‘Flamenco’** — a perennial in zones 5-8, this striking flower is desirable as a long stem cut flower. The tubular blooms on a flower spike can be light yellow, golden yellow, orange, red or shades of these colors. Height, 30 inches.

**Verbena ‘Quartz Burgundy’** — a distinct deep red, burgundy wine color not previously available in an annual verbena. The large umbels and velvety texture are desirable flower qualities that were observed by the AAS judges. Another improved trait is the length of the flowering season. It will flower in the early spring or fall and continue for months. This trait is enhanced by powdery mildew tolerance so that the plant does not succumb to this disease.

**Verbena ‘Quartz Burgundy’** — is ideal for hanging baskets as well as ground cover plantings in full sun. Spreads up to 15 inches and gets 6-10 inches in height.

**Zinnia ‘Profusion Cherry’** — exceeded all expectations for a single flowered, mid-height garden zinnia. Once started, it never ceased flowering all through the growing season. Exhibiting a combination of high disease tolerance, and a profusion of single, rose-colored blooms, the interested gardener need only provide a sunny location, fertile soil, and water for color that will last for months. Height: 12-18 inches; width: 16-22 inches.
Zinnia ‘Profusion Orange’ — perhaps the most disease-resistant zinnia in North American gardens. This plant is appropriately named as the old blooms are covered with fresh foliage and more flowers. Because of its mounded habit, it shows color in all directions, so there is no “good side” for planting. Getting 12-18 inches in height, each plant will spread 14-20 inches.

Portulaca F1 ‘Sundial Peach’ — the first portulaca to win an All-America Selections Award. It possesses two distinct qualities that other cultivars only hope for — a unique pastel coral color, and a longer display of color than other varieties of portulaca. Plants get to a height of 6-8 inches, and spread 8-12 inches.

Osteospermum ‘Passion Mix’ — a daisy lover’s delight. The single daisy flowers can be shades of rose, purple, or a contrasting pure white. Known also as Cape Marigold or African Daisy, this native to South Africa will thrive in a xeric-type garden environment, as it needs little water to get along. They should be readily available in garden centers in 4” to 6” pots this spring. Height and width: 12-18 inches.

Marigold ‘Bonanza Bolero’ — unique because of its irregular bicolor design. The blooms are golden yellow, flecked with mahogany red markings in a variable pattern. The flowers can be cut and used in petite summer bouquets. This is a good candidate for our environment as it tolerates poor weather conditions quite well, and are disease and insect free. Height: 8-12 inches; width: 12-24 inches.

Begonia F1 ‘Pin-Up® Flame’ — an unusual color combination of yellow with an orange/red petal edge. This color pattern is distinct from other single flowered tuberous rooted begonias and the pattern varies slightly from plant to plant. They will be mostly available in 4 inch pots at garden centers this spring. Height and width: 10-12 inches.

Vinca ‘Stardust Orchid’ — performs best in full sun location, with well-drained soil. Keep the water off the plant foliage to avoid diseases. The white flowers fall off at senescence so deadheading is not unnecessary. Basically a pest-free plant that is easy to grow. Height: 14-16 inches

Tithonia ‘Fiesta del Sol’ — daisy-like orange flowers make a striking show in summer heat, literally ignoring the rising temperatures. This is a good butterfly and hummingbird attractant, needing only a fertile soil, full sun, and water in order to look its best. North Dakota gardeners need to be aware of this plant’s sensitivity to cool temperatures — do not transplant until the temperatures are dependably warm. For gardeners who are troubled with deer grazing, this is one of the last items they will add to their menu. Height: 2-3 feet.

Cosmos ‘Cosmic Orange’ — if you’ve grown Cosmos before, don’t expect this one to resemble the others in too many ways. The 2-inch orange flowers literally “glow” on the compact, dense, plant, which gets 12-18 inches tall. This is truly a low-maintenance plant that actually performs better when planted in soil of low fertility. If the spent blooms are removed, the dazzling flowers will continue their show right up till fall frost. To maximize flower show use either transplants or start seeds about 90 days before transplanting.

Dianthus F1 ‘Melody Pink’ — the perfect cottage garden plant, this Dianthus serves as a colorful addition to a sunny location for the entire season, along with supplying the gardener with a supply of cut flowers. The sprays of 1-inch pink flowers will show good color despite the heat of summer. Use transplants or start seeds about 60 days before moving outside. Given sunshine, water as needed, and fertile soil, this Dianthus will reward the gardener with undemanding beauty all season long. Height: 20-24 inches.

Sunflower ‘Soraya’ — this imposing beauty, which stands 5-6 feet tall, has blooms that are 4-6 inches across, with distinctly orange petals and chocolate brown centers. With their long stems, they can be used as cut flowers or remain as sentinels toward the back of the garden. Direct sow the seed in a garden bed where ample sunshine can warm the soil and get the plants started. From sowing to bloom will require about 90-100 days, making it a perfect choice for a “pumpkin days” color addition to the garden.

Perennial Plant Association Plant of the Year 2000

Scabiosa columbaria ‘Butterfly Blue’
This reliably hardy perennial for our area (zone 3) will do well in light shade or full sun, producing a mass of lavender-blue flowers through a good part of the growing season. It begins blooming from mid-spring and going to early fall if deadheaded. A good attractant for butterflies, it also makes an excellent plant for a cutflower garden or container culture. Once established, these 12-16 inch plants need little care.
Common Name Reference

**Annuals**

Ageratum — Floss Flower  
Amaranthus — Love-lies-bleeding  
Antirrhinum — Snapdragon  
Begonia — Begonia  
Briza — Quaking grass, Rattlesnake grass  
Calendula — Calendula  
Campanula — Bellflower  
Celosia — Cockscomb, plumed and crested  
Centaurea — Basket flower  
Chrysanthemum — Chrysanthemum  
Cleome — Spider flower  
Coleus — Coleus, Flame nettle  
Consolida — Larkspur  
Coreopsis — Calliopsis  
Cosmos — Cosmos  
Cynoglossum — Chinese forget-me-not  
Dianthus — Pink, Sweet William  
Dyssodia — Dahlberg daisy  
Eschscholzia — California poppy  
Eustoma — Lisianthus, Prairie gentian  
Gaillardia — Blanket flower  
Gerbera — Transvaal daisy  
Gomphrena — Globe amaranth  
Gypsophila — Baby's breath  
Helichrysum — Strawflower  
Iberis — Rocket candytuft  
Impatiens — Garden balsam  
Ipomoea — Moonflower, Morning glory  
Lathyrus — Sweet pea  
Limonium — Statice, Sea lavender  
Lobelia — Lobelia  
Lobularia — Sweet alyssum  
Moluccella — Bells-of-Ireland  
Myosotis — Forget-me-not  
Nemesia — Pouch nemesia  
Nicotiana — Flowering tobacco  
Nigella — Nigella, Fennel flower  
Papaver — Poppy, Iceland poppy  
Pelargonium — Geranium  
Petunia — Petunia  
Phlox — Annual phlox  
Portulaca — Portulaca, moss rose  
Rudbeckia — Coneflower  
Salvia — Salvia, sage  
Senecio — Dusty miller  
Tagetes — Marigold  
Tithonia — Mexican sunflower  
Tropaeolum — Nasturtium  
Viola — Violet, Viola, Pansy  
Zinnia — Zinnia  

**Perennials**

Achillea — Yarrow  
Ajuga — Bugleweed  
Alchemilla — Lady's mantle  
Anaphalis — Pearly everlasting  
Aquilegia — Columbine  
Arabis — Rock cress  
Artemisia — Wormwood  
Aruncus — Goatsbeard  
Astilbe — Astilbe, False spirea  
Aurinia — Basket-of gold  
Boltonia — Boltonia  
Campanula — Bellflower  
Cerastium — Snow-in-summer  
Coreopsis — Tickseed  
Delphinium — Delphinium, Larkspur  
Dianthus — Pink  
Dicentra — Bleeding heart  
Dictamnus — Gas plant  
Echinacea — Purple coneflower  
Erigeron — Fleabane  
Gaillardia — Blanket flower  
Geranium — Cranesbill  
Gypsophila — Baby's breath  
Heliopsis — False sunflower, oxeye  
Hemerocallis — Daylily  
Heuchera — Alumroot  
Hosta — Plantain lily  
Iris — Iris  
Lamium — Dead nettle  
Liatris — Blazing star, gay-feather  
Ligularia — Bigleaf goldenray  
Linum — Flax  
Lobelia — Cardinal flower  
Lychnis — Arkwright campion, rose campion  
Monarda — Bee balm  
Myosotis — Forget-me-not  
Oenothera — Sundrops, Primrose  
Paeonia — Peony  
Papaver — Poppy  
Perovskia — Azure sage, Russian sage  
Phlox — Prairie phlox  
Physostegia — Obedience, False dragonhead  
Ratibida — Prairie coneflower  
Rudbeckia — Coneflower, black-eyed Susan  
Salvia — Sage  
Scabiosa — Pincushion flower  
Sedum — Stonecrop  
Solidago — Goldenrod  
Thymus — Thyme  
Veronica — Speedwell  
Viola — Violet  
Yucca — Adam’s needle