

Annual Flowers for Special Uses

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There is a “trouble spot” in every yard. The question is, “What can I plant there?” In an effort to accommodate those “trouble spots,” here is a list of annual flowers that can be used for specific conditions around the yard with some degree of success. Of course, many annuals have more than one use, so use them to your advantage. Also note, specific varieties may have characteristics different from those indicated. Experiment yourself.

Annuals with long blooming period:

African Daisy (*Gazania* species)
 American Marigold (*Tagetes erecta*)
 Browallia (*Browallia*)
 Calliopsis (*Coreopsis tinctoria*)
 Cosmos (*Cosmos* species)
 Creeping Zinnia (*Sanvitalia procumbens*)
 Edging Lobelia (*Lobelia erinus*)
 Flowering Tobacco (*Nicotiana alata grandiflora*)
 French Marigold (*Tagetes patula*)
 Globe Amaranth (*Gomphrena globosa*)
 Impatiens (*Impatiens wallerana*)
 Jewels of Ophir (*Talinum paniculatum*)
 Madagascar Periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus* [*Vinca rosea*])
 Mealy-cup Sage, Blue Sage (*Salvia farinacea*)
 Plume Cockscomb (*Celosia cristata*)
 Ross moss, Portulaca (*Portulaca grandiflora*)
 Scabiosa, Pincushion Flower (*Scabiosa atropurpurea*)
 Scarlet Sage (*Salvia splendens*)
 Spiderflower (*Cleome hasslerana*)
 Wax Begonia (*Begonia x semperflorens*)
 Wishbone Flower (*Torenia fournieri*)
 Zinnia (*Zinnia* species)

Annuals for cut flowers:

American Marigold (*Tagetes erecta*)
 Annual Candytuft (*Iberis umbellata*)
 Annual Baby’s Breath (*Gypsophila elegans*)
 Annual Blanket-Flower (*Gaillardia pulchella*)
 Basket Flower (*Centaurea americana*)
 Bells of Ireland (*Molucella laevis*)
 Blue-eyed African Daisy (*Arctotis stoechadifolia*)
 Bluelace Flower (*Trachymene coeruleus*)
 Calendula, Pot Marigold (*Calendula officinalis*)

California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*)
China Pink, Indian Pink (*Dianthus chinensis*)
Clarkia (*Clarkia elegans*)
Crown Daisy, Tricolor chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum carinatum*)
French Marigold (*Tagetes patula*)
Larkspur (*Delphinium ajacis* [*Consolida ambigua*])
Love in a Mist (*Nigella damascena*)
Mealy-cup Sage, Blue Sage (*Salvia farinacea*)
Mexican Tulip Poppy (*Hunnemannia fumariaefolia*)
Mignonette (*Reseida odorata*)
Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*)
Painted Tongue (*Salpiglossis sinuata*)
Pansy (*Viola tricolor hortensis*)
Scabiosa, Pincushion Flower (*Scabiosa atropurpurea*)
Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum majus*)
Stock (*Mathiola incana*)
Strawflower, Everlasting (*Helichrysum bracteatum*)
Sweet Sultan (*Centaurea moschata*)
Sweet Pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*)
T. Signate Dwarf Marigold (*Tagetes tenuifolia* var. *pumila*)
Zinnia (*Zinnia* species)

Annuals that tolerate shade or semi-shade:

Annual Candytuft (*Iberis umbellata*)
Basket Flower (*Centaurea americana*)
Chinese Forget-Me-Not (*Cynoglossum amabile*)
Clarkia (*Clarkia elegans*)
Coleus (*Coleus blumei*)
Edging Lobelia (*Lobelia erinus*)
English Daisy (*Bellis perennis*)
Evening Primrose (*Oenothera drummondii*)
Flowering tobacco (*Nicotiana alata grandiflora*)
Four O'Clock (*Mirabilis jalapa*)
Impatiens (*Impatiens wallerana*)
Pansy (*Viola tricolor hortensis*)
Scarlet Sage (*Salvia splendens*)
Sweet Sultan (*Centaurea moschata*)
Wax Begonia (*Begonia x semperflorens*)
Wishbone Flower (*Torenia fournieri*)

Annuals for moist, cool conditions:

Annual Canterbury Bells (*Campanula medium*)
Annual Candytuft (*Iberis umbellata*)
Baby blue-eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*)
Balsam (*Impatiens balsamina*)
Blue Woodruff (*Asperula setosa*)
Bluelace Flower (*Trachymene coeruleus*)

Calendula, Pot Marigold (*Calendula officinalis*)
California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*)
Cape Forget-Me-Not, Bugloss (*Anchusa capensis*)
China Pink, Indian Pink (*Dianthus chinensis*)
Edging Lobelia (*Lobelia erinus*)
English Daisy (*Bellis perennis*)
Forget-Me-Not (*Myosotis sylvatica*)
Larkspur (*Delphinium agacis* [*Consolida ambigua*])
Mask Flower (*Alonsoa warscewiczii*)
Monkey Flower (*Mimulus luteus*)
Nemesia (*Nemesia* species)
Pansy (*Viola tricolor hortensis*)
Polygonum, Princes Feather (*Polygonum orientale*)
Summer-cypress, Burning Bush (*Kochia scoparia*)
Sweet Pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*)
Telanthera (*Alternanthera ficoidea bettzickiana*)
Wishbone Flower (*Torenia fournieri*)

Annuals for dry, hot conditions:

African Daisy (*Gazania* species)
American Marigold (*Tagetes erecta*)
Annual Baby's Breath (*Gypsophila elegans*)
Annual Blanket-Flower (*Gaillardia pulchella*)
Annual Phlox (*Phlox drummondii*)
Basket Flower (*Centaurea americana*)
California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*)
Calliopsis (*Coreopsis tinctoria*)
Cape Daisy, African Daisy (*Dimorphotheca qurantiaca*)
Cardinal climber (*Quamoclit sloteri*)
Creeping Zinnia (*Sanvitalia procumbens*)
Cup-Flower (*Nierembergia*)
Cypress Vine (*Quamoclit pennata*)
Four O'Clock (*Mirabilis jalapa*)
French Marigold (*Tagetes patula*)
Ice Plant (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*)
Madagascar Periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus* [*Vinca rosea*])
Mealy-cup Sage, Blue Sage (*Salvia farinacea*)
Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*)
Perilla, Beefsteak Plant (*Perilla frutescens Crispa*)
Petunia (*Petunia*)
Plume Cockscomb (*Celosia cristata*)
Poppy (*Papaver* species)
Ross Moss, Portulaca (*Portulaca grandiflora*)
Sand Verbena (*Abronia umbellata*)
Scarlet Sage (*Salvia splendens*)
Snow-on-the-Mountain, Gout Weed (*Euphorbia marginata*)
Spiderflower (*Cleome hasslerana*)
Statice (*Limonium*)

Strawflower (*Helichrysum bracteatum*)
Summer-cypress, Burning Bush (*Kochia scoparia*)
Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)
Sweet Sultan (*Centaurea moschata*)
Zinnia (*Zinnia* species)

Annuals for poor soil:

Basket Flower (*Centaurea americana*)
Blue Woodruff (*Asperula setosa*)
Calliopsis (*Coreopsis tinctoria*)
Cosmos (*Cosmos* species)
Cup-Flower (*Nierembergia*)
Flour O'Clock (*Mirabilis jalapa*)
Ice Plant (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*)
Impatiens (*Impatiens wallerana*)
Love-Lies-Bleeding (*Amaranthus tricolor*)
Mentzelia (*Mentzelia* species)
Morning Glory (*Ipomoea* species)
Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*)
Perilla, Beefsteak Plant (*Perilla frutescens Crispa*)
Plume Cockscomb (*Celosia cristata*)
Poppy (*Papaver* species)
Rose Moss, Portulaca (*Portulaca grandiflora*)
Spiderflower (*Cleome hasslerana*)
Sweet Sultan (*Centaurea moschata*)
Sweet Alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*)
Verbena, Moss Verbena (*Verbena hybrida*)

Annuals for fall bloom:

African Daisy (*Gazania* species)
American Marigold (*Tagetes erecta*)
Black-eyed Susan vine (*Thunbergia alata*)
Browallia (*Browallia*)
Common Heliotrope (*Heliotropium arborescens*)
Cosmos (*Cosmos* species)
Creeping Zinnia (*Sanvitalia procumbens*)
Crown Daisy, Tricolor Chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum carinatum*)
Dahlia (*Dahlia* [seed])
Flowering Tobacco (*Nicotiana alata grandiflora*)
French Marigold (*Tagetes patula*)
Madagascar Periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus* [*Vinca rosea*])
Mask Flower (*Alonsoa warszewiczii*)
Mealy-cup Sage, Blue Sage (*Salvia farinacea*)
Mexican Sunflower (*Tithonia rotundifolia* [*T. speciosa*])
Plume Cockscomb (*Celosia cristata*)
Scarlet Sage (*Salvia splendens*)
Sweet Alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*)

Wax Begonia (*Begonia x semperflorens*)
Zinnia (*Zinnia species*)

Sweet-scented annuals:

Basket Flower (*Centaurea americana*)
China Pink, Indian Pink (*Dianthus chinensis*)
Common Heliotrope (*Heliotropium arborescens*)
Flowering Tobacco (*Nicotiana alata grandiflora*)
Mignonette (*Reseida odorata*)
Petunia (*Petunia*)
Stock (*Mathiola incana*)
Sweet Sultan (*Centaurea moschata*)
Sweet Alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*)
Sweet Pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*)

Annuals for rock gardens:

African Daisy (*Gazania species*)
Annual Baby's Breath (*Gypsophila elegans*)
Annual Phlox (*Phlox drummondii*)
California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*)
Cape Daisy, African Daisy (*Dimorphotheca qurantiaca*)
Creeping Zinnia (*Sanvitalia procumbens*)
Cup-Flower (*Nierembergia*)
Edging Lobelia (*Lobelia erinus*)
Forget-Me-Not (*Myosotis sylvatica*)
French Marigold (*Tagetes patula*)
Rose Moss, Portulaca (*Portulaca grandiflora*)
Sand Verbena (*Abronia umbellata*)
Swan River Daisy (*Brachycome*)
Sweet Alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*)
Verbena, Moss Verbena (*Verbena hybrida*)
Wishbone Flower (*Torenia fournieri*)

Annuals for dried flowers:

Acroclinium/Strawflower (*Helipterum roseum*)
Bells of Ireland (*Molucella laevis*)
Cupid's Dart (*Catananche caerulea*)
Globe Amaranth (*Gomphrena globosa*)
Immortelle, Everlasting (*Xeranthemum annum*)
Love in a Mist (*Nigella damascena*)
Plume Cockscomb (*Celosia cristata*)
Quaking Oats (*Briza maxima*)
Scabiosa, Pincushion Flower (*Scabiosa atropurpurea*)
Statice (*Limonium*)
Strawflower (*Helichrysum bracteatum*)
Winged Everlasting (*Ammobium alatum*)

Annual ornamental grasses:

Cloud Grass (*Agrostis nebulosa*)
Hare's Tail Grass (*Lagurus ovatus*)
Love Grass (*Eragrostis tenella* [*E. amabilis*])
Quaking Oats (*Briza maxima*)

Annuals grown for foliage:

Artemesia (*Artemesia*)
Coleus (*Coleus blumeii*)
Love-Lies-Bleeding (*Amaranthus tricolor*)
Perilla, Beefsteak Plant (*Perilla frutescens crispa*)
Snow-on-the-Mountain, Gout Weed (*Euphorbia marginata*)
Summer-Cypress, Burning Bush (*Kochia scoparia*)
Telanthera (*Alternanthera ficoidea bettzickiana*)

Annuals for dry locations:

African Daisy (*Gazania species*)
Annual Candytuft (*Iberis umbellata*)
Blue-eyed African Daisy (*Arctotis stoechadifolia*)
Browallia (*Browallia*)
California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*)
Calliopsis (*Coreopsis tinctoria*)
Cape Daisy, African Daisy (*Dimorphotheca qurantiaca*)
Cosmos (*Cosmos species*)
Floss Flower (*Ageratum*)
Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*)
Plume Cockscomb (*Celosia cristata*)
Ross Moss, Portulaca (*Portulaca grandiflora*)
Spiderflower, Pink Queen (*Cleome hasslerana*)
Swan River Daisy (*Brachycome*)
Zinnia (*Zinnia species*)

Annuals with a short flowering season:

Annual Baby's Breath (*Gypsophila elegans*)
Annual Candytuft (*Iberis umbellata*)
Annual Phlox (*Phlox drummondii*)
Baby Blue-Eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*)
Basket Flower (*Centaurea americana*)
Calendula, Pot Marigold (*Calendula officinalis*)
California Bluebell (*Phacelia*)
Cape Daisy, African Daisy (*Dimorphotheca qurantiaca*)
China Pink, Indian Pink (*Dianthus chinensis*)
Clarkia (*Clarkia elegans*)

Forget-Me-Not (*Myosotis sylvatica*)
Larkspur (*Delphinium ajacis* [*Consolida ambigua*])
Monkey Flower (*Mimulus luteus*)
Nemesia (*Nemesia* species)
Painted tongue (*Salpiglossis sinuata*)
Pansy (*Viola tricolor hortensis*)
Petunia (*Petunia*)
Stock (*Mathiola incana*)
Swan River Daisy (*Brachycome*)
Sweet Sultan (*Centaurea moschata*)
Verbena, Moss Verbena (*Verbena hybrida*)

Annual Vines:

Balloon Vine (*Cardiospermum halicacabum*) *
Balsam Apple, Balsam Pear (*Momordica* species)
Black-eyed Susan Vine (*Thunbergia alata*)
Cardinal Climber (*Quamoclit sloteri*)
Cypress Vine (*Quamoclit pennata*)
Hyacinth Bean (*Dolichos lablab*) *
Japanese Hops (*Humulus japonicus*) *
Morning Glory (*Ipomoea* species)
Scarlet Runner Bean (*Phaseolus coccineus*)
Sweet Pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*)
Wild Prickly cucumber (*Echinocystis lobata*) *

* - Makes good screen.