

Planting Instructions

Annuals

Ageratum houstonianum, Ageratum, Dondo Blue: small, shaggy, pale blue flowers are stalwart bloomers from June-September. Height 2'. Plant after danger of frost is past in full sun and rich, well-drained soil. Spacing 9-12"; no pinching or support is necessary (although for cut flower stems we do use netting).

Centaurea cyanus, Bachelor Buttons, Blue Boy: Beautiful blue cornflower is for the wildflower lover. Blooms in May; readily self-sows. Height: 3-4'; spacing: 12-16". Plant in full sun in well-drained soil.

Asclepias curassavica, Butterfly Weed, Silky Formula Mix: Beautiful red and yellow flowers, favorite of monarchs (the first year we grew them we had chrysalis lined up along the eave of our shed). Height 3'. Do not allow to become potbound. Plant after danger of frost is past in full sun at 12-24" spacing. Prefers well-drained sandy loam but will also grow in poor soil. It is a member of the milkweed family so does have the milky sap that can irritate some peoples' skin.

Calendula officinalis, Calendula: A hearty bloomer, in yellows and oranges. Petals are both edible and medicinal. Height 1-2'. Plant 6-12" apart in full sun to partial shade as soon as ground can be worked. Prefers rich, well-drained soil. Pinch back plants for bushier growth and deadhead to prolong flowering. Doesn't like the heat but you can cut back flowers for second bloom in autumn.

Eschscholzia californica, California poppy: Delicate orange flowers on gray foliage. Drought resistant and prefers soil with low fertility. Height: 18-24". Spacing: 6". Plant in full sun.

Cerinth major atropurpurea, Cerinthe, Pride of Gibraltar: Hues of purples and blues surround grape-colored flowers. Flowers have an elegant droop and beautiful blue-green foliage. Attracts bees and hummingbirds. Height: 32-40". Spacing: 12-18". Plant in full sun.

Solenostemon scutellarioides, Coleus, Under the Sun: Lush plants with a combination of bright red leaves outlined in gold and chartreuse green leaves (both seeds are pelleted into one so you get both plants). Can spread up to 24" wide. Height: 12-18". Thrives in bright sunlight, as well as shade. Vigorous until first hard frost.

Cosmos bipinnatus, Cosmos, Sensations Mix: Tall fern-like foliage with single pink, white and magenta daisy-like flowers. These are particularly nice in large quantities! Height: 3-4', spacing: 9-12". Sensitive to wind so plant in a slightly sheltered place or stake, if possible, after the soil has warmed and in full sun.

Euphorbia marginata, Euphorbia, Snow on the Mountain: Grown for its showy green and white foliage and tiny white flowers. Great for borders. Long vase life. Height: 35-42". Spacing: 6". Prefers full sun, but can tolerate partial shade. Stems have milky sap that can irritate some skin.

Tanacetum parthenium, Feverfew (Matricaria), Magic Lime: Lime-green to pale yellow blooms. Small and prolific flower heads. Easy to grow and harvest. Height: 28-36". Spacing: 8-12". Full sun. These are one of our favorite fillers for flower bouquets.

Cynoglossum amabile, Forget-me-Not, Chinese: Bunches of tiny, vividly blue flowers are a staple throughout the summer; self sows. Loved by bees. Height: 18-24". Spacing: 9-12". Full sun to partial shade in light, well-drained, and fertile soil.

Dolichos lablab, Hyacinth Bean, Ruby Moon: Strikingly lovely purple leaves, flowers, and pods; a favorite climbing vine. Height: 10-20'. Plant after danger of frost is past, at 12" spacing, in full sun in moderately fertile soil. Support/trellising required.

Coix lacryma-jobi, Job's Tears: Ornamental grass resembling blades of corn. Pearl-like seeds are purplish-gray, can be used as beads (natural hole in middle) or eaten as a grain. Low maintenance, forgiving plants! Spacing: 9".

Tagetes spp., Marigold, Red and Lemon Gem (miniature flowers), Durango Outback (full sized orange and red): Gems make excellent edibles with an exceptional fragrance. Good for pots or companion plantings. Height 1-2'. Spacing: 8-18". Plant after danger of frost has passed in full sun and average soil. Deadhead flowers to keep blooms coming until the fall.

Trapaeolum spp., Nasturtium, Kaleidoscope: Compact plant with mix of bright colors. Attractive, round leaves taste peppery and are an excellent addition to salads; flowers are also edible. Height 10-12". Spacing: 8-18". Plant after danger of frost has passed in full sun and average soil.

Orlaya grandiflora, Orlaya, White Finch: Delicately-petaled white umbel-like flowers. Full and long-blooming plants. Interesting seed pods are good for drying. Height: 24-30". Spacing: 9-12". Sun-loving plant.

Scabiosa atropurpurea, Pincushion Flower, Black Knight: Graceful, tall stems topped with an almost black flower. Gorgeous addition adds depth and surprise to a bouquet. Height: 2-3' (staking is probably a good idea). Spacing: 9-15". Plant successively for full summer of growth in full sun.

Salvia coccinea, Lady in Red: Red flowered decorative sage to attract the hummingbirds. Plant in full sun after danger of frost is past. Height: 2-3'. Spacing: 9"

Tithonia rotundifolia, Torch Tithonia: Also called Mexican Sunflower, relative to zinnias. This eye-catching velvety, reddish-orange flower is a butterfly favorite. Loves hot and dry areas. Height 4-6'. Spacing: 24".

Zinnia spp., Dwarf Zinnia, Profusion: Smaller-flowered, bushy plants. Perfect for containers or hanging baskets. Very heat-tolerant and disease-resistant. Space 9-12" apart. Height: 12". Varieties include: Cherry, Double Deep Fire, Double Deep Salmon, Yellow.

Zinnia spp., Zinnia: Staple flower for a colorful summertime garden. Height: 4'. Spacing 9-12". Plant in full sun and fertile soil once soil warms. Color choices include: Wine, Purple, Scarlet, Coral, Yellow, Orange, Salmon Rose.

Ocimum spp., Basil: Heat loving plants; plant in full sun after danger of last frost in moist, well-drained soil. Space 9-12" apart. Height 12-30". For best production, keep tips pinched back to prevent flowering. Varieties: Genovese, Bolloso Napoletano, Mrs. Burn's Lemon, Red Rubin, Eritrean and Sweet Thai.

Perennial Herbs and Flowers

Agastache foeniculum, Anise Hyssop: Licorice flavored mint, a beloved lavender flower (by bees and humans). Deer and drought resistant. Height 2-3'. Plant in full sun at 6 inch spacing.

Baptisia australis, Baptisia, Blue False Indigo: Clover-like foliage topped by pea-like shoots of lovely purple-blue flowers. We divided our 15 year old plants and are sharing! Spacing: 3-4'. Height: 3'. Does best in full sun with well-drained soil.

Belamcanda chinensis, Blackberry Lily: Lovely orange flower over iris-like foliage with seeds that look like blackberries. I love watching how these flowers "wrap" themselves up at night. Height: 2'. Spacing: 9". Plant in full sun to partial shade.

Iris cristata, Crested Dwarf Iris: This precious groundcover likes the shade of a woodland edge and will spread and sparkle each spring. Remarkable purples give a striking contrast to its brilliant green leaves. Height: 6". Space however you want it to spread.

Primula veris, Cowslip (Primrose): Native perennial primrose with sweet yellow flowers. Plant in partial shade 4" apart. Will form clusters in a year or two that can be divided for propagation. Blooms in early spring (at about the same time as the dwarf crested iris!).

Mentha spp., Chocolate Mint: Warm, earthy tones on an aromatic low-lying plant. Makes for an incredible tea and is a refreshing pick-me-up on a hot summer day. Height: 12-18". Spacing: 12-24". Grows in full sun to partial shade.

Echinacea purpurea, Purple Coneflower: A favorite in the herbal world. A beautiful, easy to grow flower for borders, wildflower meadows and prairie gardens. Drought tolerant and attractive to butterflies and birds. Height 2-3'. Plant 1-3' apart in full sun to partial shade in well-drained soil.

Dahlia: We dig and separate our tubers each year, store and then plant out again in the late spring, early summer. This year we will have extras of our persimmon colored, 2" bloom variety. These have the "dahlia sparkle"—with hints of yellow within the persimmon that make for an eye-catching flower that everyone asks about. These will be perennial for you if you dig them each year (after at least one really good frost) and store in a dry, cool place. Height: 3-4' with staking recommended. Spacing: 18". Likes full sun and well-drained soil.

Eryngium planum: Sea Holly, "Blue Glitter": This flower is eye-catching more for its unusual construction than its vivid color but a close examination will make you linger and wonder over it. Beautiful either fresh or dried. Height: 3-4'. Easy to grow. Spacing: 18-24". Full sun.

Digitalis purpurea: Foxglove, "Camelot": Digitalis is usually a biennial, blooming only in the second year but these beauties will bloom in the first year and we still have plants from three or four years ago when we first started offering them. These are shades of pinks, yellows and whites. Height: 42-48". Spacing: 12". Full sun/partial shade.

Eupatorium maculatum, Joe Pye Weed: This is the cultivated version for cut flower growing of the native. Purple panicles on a tall, stately plant blooms in late summer. Grows up to 6'. Plant in full sun to partial shade in rich, moist soil. It does not like to be dry. Spacing 24".

Solidago spp., Goldenrod: We love our goldenrod plants for so many reasons. They give us the first greens for our mixed flower bouquets starting in the spring and lasting throughout the summer when they give way to yellow flowers in the late summer/early autumn. They also are a valued "farmscaping" plant, offering shelter to those beneficial insects you want to attract to your garden. And they thrive in hot, sunny spots with little water or care. Height: 4'. Spacing: 12-18" depending on how quickly you want them to fill out the space you give them.

Althaea officinalis, Marshmallow: In the mallow family with a pale, white-purple flower. This stately plant is one of the originals from our early herb garden experiments. We saved some seed this year and are happy to share the plants with you. Height: 3-4'. Spacing: 18". Will grow in all kinds of soil but thrive best with some regular water (although not marshy, swampy moisture). Deer resistant.

Pycnanthemum spp., Mountain mint: Not so aggressive a grower as other members of the mint family but still hardy. These tall, aromatic plants are used in cut flower bouquets or simply to bring pollinators and a sense of texture to your garden. Height: 3-4'. Spacing: 12-18".

Thymus vulgaris, German Thyme: A favorite fragrant culinary and ornamental herb. Height 4". Plant in full sun to part shade 6-8" apart.

Origanum heracleoticum, Greek Oregano: Heavy oregano aroma; great for pizza. Height 10-24". Plant in full sun in rich fertile soil, 4-6" spacing.

Salvia officinalis, Common Sage: Traditional sage for cooking. Plant in full sun at least 1 foot apart and water well until established. Fairly drought tolerant once established. Height: 16-30".

Rosemarinus officinalis, Rosemary: A tender perennial that will overwinter if planted in a sheltered spot and/or mulched well. Keep it in a pot for the first few years (or dig it up) and overwinter it inside until roots are well-established. Prefers well-drained sandy soil and can survive in dry conditions. Plant in full sun. Height: 18-60"; spacing 8-24".

Polianthes tuberosa, tuberose: This fragrant, elegant flower blooms in the late summer. Fragrance comes out at the end of the day to attract the moths. Plant larger tubers at 9", smaller tubers closer together. Dig up in the winter or mulch heavily. Height 2-3'.

Tulip: We grow several varieties of tulips for cut flowers and we pull the whole bulb when we harvest so we can get long stems. Two years ago we then replanted the bulbs in our ornamental gardens where we got smaller but still beautiful flowers. We offer these bulbs at a quite low price in case you want to give them a good home.

Asarum canadensis, Wild Ginger: Hardy ground cover with a inconspicuous but beautiful maroon flower. Likes the shade and moisture of a woodland setting.

Dioscorea villosa, Wild Yam: Woodland vining plant with inconspicuous drooping flowers. Root is used medicinally and heart shaped leaves add a lovely addition to the garden. On the "to watch" list for endangered plants.

VEGETABLES

General planting instructions for tomatoes: Transplant after danger of frost has passed in medium-rich garden soil. Spacing for determinate varieties: 12-24"; for indeterminate varieties: 24-36". Generally want to support indeterminate varieties with staking, cages, or trellis; support is not necessarily required with determinates.

General planting instructions for peppers: Transplant out after frost when soil is warm. Plant in full sun 12-18" apart, in fertile, well-drained soil. Can trellis in order to increase yields, as well as support in windy places. Generally, pepper plants will not set fruit in extreme conditions.

Early Season Tomatoes

Juliet, plum-shaped hybrid tomato with 1-2oz grape-like sweet and early fruits. Perfect for stews, salads, sauces, and drying. The thick walls of these vigorous tomatoes hold up well to cracking, blight, and pests. Typically staked, can also be pruned. 60 days.

Glacier, very early and very productive plants are able to hold up to cooler temperatures than most (possibly even a light frost). Can remain productive well into the growing season. Potato-leaf foliage protects the small fruits, so pruning should be avoided. Can stake plants. 58 days.

Mountain Princess, small red fruits on a very productive plant. Great for areas that have a fairly cool growing season, like WV's national forest where it was birthed. Bushy plants can be trellised, but need not be pruned. 68 days.

Smaller Fruited Tomatoes

Amy's Sugar Gem, deemed a "two-bite" cherry tomato, this full-flavored tomato sparkles on the vine. Vines should be trellised as they are tall and vigorous. Plants may be pruned. 75 days.

Principe Borghese, an Italian heirloom with few seeds, little juice, and lots of flavor. Maintains great flavor when dried. Determinate, thus should not be pruned, but may be staked. 75 days.

Matt's Wild Cherry, heirloom from Mexico produces large amounts of small, dark red fruit clusters. Sweet and full of flavor. Plants are vigorous and are typically staked, though if allowed to sprawl they may be better able to protect themselves from air-borne blight. 60 days.

Sun Gold Cherry, hands down our favorite cherry each summer. Sweet, tangy, apricot-colored fruits are prolific and juicy. Plants are tall and vigorous, so staking is advised. May prune. 57 days.

Paste Tomatoes

Amish Paste, huge plum tomatoes are ideal for flavorful sauces, but are wonderful when used for fresh-eating, cooking, or canning. Give plenty of space and nutrition for best yield. Heavy fruits weigh on plants, so study trellising is a must! Does well if pruned some—loves the sun. 85 days.

Blue Beech, large, meaty paste tomato is a favorite. Enjoys long seasons and adaptable to the cool of higher elevations. Fruits often have green shoulders. Can be staked, pruned. 90 days.

Hog Heart, shaped like banana peppers more often than not, but occasionally these few-seeded,

tasty tomato plants produce doubled fruits that look heart-shaped. Excellent canned, fresh, or frozen. Needs support, as fruits can become weighty. Pruning optional. 86 days.

Roma VF, Virginia Select, locally adapted strain of the reliable, popular, and productive paste tomato. Stands up well to Septoria Leaf Spot. Bushy plants do not require pruning. 75 days.

San Marzano, heavy-producing long Roma-like tomatoes are astoundingly easy for canning. Prone to cracking, so turning to sauce is a simple, quick, and totally ideal option. Good disease resistance, tall, and vigorous plants. Trellis, prune. 78 days.

Later Season Tomatoes

Abraham Lincoln, slightly acidic tomatoes with medium sized fruits. Your classic tomato. Plants have excellent resistance with foliage disease. Can prune; typically trellised. 70 days.

Big Rainbow, gorgeous fruits at every stage of development! When ripe, yellow and red fruits can weigh over 2lbs each, especially early. Long production time. Good resistance to foliage disease. Heavy fruits require support from trellis. Able to prune. 90 days.

Brandywine OTV, considered the best of the Brandywines. Very heat-tolerant plants with potato leaf foliage. Big, beautiful red-orange fruits that resist blemishes and cracks better than most heirlooms. Heavy fruits require support. Can prune plants. 72 days.

Cherokee Purple, wins over our taste buds every summer. Beautiful brownish-purple fruits with green shoulders are typically around 12oz have a rich flavor. Plants are typically staked, but should not be pruned, due to sunburn tendencies. 85 days.

Cosmonaut Volkov, dependable tomatoes contain sweet juices. Deep red medium-sized fruits don't disappoint. Plants handle cold well. Typically trellised; can prune. 70 days.

Druzba, Juicy 5oz fruits are both tart and sweet. Dependably uniform fruits resist everything from cracking to blossom end rot; plants resistant to early blight. May trellis and prune. 75 days.

Eva Purple Ball, attractive pink-purple tomatoes weigh 4-5oz. Tender, despite being resistant to fruit and foliar diseases. Does very well in hot, humid areas. Easy to harvest. Can trellis and prune. 78 days.

Goldie, thought to be one of the best orange tomatoes available. Deeply colored beefy fruits will be of the first large tomatoes to ripen. Plants should be trellised; may prune. 75 days.

Green Zebra, sturdy and beautiful fruits. Developed from a combination of 4 different heirlooms, fruits are bright green inside and ripen to a yellow blush with green stripes outside. Smaller fruits (4-5oz) resist cracking. Can be trellised and pruned. Susceptible to Septoria Leaf Spot, so sanitation is key. 86 days.

Mortgage Lifter VFN, reliable plants produce large, red fruits. Plants maintain good disease resistance and can productively bear fruit until frost. May support plants with trellis and pruning. 83 days.

Mule Team, a "workhorse" in the garden. Sweet, red tomatoes with a tang. 8-12oz fruits resist dents and cracks, while plants resist disease well. Typically trellised; can be pruned. 86 days.

Old German, heirloom from the Shenandoah Valley. Juicy, large, yellow fruits are striped red. Eye-catching through and through. Plants put their energies into producing fruits that often weigh over a pound. Definitely want to give plants support with stakes, cage, or trellis. 78 days.

Persimmon gets its name from its fruits' lovely yellow-orange color that will add interest to your plate. Meaty and sweet. Vines are vigorous and well-branched. May stake and prune. 88 days.

Tropic VFN, excellent for gardens vulnerable to blight and other diseases that easily spread in hot, humid places. Thick, tasty, red fruits are protected by foliage, so pruning not recommended. Plants are typically staked. Perfect for the Mid-Atlantic. 80 days.

Rutgers, original strain from New Jersey. Flavorful and versatile tomato is great for canning, cooking, and slicing. Resistant to several diseases. May stake and prune. 75 days.

Sweet Peppers

Ace Red, standard hybrid bell pepper. Produces heavily and early. Appreciates support from wind and own weight. 50 days.

Ashe County Pimiento, small, bright red pimiento pepper. Ripens reliably even in short seasons. Useful for fresh-eating, cooking, roasting, and canning, thanks to its brilliant sweetness. 70 days.

Carmen, easy to prepare and delicious, these peppers are a favorite. Long, tapered fruits ripen quickly and productively. Plants protect fruits very well from sunscald. Plants can thrive in a variety of places and fruits are perfect for roasting and fresh-eating. 80 days.

Doe Hill Golden, adorable and tasty little peppers. Fruits are bright orange and flattened. Plants are strong, compact, productive, and resistant to many diseases. Will be among the first peppers to ripen in the garden. 60 days.

Jimmy Nardellos Italian, known for its flavor and versatility in the kitchen. Banana-shaped peppers are very easy to grow. Perfect for drying and frying. Ripens to a bright, shiny red. 75 days.

Jupiter, sturdy plants produce sturdy red fruits. Blocky fruits are ideal for stuffing. Foliage protect fruits from sunscald extremely well. Very productive. 75 days.

Hot Peppers

Ancho 211, heart-shaped peppers with a pleasant kick. Abundant fruit set. Beautiful black-green color. Classic roasting pepper used in Mexican dishes, particularly mole sauces; great for stuffed pepper dishes. Tall, bushy plants are very sturdy on their own. 88 days.

Early Jalapeño, a summer staple. Fruits are a shiny, deep green color and ripen to a bright red. Fruits have sturdy, thick walls and are a reliable producer. 75 days.

Habanero, beautiful orange peppers are met with fiery hot taste. If grown in the blistering heat, pepper will reach levels of heat that are extreme. Wrinkled, boxy fruits. 90 days.

Long Red Narrow Cayenne, super productive plants fill with 5-6" long peppers that turn from

green to bright red when ripe. Cayennes are perfect for drying, turning into ristras, pepper flakes, or chile pastes. 75 days.