

Clarice West-Hobbs Contemplative Garden

Selected Planting Materials Overview

1. Ajuga bugleweed



When you're looking for something attractive, tough and fast growing to quickly fill in a large area, then you can't go wrong with ajuga (*Ajuga reptans*), also known as carpet bugleweed. This herbaceous perennial plant quickly fills in empty areas, smothering out weeds while adding exceptional foliage color and blooms. It's also good for erosion control. The flowers of bugleweed are normally bluish to purple but they can be found in white as well. And in addition to the traditional green foliage, this ground cover can also provide the landscape with stunning copper or purple-colored foliage too. There's even a variegated form available.

2. Autumn joy sedum



Autumn Joy is a popular upright variety of stonecrop, also known as sedum. It is a hybrid plant created by crossing a species of sedum (*Sedum telephium*) with a species of ice plant (*Hylotelephium spectabile*). The resulting plant features gray-green, rounded, succulent-like leaves. And it blooms in the late summer to fall with tiny, pink, star-shaped flowers that grow in clusters roughly 3 to 6 inches across on top of the plant's stems. After they bloom, the flowers gradually change in color to a deep rose and then rust before they die when cold fall temperatures arrive. Autumn Joy stonecrop has a moderate growth rate, and since it is part of the succulent family becomes one of the most drought tolerance perennials available.

3. Black-eyed-susan



With their bright yellow petals and dark center disks, black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*) have become a garden staple. There is a great deal of variety within the *Rudbeckia* genus, and most species are true workhorses with very few problems. Fast-growing black-eyed Susan is easily the most commonly known *Rudbeckia*, with its daisy-like flowers with large seed heads. It also has the scratchy, hairy leaves that are characteristic of its genus (this may not be one of its best features, but it does help keep pests away). Its ability to self-seed makes it a great choice for abundant wildflower gardens.

4. Dwarf Burning Bush



A spectacular and compact garden shrub with green foliage throughout the season which turns a luminous cherry red colour in fall, there for known as “burning” very showy; a shapely mounded growth habit and interesting corky wings on the branches, it could be a unique piece and it is also great for hedges. A dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. Performs well in both full sun and full shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations. It is not particular as to soil type or pH.

5. Daylily, Dwarf Red



If there's a "sure bet" perennial, it must be the daylily. They tolerate a wide variety of soil conditions, are not troubled by diseases or pests, and bloom faithfully for years with virtually no attention. Unlike most perennials, daylilies are well-suited to many different uses in the garden and landscape. The shorter, more compact varieties work well planted directly into perennial borders, where their blooms provide a welcome mid-summer boost. In groups of 3 or 5, daylilies are ideal for landscape plantings, especially when paired with ornamental grasses and small shrubs. Daylilies are also the perfect plant for mass plantings along a fence or walkway, where they'll form a dense, weed-proof display.

6. Geranium, Cranesbill



Hardy geraniums – sometimes referred to as cranesbills – are among the most popular garden perennials. And it's easy to see why. They're easy to grow, take a wide range of conditions, are tough and need little in the way of care and attention. The flowers are generally quite small, but produced in huge abundance to almost cover the plants when in full bloom.

The hand-like foliage of many varieties is also highly attractive in its own right, producing various quilting, veining, and colour blotching. And, as many of the commonly grown varieties are low growing, their dense carpet-like foliage makes them good ground cover plants. They are cold and frost hardy, so shouldn't be confused with the very closely related pelargoniums, which aren't and are used mainly as summer bedding plants.

7. Honeysuckle, Gold Box



Dense multi-stemmed flowering shrub with a shapely form and gracefully arching branches. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone. It is clothed in stunning lightly-scented creamy white tubular flowers at the ends of the branches in late spring. It produces deep purple berries in late summer. Will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds.

8. Patriot Hosta



'Patriot' is a hosta cultivar that features a 12-20" tall mound of large, variegated, oval, basal leaves (to 7" long) which have deep green centers and wide irregular white margins. Foliage mound will typically spread to 24-30" wide. Patriot hosta will grow at a moderate pace, forming a low-growing clump of leaves that unfurl to reveal a vibrant green center and "painted" white borders. The leaves themselves are large and round, coming to a soft point and featuring corrugated texture. In late spring or early summer, patriot hosta will begin to grow long stalks that extend beyond the foliage and eventually erupt in light purple flowers, which are beloved by pollinators.

9. Russian Sage



An End-of-Summer Stunner in the Flower Garden! Russian sage, or *Perovskia*, is a late summer blooming perennial that bursts into flower like a cloud of blue. It goes from a hazy, pale blue to a jubilant azure. The long panicles of flowers become increasingly brilliant as they open. Russian sage is a woody subshrub. Although its branches are woody, like a shrub, the top portion of the plant may die back in cold winters. Since it blooms on new wood, Russian sage is often treated as a perennial plant.

10. Shrub Roses (existing)



Among the family of landscape roses, shrub roses tend to be less showy plants with a growth habit that often resembles the wild parent species. There often is one main flowering period during the growing season, sometimes with a second smaller flush of blooms in early fall. Shrub roses make up for their less dramatic flowers by being extremely hardy and easier to care for than the sensitive tea roses and other hybrids. Upright shrub roses are often used to make bold statements in a garden due to their blooms and sprawling growth habit. However, these large shrub roses can be somewhat wild and ill-behaved in their growth and must be tamed through pruning that focuses on shaping them. Many of these shrub roses only bloom once a year instead of the “from summer to frost” period of many popular modern roses.