

20 Easy Plants



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EASY?

WHAT DOES THE
TERM “EASY PLANT”
MEAN TO YOU?



Starting your Easy Garden

- ☞ Start with good soil
- ☞ Choose the right location
- ☞ Don't take on too much, start small!
- ☞ Be realistic about how much time you have to commit and cut that in half.
- ☞ Start weed free!
- ☞ Choose species over cultivars
- ☞ Use mulch!
- ☞ Break down the maintenance



Daffodils

BULB *Narcissus Species*

Early Spring

Full sun to part shade (full shade if under deciduous trees)

These are one of the first flowers to show up in the spring. Unlike tasty, nutritious tulips, squirrels do not like daffodils, so they do not get eaten or moved by our furry little friends.





Creeping Phlox

Phlox subulata

April to May

Full sun to part shade

Phlox will spread in the garden in a well-behaved manner, by stolons, producing a densely flowering groundcover. The plant is great in rock gardens and on slopes as it likes the heat.





Varigated Iris

Iris pallida 'Variegata'

Late Spring (foliage April to November)

Full sun to part sun

This one doesn't clump like other irises. Its leaves are variegated which brings colour to your garden from April right through to snow fall. The sharp contracting spikes add a great aesthetic value to any garden. The flowers smell like grape candy.





Foxglove Beardtongue

Penstemon digitalis

Early spring to early summer

Full sun to partial sun

A native plant with sprays of white flowers . The flowers of the beardtongue family are tubular, attracting butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators and beneficial insects.





Lavender

Lavandula angustifolia

Summer

Full sun

This plant has very fragrant grey-blue foliage with small purplish-blue flowers. The narrow leaves and dense foliage form a small bush. Hung to dry, lavender is used for crafts and in aromatherapy.





Lance-leaved Coreopsis

Coreopsis lanceolata

Late spring to early summer

Full sun

This garden favourite produces brilliant yellow flowers through June and July. They make a great cut flower for arrangements. Deadheading extends the bloom period to late summer. Divide in fall to reduce overcrowding.





Rose Champion

Lychnis coronaria

June to August

Partial shade

With its vibrant fuchsia colour and silvery leaves this plant is a great focal point in the garden or accent in a container. The plant's bright colours also make it quite attractive to butterflies.





Clematis - Jackmanii

VINE - Clematis Jackmanii

Late Spring to fall

Full sun to part sun

A garden favourite, this climbing vine is drought tolerant, but likes its roots to be kept cool and shaded. The vines prefer full sun and a lattice to climb on.





Perennial Geranium

Geranium species – Big Root or Cranesbill (not Pelargonium)

May to October

Full sun to partial shade

Perennial geraniums come in many varieties, some growing low and creeping, and others upright and bushy. Lower cultivars are great for rock gardens or groundcovers. Tall varieties work well in woodland gardens.





Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea

Summer to fall

Full sun to partial shade

This is an easy-to-grow garden favourite, as it requires little maintenance, attracts butterflies and makes great cut flowers. Bright lavender-pink flowers bloom throughout the summer, and the cone-shaped seed heads provide winter interest.





Caution!



Sedum Autumn Joy

Sedum “Autumn Joy”

Late summer to fall

Full sun to part sun

While many stonecrop groundcover varieties exist, Autumn Joy is one of the very popular upright versions. Large flowering heads in dusty rose are a favourite of bees and butterflies, they bloom for up to 2 months and remain standing even in the snow.





Hostas

Hosta spp

Summer to fall

Partial sun to full shade

From low-growing groundcover to 'monster-sized' species, leafy hostas come in an incredible variety and are the 'go-to' plant for shade. Smaller groundcover varieties can be easily controlled by pulling or mowing. You can divide larger ones every 2-3 years.





Coral Bells - Heuchera

Heuchera sanguinea

May to November (foliage)

Partial shade to full shade

Coral Bells are valued for their wide variety of attractively coloured leaves and grow well in drought conditions. The plant produces dainty plumes of bell-shaped red flowers in early and late summer.





Catmint

Nepeta Cataria (I think..) “Low-gro”

Spring thru Early Fall

Full sun

Although this has a bad reputation for its aggressiveness, in the right place, its perfect! Easy to maintain, colourful, hardy, drought tolerant and a great pollinator. Smells lovely too.





Feather Reed Grass Karl Foerster

Calamagrostis x acutiflora cv. Karl Foerster

June to October

Full sun to partial shade

The tall, feathery stems of this well behaved grass can be a popular accent or a screen. It tolerates dry clay soil, but does best in fertile humus. The tall grass blades do not need staking and will continue to add dimension to the winter garden. Cut back to the ground in early spring.





Protecting resources for future generations



Little Bluestem

Andropogon scoparius

Summer

Full sun to partial shade

This grass, native to Ontario, has blue-green foliage during the summer, changing to copper colour for fall. It keeps its shape and copper colour throughout the winter. Be patient in the spring!





Portulaca

ANNUAL - *Portulaca oleracea*

Summer

Full sun

This is a great splash of colour for anywhere hot and dry. Portulaca will thrive in conditions that most other plants would not. It will produce endless flowers atop needle-like fleshy foliage. A good “spiller” for hanging baskets and window boxes.





Spirea

SHRUB- Spirea species (japonica, bumalda)

Spring to summer

Full sun to part shade

There are many choices within the Spirea shrub family. They can be used for their long-lasting clusters of pink or white flowers, or their foliage, such as “Goldflame”. There are over 100 species in the family and they have been used in gardens for over 300 years.





Ninebark - Shrub

Physocarpus opulifolius

Spring to early summer

Full sun to partial shade

This shrub is tolerant of almost every condition including part shade, sun, wet, dry, acidic or alkaline soils. White flowers change to brown grape-like clusters of fruit that persist through the winter. Varieties include leaf colours of burgundy, copper and gold-green.





Serviceberry - Shrub

SHRUB - Amelanchier canadensis

Spring

Full sun to partial shade

Native to Ontario, this shrub blooms with white flowers in spring, followed by red/purple berries in summer. The multi-stem architecture of this shrubs makes in a garden feature all year long.





Combinations.....











Protecting resources for future generations













Other combinations....

- ☞ Repeated Lavender border
- ☞ “Diablo” Ninebark, Gold Flame Spirea, Mugo Pine
- ☞ Purple Coneflower, Sedum, Karl Foerster grass
- ☞ Little Blue Stem, Purple Coneflower, Jackmanii
Clematis
- ☞ Karl forester, Mugo pine, Coral bells



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