

20 Easy Plants



Aileen Barclay, RMSi

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



1. Allium

BULB *Allium Species*

Spring

Full sun to part shade

- ☞ Can be underplanted as they “pop up” underneath.
- ☞ Unlike tulips, squirrels do not like alliums, so they do not get eaten or moved
- ☞ Must be planted in the FALL









2. Varigated Iris

Iris pallida 'Variegata'

- ☞ Late Spring (foliage April to November)
- ☞ Full sun to part sun
- ☞ Doesn't clump like other irises
- ☞ The sharp contracting spikes add a great aesthetic value to any garden
- ☞ The flowers smell like grape candy.
- ☞ Needs direct sun and well drained soil
- ☞ Expose tubers for blooms











3. Lettuce

Leaf Lettuce

Type: Vegetable

Full sun, part sun

Soil Type: low to average (high in containers)

Watch lettuce carefully as the season warms up. When lettuce bolts, it does it very quickly, making the leaves bitter and not good for eating. If you see it start to bolt, remove the entire plant immediately and place in the refrigerator. This may prevent the leaves from turning bitter.







4. Peas

- ☞ Hardy annual climbing vine
- ☞ Full sun to part sun
- ☞ Water lightly when start to produce seed pod, but back off once the seed pods are half their full size. Peas with mulch should not need extra water unless there has been more than 7 days without rain or the leaves start to droop.
- ☞ H: 30cm -1.5m x W: 10-20cm
- ☞ Need support to climb
- ☞ 4-6 weeks before the last frost
- ☞ Mingle with mid summer vines?







5. Perennial Geranium

Geranium species – Big Root or Cranesbill (not Pelargonium)

May to October

Full sun to full shade

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











Small black informational sign with white text, partially obscured by foliage.

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6. Wild Columbine

Auilegia canadensis

- ☞ Spring
- ☞ Full sun to partial shade
- ☞ Native Ontario plant
- ☞ Good for hummingbirds
- ☞ Self-seeds, but not aggressively
- ☞ Powdery mildew if overwatered or in tight spot







7. 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.





















8. Sedums and Succulents

- ∞ Many new varieties
- ∞ All very drought tolerant
- ∞ Prefer full sun to part sun
- ∞ Not all succulents are winter hardy
- ∞ Great for small containers



















9. Japanese Forest Grass *Hakonechloa Macra*

- ☞ Part to full shade (part sun?)
- ☞ Rich organic soils, well drained with mulch
- ☞ Grows more golden in full sun
- ☞ Slower growing and can be divided in spring or fall
- ☞ Great for edging in shady areas.







10. Catmint

Nepeta Cataria "Walker's Lo"

- ☞ Spring thru Early Fall
- ☞ Full sun
- ☞ Has a bad reputation for its aggressiveness, in the right place, its perfect!
- ☞ Easy to maintain, colourful, hardy, drought tolerant and a great pollinator.
- ☞ Very long bloom time.
- ☞ Prefers well drained, soils that are not too rich, or it will flop.









11. Hostas

Hosta spp

- ☞ Summer to fall
- ☞ Partial sun to full shade
- ☞ The 'go-to' plant for shade
- ☞ Many varieties: low-growing groundcover to 'monster-sized' species
- ☞ Divide larger ones every 2-3 years
- ☞ Water properly to avoid slugs
- ☞ Look for slug resistant varieties (thick waxy leaves)















12. Feather Reed Grass “Karl Foerster”

Calamagrostis x acutiflora cv. Karl Foerster

- ☞ June to October
- ☞ Full sun to partial shade
- ☞ Tall, feathery stems
- ☞ Well behaved grass can be a popular accent or a screen.
- ☞ Tolerates dry clay soil, but does best in fertile humus. Blades do not need staking
- ☞ Cut back to the ground in early spring.







13. Dwarf Goatsbeard

Aruncus aethusfolius

- ☞ June to August
- ☞ Partial shade to full shade
- ☞ Blooms Late Spring early Summer
- ☞ Green fern like leaves are a good backdrop for a shady garden.
- ☞ Prefers moist soil, but will be water efficient in shade, organic soils.
- ☞ Dwarf grows 30-45 cm high and wide.







14. Coleus

- ☞ Annual
- ☞ Good for a wet year or a wet spot.
- ☞ Offset water needs with rich organic soil and mulch
- ☞ Cultivars vary from full sun to part shade
- ☞ Good in containers and gardens, but containers will need more watering.









Photo credit: Toronto Master Gardeners

15. Browalia

Browalia Endless™ Illumination *Browallia hybrid*

Proven Winners

- ∞ Partial shade to Shade
- ∞ Well drained soil
- ∞ Deer and rabbit resistant
- ∞ Heat Tolerant, Drought Resistant
- ∞ Continuous flowers
- ∞ Not frost resistant







16. Ninebark

Physocarpus opulifolius

- ☞ Full sun to partial shade
- ☞ Tolerant of almost every condition including shade, sun, wet, dry, acidic or alkaline soils
- ☞ Clusters of white flowers change to brown grape-like clusters of fruit through the winter
- ☞ Varieties include leaf colours of burgundy, copper and gold-green (Summer Glow, Diablo, Coppertine, Dart's Gold, Summer Wine)













17. Cedar

Thuja Occidentalis – Emerald and Golden Globe

- ∞ Full sun to partial shade
- ∞ Adds year round green to your garden.
- ∞ Prefer wet soils but do not have to have them.
- ∞ Very adaptable, but do not like salt or extreme sun and sandy soils.
- ∞ Emerald Cedars are tighter than the native version, growing upright and narrow but are not as hardy as the native cedar.
- ∞ Golden Globes, small bush, easily keeps its round shape.







18. Jalepeno Peppers

- ☞ Full sun, stinkin' hot
- ☞ Easy to grow in a container
- ☞ Not as disease prone as other tomatoes and peppers
- ☞ LOT of crop from a small area
- ☞ Pesky dog resistant
- ☞ READ THE TAG!!!







19. Spirea

SHRUB- Spirea species (japonica, bumalda)

- ☞ Spring to summer
- ☞ Full sun to part shade
- ☞ 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.









20. Serviceberry

SHRUB - Amelanchier canadensis

- ☞ Spring
- ☞ Full sun to partial shade
- ☞ Native to Ontario
- ☞ Blooms with white flowers in spring, followed by red/purple berries in summer.
- ☞ Multi-stem architecture of this shrubs makes in a garden feature all year long.







Not so Easy Choices...

Invasives

- ☞ Periwinkle
- ☞ Goutweed/Snow on the Mountain
- ☞ Creeping Jenny
- ☞ English Ivy
- ☞ Mint
- ☞ Lily of the Valley

Princess Plants

- ☞ Roses
- ☞ Macrophylla Hydrangea
- ☞ Cucumbers
- ☞ Corn
- ☞ Carrots



Combinations.....









For more information....



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