

Table 1. Selected perennials that lend themselves to container gardening.

Common Name	Height	Color ¹	Bloom ²	Exposure			Additional Notes
				Shade	Partial Shade	Sun	
Achillea	2-4'	W,P,Y,G	Su			*	aromatic foliage; drought-tolerant
Ajuga	2-3"	B,W,P	Sp	*	*	*	evergreen groundcover; tolerates more sun provided adequate moisture; cultivars available with variegated or bronze foliage
Alyssum	9-12"	Y	SP			*	suitable for container's edge
Artemisia	1-3'				*	*	aromatic foliage; 'Silver Mound' and 'Silver King' cultivars have silver-gray foliage, the color 'brings' all surrounding plants together; drought-tolerant
Asclepias	1-2'	O	Su			*	native; drought-tolerant; foliage is food for Monarch butterfly caterpillars
Aster	1-5'	all	Su+/F			*	many cultivars, some very vigorous
Astilbe	1-3'	W,P,R	SP	*	*		many colors available; attractive fern-like foliage; best grown in shade
Baptisia	3'	B	SP		*	*	<i>Baptisia tinctoria</i> (yellow baptisia) is smaller than <i>B. australis</i> (blue indigo); drought-tolerant
Candytuft	12"	W	SP		*	*	<i>Iberis sempervirens</i> is perennial species; suitable for container's edge
Caryopteris	3-4'	B	Su+			*	drought-tolerant; attracts butterflies
Centaurea	12"	B	-Su		*	*	<i>Centaurea montana</i> is perennial species
Ceratostigma	2-3'	B	Su+			*	groundcover; the deepest blue-colored blooms; vigorous growth habit
Chrysanthemum	1-3'	-B	Su/F			*	not all varieties are cold-hardy; taller varieties require staking
Columbine	2-3'	W,P,B,Y	SP		*		Foliage declines in heat
Coreopsis	1-3'	Y,G	Su			*	<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i> , <i>C. lanceolata</i> , and <i>C. verticillata</i> (threadleaf coreopsis); drought-tolerant and easy to grow; attractive to butterflies
Dianthus	12"	P,W,R,Y	SP/Su			*	gray foliage is attractive and evergreen
Dicentra	1-3'	W,P	SP+/Su	*	*		fine-textured foliage; <i>D. exima</i> (wild bleeding heart) is native to Georgia
Foxglove	2-6'	W,P,Y,L	SP+		*	*	<i>Digitalis X mertonensis</i> and <i>D. lutea</i> are perennials
Gaillardia	1-2½'	Y,R,O	Su/F			*	drought-tolerant; attractive to butterflies
Gaura	2-3'	W, P	Su-			*	wispy flower spikes; drought-tolerant
Goldenrod	1-3'	G	Su+/F			*	easy to grow; foliage sustains caterpillars of numerous butterfly species
Hardy Ageratum	1-2'	B,W	F		*	*	vigorous growth habit
Helleborus	12-15"	W,P,L	W/SP	*	*		<i>Hellebores niger</i> (Christmas rose) blooms November to early spring; coarse-textured foliage; <i>H. orientalis</i> (Lenten rose) flowers in mid- to late spring
Hemerocallis	1-4'	-B	Su		*	*	numerous cultivars available; 'Stella d'Oro' is the earliest-blooming one
Heuchera	6-12"	W,P,R	SP/-Su	*	*	*	numerous foliage colors available
Hosta	1-3'			*	*		Foliage colors range from yellow-green to dark green to blue-green; many variegated varieties are also available
Iris	2-4'	all	SP/-Su		*	*	<i>Iris hybrids</i> (bearded iris), <i>I. siberica</i> (siberian iris), and <i>I. kaempferi</i> (japanese iris), bloom in this order; <i>I. tectorum</i> (japanese roof iris) is a durable plant
Liatris	2-6'	L,P	Su/F		*	*	<i>Liatris scariosa</i> (tall gayfeather), <i>L. pycnostachya</i> (Kansas gayfeather), <i>L. spicata</i> ; heat-tolerant
Liriope	1-2'			*	*	*	<i>Liriope muscari</i> (bordergrass), <i>L. spicata</i> (creeping lilyturf); evergreen; variegated forms with attractive foliage; flowers spikes also attractive
Lobelia	2-3'	R,B	Su+		*		<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> (cardinal flower) has striking scarlet blooms

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Monarda	2-3'	W,R,P	SP+/Su			*	drought-tolerant; aromatic foliage; attractive to butterflies
Ophiopogon	½-2'			*	*	*	<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i> (mondograss), and <i>O. jaburan</i> (snakebeard); evergreen groundcovers; variegated snakebeard often confused with variegated liriopoe
Pachysandra	6-8"			*	*		groundcover with evergreen foliage; several variegated varieties are available
Phlox	1"-3'	all	SP/Su	*	*	*	<i>Phlox paniculata</i> (garden phlox) produces tall and showy flower stalks; <i>P. subulata</i> (moss phlox, thrift), groundcover and spring bloomer, heat- and drought-tolerant; <i>P. divaricata</i> (blue phlox) tolerates shade, and <i>P. carolina</i> 'Miss Lingard' is also available
Physostegia	1½-7'	W,P,R	Su		*	*	Some varieties are very vigorous
Purple Coneflower	3-5'	L/P	Su		*	*	drought-tolerant and attractive to butterflies
Rudbeckia	2-3'	Y,O,G	Su/F			*	drought-tolerant and attractive to butterflies; easy to grow
Salvia	½-5'	W,B,R,L	Su/F		*	*	<i>Salvia farinacea</i> (blue salvia), <i>S. leucantha</i> (Mexican sage), a tall, bushy, late-blooming purple species is cold tender in North Georgia; <i>S. elegans</i> (pineapple sage) has aromatic foliage; all salvias attract butterflies
Santolina	1½'					*	<i>Santolina chaemaecypariis</i> (lavender cotton) and <i>S. virens</i> (green lavender cotton); aromatic foliage
Sedum	1"-2'	W,P,R	SP/F			*	heat- and drought-tolerant; succulent foliage of many colors, chartreuse, purple, variegated, silver; flowers also attractive; most species are groundcovers
Shasta Daisy	1-3'	W	-Su/Su		*	*	excellent cut flower
St. John's Wort	6-12"	Y	Su		*	*	drought-tolerant; variegated form also available
Stokesia	12-15"	B	Su			*	easy to grow; heat- and drought-tolerant
Sweet William	1-2'	W,P,R,L	SP+/-Su			*	fragrant blooms; declines in heat
Thymus	3-6"	B,L	Su			*	groundcover with aromatic foliage; white or gold-variegated varieties are available
Verbena	6"	W,B,L	SP/F			*	<i>Verbena canadensis</i> , Rose verbena, and <i>V. tenuisecta</i> , Moss verbena; low-growing, spreading and floriferous; drought-tolerant and attractive to butterflies
Veronica	1"-2'	B,W	Su		*	*	<i>Veronica spicata</i> , Speedwell, has varieties with height between 1' and 2'; <i>V. repens</i> is a very low-growing mat-forming type with evergreen foliage
Vinca	3-6"	B,W	SP	*	*		<i>Vinca minor</i> (periwinkle), and <i>V. major</i> , evergreen groundcovers; <i>V. minor</i> is smaller, more compact

¹ Color: G = gold, W = white, P = pink, Y = yellow, R = red, B = blue, O = orange, L = lavender, all = all colors, - = indicates absence of a single color, all others represented.

² Bloom: SP = spring. Su = summer. F = fall. W = winter. - = early. + = late. / = range of bloom.

Table 2. Shrubs and small trees that lend themselves to container gardening; separated based on plant characteristics.

Categories / Species	Common Name	Flower Color	Fruit Color	Exposure	Plant Size (W x H)	Fall Color	Additional Notes
Deciduous Shrubs							
<i>Abelia grandiflora</i>	Abelia	White to Pink	n/a		3-6' x 3-6'	None to crimson	Many cultivars including variegated.
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Barberry	Yellow	Red	Shade to Sun	3-6' x 3-6'	Crimson	Thorny. Variety of leaf colors exist.
<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Butterfly Bush	White to Purple	n/a	Sun	3-12' x 4-12'	n/a	Cultivars vary widely in size.
<i>Callicarpa spp.</i>	Beautyberry	White	White or Purple	Shade to Part Sun	4-8' x 4-8'	n/a	Native. Wide variety of cultivars available.
<i>Edgeworthia papyrifera</i>	Paperbush	White	n/a		5' x 5'	None	Blooms in late winter - early spring.
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	Bigleaf Hydrangea	White to Blue	n/a	Shade	3-6' x 3-6'	n/a	Repeat blooming cultivars available.
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i>	PeeGee Hydrangea	White	Tan	Shade to Part Sun	4-10' x 4-10'	n/a	Plant size varies by cultivar. Spent blooms attractive in winter.
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oakleaf Hydrangea	White	Tan	Shade to Part Sun	4-15' x 4-15'	Crimson	Great fall color. Dwarf cultivars available.
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Sweetspire	White	n/a	Shade to Sun	5' x 5'	Crimson	Native. Great fall color.
<i>Lagerstroemia x indica</i>	Crapemyrtle	White to Red	n/a		10-25' x 10-25'	Red	Smaller cultivars; some cultivars have purple leaves
<i>Spiraea spp.</i>	Spiraea	White to Dark Pink	n/a	Shade to Sun	3-6' x 3-6'	n/a	Cultivars vary in foliage and flower colors.
<i>Vaccinium arboreum</i>	Farkleberry	White	Purple-Black	Shade to Part Sun	6' x 6'	Crimson	Native. Great berries persist after leaf drop.

Deciduous Trees							
<i>Aesculus sylvatica</i>	Buckeye	Yellow	n/a		6-15' x 6-15'	Yellow	Native
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	Groundsel	Ivory	n/a		12' x 5'	n/a	Native
<i>Cercis spp.</i>	Redbud	White to Lavendar	n/a	Shade to Part Sun	6-25' x 4-25'	n/a	Standard tree and weeping forms available.
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringetree	White	Dark Blue	Sun to Shade	20' x 20'	Red	Native. Excellent fall color.
<i>Cotinus spp.</i>	Smoketree	Ivort to Pink	n/a	Sun to Shade	6-15' x 6-15'	Yellow	Native. Purple leaf cultivars available.
<i>Lagerstroemia x indica</i>	Crapemyrtle	White to Red	n/a		10-25' x 10-25'	Red	Larger cultivars; some cultivars have purple leaves

Table 2. Shrubs and small trees that lend themselves to container gardening; separated based on plant characteristics.

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Evergreen Broadleaf Shrubs							
<i>Aucuba japonica</i>	Aucuba	n/a	Red		6-10' x 6-10'	n/a	Many foliage color patterns exist.
<i>Camellia japonica</i> / <i>C. sasanqua</i>	Camellia	White to Red	n/a		6-10' x 6-10'	n/a	Cultivars vary in size and flower color.
<i>Fatsia japonica</i>	Fatsia	White	n/a		6' x 6'	n/a	Blooms late fall - October to November.
<i>Gardenia 'Frostproof'</i>	Gardenia	White	n/a		6' x 4'	n/a	Most cold-hardy cultivar.
<i>Ilex vomitoria 'Will Fleming'</i>	Yaupon Holly	White	Red		10' x 4'	n/a	Very upright habit. Good for framing.
<i>Jasminum nudiflorum</i>	Winter Jasmine	Yellow	n/a		1' x 4-6'	n/a	Blooms in late winter.
<i>Leucothoe axillaris</i>	Leucothoe	White	n/a	shade	4' x 5'	Red/Maroon	Some cultivars variegated.
<i>Loropetalum chinense</i>	Loropetalum	White to Red	n/a	Sun to Part Shade	2-25' x 4-25'	n/a	Cultivars vary in size and red leaf forms exist.
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Nandina	White	Red	Sun to Shade	3'-6' x 3-4'	Red/Maroon	Wide variety of sizes exist.
<i>Rhododendron spp.</i>	Azalea	White to Red	n/a	Shade to Part Sun	2-8' x 3-8'	n/a	Repeat blooming cultivars available.
<i>Rosemarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	Pale to Dark Blue	n/a	Sun to Part Shade	3-6' x 3-6'	n/a	Very fragrant - great for entrances.
<i>Rubus pentalobus</i>	Creeping Raspberry	n/a	n/a	Shade to Sun	6" x 5'	Maroon	Great "spiller".
Evergreen Broadleaf Trees							
<i>Chipmnanthys retusus</i>	Chinese Fringetree	White	Dark Blue	Sun to Shade	20' x 20'	n/a	Excellent small tree. Great bark!
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay Magnolia	White	n/a	Sun to Shade	12' x 6'	n/a	Can drop leaves in extreme cold.
<i>Osmanthus fragrans</i>	Tea Olive	Ivory	n/a	Sun to Shade	25' x 15'	n/a	Can heavily prune. Fragrant flowers.
<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>	Windmill Palm	Ivory	Brown-Purple	Sun	6-15' x 4-6'	n/a	Very cold-tolerant. Great texture.

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Evergreen Conifers							
<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	Lemon Bottlebrush	Red	n/a		10' x 15'	n/a	Very tolerant of dry soils.
<i>Chamaecyparis obtusa</i>	Falsecypress	n/a	n/a	Sun to Part Shade	3-20' x 3-20'	n/a	Size and foliage color varies by cultivar.
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress	n/a	n/a		20' x 5'	n/a	Very upright habit. Good for framing.
<i>Juniperus conferta</i>	Shore Juniper	n/a	n/a	Sun	1' x 5'	n/a	Great "spiller" plant.
<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>	Creeping Juniper	n/a	n/a	Sun	1' x 5'	n/a	Great "spiller" plant.
<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> 'Skyrocket'	Rocky Mountain Juniper	n/a	n/a	Sun	15' x 2'	n/a	Very upright habit. Good for framing.