

Annuals for Specific Uses

Easy-to-Grow Annuals		
Ageratum	Four-O'clock	Purple Fountain Grass
California Poppy	Marigold	Sunflower
Celosia	Nasturtium	Verbena
Cleome	Petunia	Vinca
Coleus	Portulaca	Zinnia
Dahlia		
Annuals for Shade or Semi-Shade*		
Ageratum*	Coleus	Pansy*
Alyssum*	Forget-Me-Not*	Salvia*
Balsam	Impatiens	Snapdragon*
Begonia	Lobelia*	Torenia
Browallia	Monkey Flower*	Verbena*
Candytuft*	Nicotiana*	Viola*
Annuals for Hot, Dry Locations		
Cosmos	Portulaca	Tithonia
Creeping Zinnia	Snow-on-the-Mountain	Verbena
Four-O'clock	Sunflower	Vinca
Kochia		
Annuals for Poor Soils		
Amaranthus	Four-O'clock	Purple Fountain Grass
California Poppy	Iceland Poppy	Tithonia
Candyturt	Kochia	Verbena
Celosia	Nasturtium	Vinca
Cleome	Portulaca	
Hardy and Half-Hardy* Annuals		
Alyssum*	Gazania	Petunia
Baby's Breath	Hollyhock	Phlox*
California Poppy	Iceland Poppy	Snapdragon*
Candytuft	Larkspur	Sweetpea*
Calendula*	Monkey Flower*	Verbena*
Dianthus*	Ornamental Kale*	Wallflower
Foxglove	Pansy	
Annuals to Sow in Fall		
Alyssum	Candytuft	Shirley Poppy
Baby's Breath	Iceland Poppy	Snapdragon
California Poppy	Larkspur	Sweetpea
Calendula	Pansy	
Annuals that May Self-Seed Year after Year		
Alyssum	Forget-Me-Not	Pansy
Baby's Breath	Impatiens	Portulaca
Browallia	Kochia	Snow-on-the-Mountain
Calendula	Larkspur	Verbena
California Poppy	Nicotiana	Zinnia
Cleome		

Annuals to Direct-Seed		
Amaranthus	Iceland Poppy	Shirley Poppy
Baby's Breath	Kochia	Sunflower
California Poppy	Larkspur	Sweetpea
Castor Bean	Marigold	Zinnia
Gomphrena	Nasturtium	
Annuals for Use as Cut Flowers		
Aster	Dianthus	Snapdragon
Baby's Breath	Larkspur	Statice
Calendula	Marigold	Stock
Celosia	Nasturtium	Sweetpea
Chrysanthemum	Phlox	Verbena
Dahlia	Salvia	Zinnia
Annuals Suitable for Drying		
Baby's Breath	Gomphrena	Statice
Celosia	Money Plant	Strawflower
Annuals Grown for Fragrance		
Alyssum	Nicotiana	Stock
Dianthus	Petunia	Sweetpea
Nasturtium	Phlox	
Annual Vines		
Balloon Vine	Cup-and-Saucer Vine	Scarlet Runner Bean
Balsam Apple	Moonflower	Sweetpea
Canary Bird Vine	Nasturtium	Thunbergia
Annuals Grown for Colorful Foliage		
Amaranthus	Dusty Miller	Polka Dot Plant
Basil	Kochia	Purple Fountain Grass
Coleus	Ornamental Kale	Snow-on-the-Mountain
Annuals Used for Edging		
Ageratum	Dusty Miller	Petunia
Alyssum	Lobelia	Snapdragon (dwarf varieties)
Begonia	Phlox	Torenia
Candytuft	Portulaca	Verbena
Coleus	Marigold (dwarf varieties)	Zinnia (dwarf varieties)
Dianthus	Pansy	
Annuals Suitable for Containers		
Ageratum	Impatiens	Phlox
Alyssum	Lobelia	Portulaca
Balsam	Marigold	Torenia
Begonia	Nasturtium	Thunbergia
Browallia	Pansy	Verbena
Coleus	Petunia	Vinca
Geranium		

Annuals Suitable for Backgrounds and Screens		
Amaranthus	Hibiscus	Purple Fountain Grass
Castor Bean	Hollyhock	Sunflower
Celosia (tall varieties)	Kochia	Tithonia
Cleome	Marigold (tall varieties)	Zinnia (tall varieties)
Coleus		
Annuals Suitable for Use as Groundcovers		
Alyssum	Creeping Zinnia	Verbena
Candytuft	Portulaca	Vinca
Annuals that Should Generally Be Deadheaded		
Aster	Geranium	Salvia
Calendula	Hollyhock	Snapdragon
Dahlia	Marigold	Tithonia
Foxglove	Purple Fountain Grass	Zinnia
Annuals that Attract Birds		
California Poppy	Portulaca	Sunflower
Calliopsis	Salvia	Zinnia
Petunia		
Annuals that Attract Hummingbirds and Butterflies		
Tithonia	Phlox	Salvia
Verbena	Lobelia	Zinnia

Quick Reference to Common Annuals

Name	Height ¹ (in.)	Spacing ² (in.)	Color ³	Hardiness ⁴			Exposure ⁵		
				T	H-H	H	SU	S-S	SH
Amaranthus	12-6	12-24	F	*				*	
Ageratum	6-24	12	WB	*			*	*	
Alyssum	4-8	12	WPL		*		*	*	
Aster	6-36	12-18	All	*			*		
Baby's Breath	12-24	12-24	WPL			*	*	*	
Balloon Vine	Vine	—	F	*			*	*	
Balsam	12-36	12	—B	*				*	*
Balsam Apple	Vine	—	F	*			*	*	
Basil	12-24	12-24	F	*			*		
Begonia	6-12	12	WPR	*				*	*
Bells of Ireland	24-36	12-18	F	*			*		
Browallia	6-18	12	WB	*				*	*
Canary Bird Vine	Vine	—	Y	*			*		

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Name	Height ¹ (in.)	Spacing ² (in.)	Color ³	Hardiness ⁴			Exposure ⁵		
				T	H-H	H	SU	S-S	SH
Candytuft	8-12	12	WPRL			*	*	*	
Calendula	12-24	12	YGO		*		*		
Calliopsis	18	12	Y	*			*		
Castor Bean	60-120	24-36	F	*			*		
Celosia	6-30	12	—B	*			*		
Chinese Lantern	18-24	12	F	*			*		
Chrysanthemum	12-24	12-24	—B	*			*		
Cleome	36-60	12-24	WPL	*			*		
Coleus	12-36	12	F	*				*	*
Cup-and-Saucer Vine	Vine	—	LW	*			*	*	
Dahlia	8-72	12-36	All	*			*		
Dianthus	6-12	12	—B		*		*		
Dusty Miller	6-12	12	F		*		*		
Forget-Me-Not	6-12	12	BWP	*			*	*	
Four-O'clock	18-36	12-24	WRYP	*			*		
Foxglove	12-60	12-24	—B			*	*	*	
Gaillardia	12-30	12	YGR	*			*		
Gazania	6-12	12	YGPRO			*	*		
Geranium	12-24	12	—B—Y	*			*	*	
Gomphrena	8-24	12	WPL	*			*		
Hibiscus	36-96	24-36	—B—Y			*	*		
Hollyhock	12-48	12-24	All			*	*	*	
Kochia	12-36	12-24	F	*			*		
Impatiens	6-36	12	—B	*				*	*
Larkspur	24-36	12	BPWL			*	*		
Lobelia	3-6	6-12	BW	*			*		*
Marigold	3-36	12-24	YGRO	*			*		
Moonflower	Vine	—	W	*			*		
Money Plant	12-36	12	F			*	*		
Monkey Flower	6	6-12	YR				*		*
Nasturtium	12-72	12-24	YGRW	*			*	*	
Nicotiana	12-36	12-24	—B	*			*		
Ornamental Pepper	6-12	6-18	F	*			*		
Ornamental Kale	6	18	F		*		*		
Pansy	6	6-12	All			*	*	*	
Petunia	6-12	12	All	*			*		
Phlox	6-12	12	All		*		*	*	
Polka Dot Plant	12-18	12	F	*			*	*	
Poppy	12-24	12	All			*	*	*	
Portulaca	1-3	12	—B	*			*		
Salvia	10-30	12-18	RWB	*			*	*	

Quick Reference to Common Annuals

Name	Height ¹ (in.)	Spacing ² (in.)	Color ³	Hardiness ⁴			Exposure ⁵		
				T	H-H	H	SU	S-S	SH
Scarlet Runner Bean	Vine	—	R	*	*		*		
Snapdragon	6-36	12	—B				*	*	
Snow-on-the-Mountain	24-48	12-24	F	*			*		
Statice	18-24	12-24	—R	*			*		
Stock	12-30	12-24	All	*			*		
Strawflower	12-36	12-24	YG	*			*		
Sunflower	24-120	24-36	YG	*		*	*		
Sweetpea	12-96	12	All				*		
Torenia	6-12	6-12	WB	*				*	*
Thunbergia	Vine	—	WYGO	*			*		
Tithonia	48-72	24-36	R	*			*		
Verbena	6-12	12	All		*		*	*	
Vinca	6-18	12	WPL	*			*	*	
Wallflower	6-12	12	WPLY		*		*		
Zinnia	6-36	12-24	—B	*			*		
Zinnia linearis	12-18	12-18	O	*			*		

¹ Height may vary considerably among varieties.

² Spacing depends on ultimate size of plant and effect desired.

³ G = gold, W = white, P = pink, Y = yellow, R = red, B = blue, L = lavender, O = orange, All - all colors, — = absence of a single color, all others represented, F = grown for foliage or fruit.

⁴ T = tender, H-H = half-hardy, H = hardy. Hardiness varies among varieties and locations throughout the state.

⁵ SU = full sun, S-S = semi-shade (filtered light or protection from midday and afternoon sun), SH = shade.