Annuals
For Alabama Gardens

Originally developed by: Paul A. Thomas and Bodie V. Pennisi
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Terms To Review

Annual: A plant which completes its life cycle in less than one year. Annuals, as a group, are unable to withstand both summer’s heat and winter’s cold.

Late Summer Annual: A plant which is vegetative early and mid-summer and finally blooms in late summer only.

Tender Perennial: An annual which happens to over-winter. This definition is very weather dependent. Some tender perennials are annuals 7 out of 10 years!

Perennial: A plant which completes its life cycle in two or more years and can withstand summer and winter conditions.

Biennial: A plant which usually completes its life cycle within two years.

Deer Tolerant: A plant usually not preferred by deer.
Terms To Review

Dead-heading: Removal of spent flowers before seed develops.

Random Seeding: Seeds broadcast in fall or spring without pattern.

Drought Tolerant: Plant recovers (grows/blooms) after prolonged drought.

Fertility: Heavy
- 3-4 applications: 1 lb of 10-10-10/100 sq. ft. / season.

Moderate
- 2 applications: 1 lb 10-10-10/100 sq. ft. / season,
  i.e. one at transplant and one mid-season.

Low
- 1 application: 1 lb 10-10-10/100 sq. ft. at transplant
  or in early spring before growth resumes.

Pinch at Transplant: Removal of top ¼ inch (including flowers) of the
  terminal growth to promote branching.

Inconspicuous Bloom: Blooms not seen, very small or unimportant.
Installing Annuals
The Perfect Plant?
Selecting The Proper Annuals

Know their final size.

Know their height.

Know their pH and fertility requirements.

Know their watering requirements.

Know their bloom period.
Evaluate The Old Planting
Remove Old Plant Materials
Incorporate or Remove Old Mulch Materials

Old mulch material can be used in a compost pile if too much to incorporate
Add Compost / Organic Matter And Amendments

Organic matter decomposes and needs to be replenished
OM helps retain moisture and improves drainage
OM adds slow release nutrients
OM may reduce disease/nematode buildup
Dig In Or Till Thoroughly At Least 12” Deep!
# Plant Spacing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance Between Plants</th>
<th>Number of Plants Per 100 Sq. Ft.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 Inch spacing</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Inch spacing</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Inch spacing</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Inch spacing</td>
<td>70</td>
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Planting Annuals

• Loosen root ball if root bound

• Plant at about the same depth as the root system of the individual plant

• Do not leave root balls exposed as they may later wick water especially if they are in peat/recyclable pots
How Much Mulch To Apply?

2-3 inches is sufficient in gardens!

One bale of pine straw covers 50 – 80 sq. ft., depending on the bale size

Nine, 3 cu. ft. bags of pine bark mulch will cover 100 sq. ft. to a 3-inch depth
Irrigate & Fertilize!
Fertilization

- Fertilizers only last so long!
- Plants growing in shade require more fertilizer than those in sun, due to competition from tree roots
- Plants growing in sandy soils require more frequent fertilization than those in clay soil due to leaching.
- Rainfall dramatically affects fertility levels in long-term gardens!
- Some plants like low fertility!

An average recommendation is 1 lb granular 10-10-10 per 100 sq ft.
Symptoms:

Marginal Chlorosis
Entire Leaf Yellowing
Basal Leaf Yellowing
No New Blooms
Necrosis / Death
Root Damage

Overdose of a common fertilizer

Leach with water!
Annuals For Summer Sun
Cockscomb

Characteristics
Drought tolerant
15 – 30 inches tall

Location:
Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
6 inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility

Bloom Period:
May – November

Culture Concerns:
Deadhead first flowers and/or pinch at transplant for bushy growth

Celosia cristata
Vinca

Characteristics:
Nectar source
Drought tolerant
Very floriferous
18-24 inches tall

Location:
Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
8 to 10-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Low fertility,
Nitrate fertilizer
Deer tolerant

Bloom Period:
June – August

Culture Concerns:
Keep foliage dry
Avoid overhead watering

Catharanthus roseus
Moss Verbena

Characteristics:
- Nectar source
- Drought tolerant
- Groundcover
- 4 – 6 inches tall

Location:
- Full sun-bedding
- Hanging baskets

Plant Spacing:
- 8 inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Low fertility
- Deer tolerant

Bloom Period:
- May - December

Culture Concerns:
- Spider mites
- Well-drained

Verbena tenuisecta ‘Imagination’
Bedding Begonia

Characteristics:
- Groundcover
- Floriferous
- 12 to 18 inches tall

Location:
- Full sun to partial shade

Plant Spacing:
- 8 to 12-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility
- No drought

Bloom Period:
- May – August

Culture Concerns:
- Fades in drought
- Botrytis

Begonia spp.
Spider Flower

Characteristics:
- Nectar source
- Drought tolerant
- 36 to 54 inches tall

Location:
- Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
- 4-inch centers or random seeding

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility
- Deer tolerant
- Well drained

Bloom Period:
- June – September

Culture Concerns:
- Reseeds

Cleome hassleriana
Bush Violet

Characteristics:
Mounding
12 – 25 inches tall

Location:
Full sun bedding
Patio containers

Plant Spacing:
10- inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
June – September

Culture Concerns:
Mites

Browalia americana
Spike Celosia

Characteristics:
Nectar source
Drought tolerant
30 – 54 inches tall

Location:
Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
4 inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility

Bloom Period:
May – August

Culture Concerns:
Deadhead or pinch at transplant for bushy plant

* Celosia spicata *
Fan Flower

Characteristics:
Groundcover
10-12 inches tall
Drought Tolerant

Location:
Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
6 – 8 inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Heavy fertility
No drought
Deer tolerant

Bloom Period:
May – September

Culture Concerns:
Must be kept moist
Early season pinch

Scaveola aemula ‘New Blue Wonder’
Gazania

Characteristics:
Drought tolerant
12-18 inches tall

Location:
Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
5 - 7 inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility

Bloom Period:
June – September

Culture Concerns:
Well drained soils

Gazania splendens
Strawflowers

Characteristics:
Late summer color as dried flowers
24-28 inches tall

Location:
Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
8-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
Deer tolerant
Well drained soils

Bloom Period:
June – August

Culture Concerns:
Cut flowers when partially open.

*Helichrysum bracteatum*
Bloodflower (annual butterfly weed)

Characteristics:
- Nectar source
- Drought tolerant
- 48-60 inches tall

Location:
- Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
- 4 to 6-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility
- Deer tolerant

Bloom Period:
- June – October

Culture Concerns:
- Aphids
- Well drained

Asclepias currisavica
Annual Verbena

Characteristics:
Floriferous
12-15 inches tall

Location:
Full sun (Morning)

Plant Spacing:
4-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility,
Heat tolerant

Bloom Period:
June – August

Culture Concerns:
Mites
Well drained soils
Mildew

Verbena spp.
Marigold

Characteristics:
Floriferous
12 to 32 inches tall

Location:
Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
4-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
Deer tolerant

Bloom Period:
May - October

Culture Concerns:
Mites / Heat

Tagetes hybrida
Lantana montevidensis

Characteristics:
- Nectar source
- Drought tolerant
- Spreading groundcover
- 12 – 15 inches tall

Location:
- Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
- 24 - inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility
- Deer tolerant

Bloom Period:
- May – October

Culture Concerns:
- Well drained soils
- White flies

Lantana montevidensis
Mounding Lantana (half hardy perennial)

**Characteristics**
- Nectar source
- Drought tolerant
- 18 – 60 inches tall

**Location:**
- Full sun bedding

**Plant Spacing:**
- 1 to 2 foot centers

**Care and Feeding:**
- Moderate fertility
- Deer tolerant

**Bloom Period:**
- June – October

**Culture Concerns:**
- Mildew / Whiteflies
- Well drained soils

_Lantana camara_
Mexican Heather  (half hardy perennial)

Characteristics
Nectar source
15 – 18 inches tall
Drought Tolerant

Location:
Full sun or partial shade

Plant Spacing:
12-Inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
Heat tolerant

Bloom Period:
June – October

Culture Concerns:
Constant fertility

Cuphea hyssopifolia
Blackeyed Susans

Characteristics:
Nectar source
Drought tolerant
18 – 28 inches tall

Location:
Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
6 to 8 inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility,
Heat tolerant

Bloom Period:
June – August

Culture Concerns:
Deadheading
Mildew

Rudbeckia hirta
Throatwort

Characteristics:
Nectar source
24 – 48 inches tall

Location:
Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
6 to 8-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility,
No drought!

Bloom Period:
June – September

Culture Concerns:
Mildew
Well drained soils
Must not dry out

Trachelium caeruleum
Mexican Sunflower

**Characteristics:**
- Nectar source
- Drought tolerant
- Late blooming
- 36 - 78 inches tall

**Location:**
- Full sun bedding

**Plant Spacing:**
- 2-foot centers

**Care and Feeding:**
- Moderate fertility
- Deer tolerant

**Bloom Period:**
- July - November

**Culture Concerns:**
- Can get huge!
- Mildew

*Tithonia rotundifolia ‘The Torch’*
Bedding Petunias

Characteristics:
Floriferous
12 – 24 inches tall
Spring, fall color

Location:
Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
6 – 8 inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
April - December

Culture Concerns:
Mid-summer trimming is required
Cascading Petunias

Characteristics:
- Hanging baskets
- 6 - 10 inches tall
- 3 - 4 foot cascades

Location:
- Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
- 6 to 9-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Heavy fertility,
- No drought

Bloom Period:
- May – November

Culture Concerns:
- Summer trimming

Petunia hybrida ‘Cascadia’
SuperPetunia

Characteristics:
Groundcover
8-12 inches tall

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
24-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Heavy fertility,
No drought

Bloom Period:
June – October

Culture Concerns:
Rampant spreader

Petunia ‘Purple Wave’
Purslane Portulacca

Characteristics:
Groundcover
6 - 12 inches tall
Very Drought Tolerant

Location:
Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
8-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility

Bloom Period:
June – August

Culture Concerns:
Well drained
Flowers close by 4:00 pm

Portulaca grandiflora
Ornamental Sweet Potato

Characteristics:
- Groundcover
- 12 – 15 inches tall
- Very Drought Tolerant

Location:
- Full sun

Plant Spacing:
- 2 foot centers

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility
- No drought

Bloom Period:
- Inconspicuous

Culture Concerns:
- Chewing insects
- Rampant growth

*Ipomea batatus* ‘Marguerite’ & ‘Blackie’
Globe Flower

Characteristics:
- Drought tolerant
- 15 - 48 inches tall
- Good dried flower

Location:
- Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
- 8-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Low fertility
- Deer tolerant

Bloom Period:
- June – August

Culture Concerns:
- Mildew
- Well drained
- Pinch at transplant

Gompherenia globosa
Pentas

Characteristics
Nectar source
15-28 inches tall

Location:
Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
8-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
June – October

Culture Concerns:
Mildew
White Flies

Pentas lanceolata
Geraniums

Characteristics:
  Container plant
  18 – 24 inches tall

Location:
  Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
  8 to 10-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
  Heavy fertility

Bloom Period:
  April – November

Culture Concerns:
  Mealy bugs
  Mildew
  Deadheading
  Declines in heat

*Pelargonium hortorum*
Four O’ Clocks

Characteristics:
Nectar source
Drought tolerant
18 – 54 inches tall

Location:
Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing
24-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
Pinching early
Early staking

Bloom Period:
June – September

Culture Concerns:
Shrub-like
Reseeds

Mirabilis jalapa
Ornamental Tobacco

Characteristics:
- Nectar source
- Heat Tolerant

Location:
- Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
- 6-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Heavy fertility

Bloom Period:
- June – September

Culture Concerns:
- Well drained soils
- Declines in drought

Nicotiana alata
Creeping Zinnia

Characteristics:
- Nectar source
- Drought tolerant
- 12 – 20 inches tall
- Cascading

Location:
- Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
- 8 to 10-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility

Bloom Period:
- June – October

Culture Concerns:
- Mildew
- Well drained

Zinnia angustifolia
Sunflower

**Characteristics:**
- Nectar source
- Specimen / Border
- Drought tolerant
- 4-8 feet tall

**Location:**
- Full sun bedding

**Plant Spacing:**
- 24-inch centers

**Care and Feeding:**
- Moderate fertility

**Bloom Period:**
- June – August

**Culture Concerns:**
- Huge! Staking
- Mildew

*Helianthus annuus*
Scarlet Sage

Characteristics:
Nectar source
18 – 24 inches tall

Location:
Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
6 to 8 inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Heavy fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
June – August

Culture Concerns:
Defoliates in drought

Salvia splendens
Bedding Lobelia

Characteristics:
- Hanging baskets
- Early spring color
- Mounding habit
- 15 - 24 inches tall

Location:
- Full / part sun

Plant Spacing:
- 6-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility
- Cool, moist soils
- No drought

Bloom Period:
- March-May

Culture Concerns:
- Well drained

Lobelia erinus
California Poppy

Characteristics:  
- Early spring color  
- 12 - 20 inches tall

Location:  
- Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:  
- 4-inch centers  
- Random seeding

Care and Feeding:  
- Moderate fertility  
- No drought

Bloom Period:  
- March - May

Culture Concerns:  
- Well drained

Eschscholzia californica
Annuals For Shady Location

Imagine What Shade-Tolerant Annuals Could Do For This Site!
Impatiens

Characteristics:
Nectar source
Floriferous
18 – 24 inches tall

Location:
Full shade
Partial shade

Plant Spacing:
8 to 12-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
June – August

Culture Concerns:
High organic soils best

Impatiens walleriana
Double Impatiens

Characteristics:
- Nectar source
- High color density
- 18 - 24 inches tall
- Hanging baskets

Location:
- Full shade
- Partial shade

Plant Spacing:
- 8 to 12-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility
- No drought

Bloom Period:
- June – August

Culture Concerns:
- High organic soils best

Impatiens walleriana
New Guinea Impatiens

Characteristics:
Nectar source
14-28 inches tall

Location:
Partial shade

Plant Spacing:
12- inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Heavy fertility
No drought
Organic soils

Bloom Period:
June – August

Culture Concerns:
Botrytis
Absolutely must be kept moist.

Impatiens hawkeri
Floss Flower

**Characteristics:**
- Nectar source
- 12-15 inches tall,
  12 inches wide.

**Location:**
- Full - part shade

**Plant Spacing:**
- 4 to 8-inch centers

**Care and Feeding:**
- Moderate fertility
- No drought

**Bloom Period:**
- June – October

**Culture Concerns:**
- Bleaches in sun
- Botrytis

*Ageratum houstonianum*
Caladium

Characteristics:
Colorful foliage
28 – 36 inches tall

Location:
Full / part shade

Plant Spacing:
6 to 8-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Heavy fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
Inconspicuous

Culture Concerns:
Well drained
Dig tubers in fall

Caladium ‘Miss Muffet’
Elephant Ears

Characteristics:
- Full/part shade
- Tolerates wet soils
- 36 - 78 inches tall

Location:
- Full/part shade

Plant Spacing:
- 24-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility
- No drought

Bloom Period:
- Inconspicuous

Culture Concerns:
- Dig tubers in fall

*Alocasia micholitziana ‘Maxkowskii’*
Coleus

Characteristics:  
Tolerates wet soils  
24 – 30 inches tall

Location:  
Shade/part shade

Plant Spacing:  
8 to 10-inch centers

Care and Feeding:  
Moderate fertility  
No drought

Bloom Period:  
Must deadhead

Culture Concerns:  
Pinch at transplant  
Mildew

Coleus ‘Wizard Mix’
Polkadot Plant

Characteristics:
- Colorful foliage
- Rapid growth
- 12-18 inches tall

Location:
- Full shade/sun

Plant Spacing:
- 8-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility
- No drought

Bloom Period:
- Inconspicuous

Culture Concerns:
- Mealy bugs
- Summer trimming
- Deadheading

Hypoestes phyllostachya
Characteristics:
- Nectar source
- 12 - 24 inches tall

Location:
- Partial shade

Plant Spacing:
- 6-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility
- No drought

Bloom Period:
- June – October

Culture Concerns:
- Fades in bright sun

Torenia fournieri
Persian Shield

Characteristics
Mounding
24 - 36 inches tall

Location:
Full / part shade

Plant Spacing:
12 - inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
Inconspicuous

Culture Concerns:
Mealy bugs
Fades in bright sun

Strobilanthes dyerianus
Native Impatiens

Characteristics:
Nectar source
Mounding habit
36 – 56 inches tall

Location:
Full/part shade

Plant Spacing:
8-inch centers
Random seeding

Care and Feeding:
Low fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
June – July

Culture Concerns:
Reseeds
Needs moist soil

Impatiens capensis
Annuals for Fall & Early Spring
Alyssum

Characteristics:
Nectar source
Groundcover
6 - 10 inches tall

Location:
Full sun/part shade

Plant Spacing:
4-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
Apr-June, Sept/Oct

Culture Concerns:
Declines in heat if dry

Lobularia maritima
Pansy

Characteristics:
Nectar source
Frost resistant
7 - 10 inches tall

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
4 to 8-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought
Requires deer protection

Bloom Period:
August-May

Culture Concerns:
Caterpillars

Viola wittrockiana
Violas

**Characteristics:**
- Nectar source
- Frost resistant
- 7 – 10 inches tall

**Location:**
- Full sun

**Plant Spacing:**
- 4 to 8-inch centers

**Care and Feeding:**
- Moderate fertility
- No drought

**Bloom Period:**
- August-May

**Culture Concerns:**
- Caterpillars

*Viola wittrockiana*
Flowering Cabbage And Kale

Characteristics:
Foliage color
15 - 20 inches tall

Location:
Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
12 to 15-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
August-November

Culture Concerns:
Summer planting

Brassica oleracea
Snapdragons

Characteristics:
Tall borders
15 – 48 inches tall

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
4 to 8-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
Aug-Nov, Apr-May

Culture Concerns:
Staking/Mildew

Antirrhinum majus
Garden Mums

Characteristics:
Temporary color
15 - 28 inches tall

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
12 to 16-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
August - October

Culture Concerns:
Plant in tight bud

*Dendranthemum morifolium*
Annual & Biennial Dianthus

Characteristics
Nectar source
12 to 15 inches high

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
6-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Heavy fertility
No drought
Well drained

Bloom Period:
June – August

Culture Concerns:
Trim to shape in spring of 2nd year

Dianthus barbatus ‘Telstar Series’
Annual Vines
Passion Vine

Characteristics
  Trellis/groundcover
  Good nectar source

Location:
  Full sun

Plant Spacing:
  12-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
  Heavy fertility
  No drought

Bloom Period:
  June – October

Culture Concerns:
  Sterile/not invasive
  Caterpillars?

Passiflora ‘Byron’s Beauty’
Cardinal Climber

Characteristics
Nectar source
Drought tolerant
Trellis vine

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
4-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility

Bloom Period:
June – August

Culture Concerns:
Mildew & mites
Reseeding

Ipomoea sloteri
Cypress Vine

Characteristics:
- Nectar source
- Trellis vine

Location:
- Full sun

Plant Size:
- 20 to 30 foot vines by end of summer.

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility

Bloom Period:
- June – November

Culture Concerns:
- Mildew
- Reseeds

Ipomoea quamoclit
Morning Glory

Characteristics:
- Trellis vine
- 20-30 feet by end of summer season

Location:
- Full sun

Plant Spacing:
- 2-4 inches

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility

Bloom Period:
- July – September

Culture Concerns:
- Reseeds

Ipomoea tricolor
Mandevilla Vine

Characteristics:
Long lasting flowers
Flowers may be sparse

Location:
Full sun

Plant Size:
4 – 6 foot vines

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility,
No drought

Bloom Period:
June – August

Culture Concerns:
Mealy bugs

Mandevilla sanderi
Allamanda Vine

Characteristics:
- Very large bloom
- Trellis vine
- 15 feet per season

Location:
- Full sun

Plant Spacing:
- 12-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility
- No drought

Bloom Period:
- May – October

Culture Concerns:
- Mealy bugs

Allamanda cathartica
Purple Hyacinth Vine

Characteristics:
- Trellis vine
- Good nectar source
- 10 foot vine per season

Location:
- Full sun

Plant Spacing:
- 4-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility
- No drought

Bloom Period:
- June – September

Culture Concerns:
- Reseeds

*Dolichos lablab*
SweetPea

Characteristics:
Mounding or trellis vine
3 foot vines

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
2-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
May – June

Culture Concerns:
Dies out in mid-summer
heat if not kept moist

*Lathyrus odoratus*
Nasturtium

Characteristics:  
Groundcover  
12 feet vines by summer

Location:  
Full sun

Plant Spacing:  
4-inch centers  
Seeds require cold snap

Care and Feeding:  
Moderate fertility,  
No drought

Bloom Period:  
June – September

Culture Concerns:  
Frequent irrigation

*Tropaeoleum majus*
Snail Vine

Characteristics:
Trellis vine
10-20 feet per season

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
2-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
July – October

Culture Concerns:
Slow growing at first

Vigna caracalla
Annuals Best For Cut Flowers
Verbascum

Characteristics:
Back of bed plant
Height to 36”

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
10-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
June – August

Culture Concerns:
Mites
Deadheading essential

Verbascum ‘Southern Charm’
Cosmos

Characteristics:
Mass planting best
Cut flower
Drought tolerant
18-48 inches tall

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
Spring seeding
or 4-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility

Bloom Period:
June – October

Culture Concerns:
Great for poor soils

Cosmos bipinnatus
China Pinks

**Characteristics:**
- Nectar source
- Fragrant flowers
- 15-18 inches tall

**Location:**
- Full sun

**Plant Spacing:**
- 4-inch centers or random seeding

**Care and Feeding:**
- Moderate fertility
- No drought

**Bloom Period:**
- June – August

**Culture Concerns:**
- Fall seeding

*Dianthus chinensis*
Peruvian Lily

Characteristics:
Cut flower
12-24 inches tall

Location:
Full sun/part shade

Plant Spacing:
12-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
June – August

Culture Concerns:
March planting
Tender perennial in south Georgia
Fades mid-summer

Alstroemeria aurea
Summer Snapdragon

Characteristics:
  Container plant
  Border plant
  24 - 28 inches tall

Location:
  Full sun

Plant Spacing:
  5 to 7-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
  Heavy fertility
  No drought

Bloom Period:
  June - October

Culture Concerns:
  Pinch at transplant

Angelonia angustifolia ‘Angel Mist’
Bachelor’s Buttons

Characteristics:
Spring color
Cut flower

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
4-inch centers
Random seeding

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
April – June

Culture Concerns:
Reseeds

Centaurea cyanus
Delphiniums

Characteristics:
Border plant
Cut flower
24 - 56 inches tall

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
4 to 6-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
June – August

Culture Concerns:
Mites
Aphids

Dephinium spp.
Zinnia

Characteristics:
- Nectar source
- Cut flower
- 16 - 24 inches tall

Location:
- Full sun

Plant Spacing:
- 4-inch centers
- Random seeding

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility
- No drought

Bloom Period:
- June – September

Culture Concerns:
- Mildew

Zinnia ‘DreamLand’ Series
Unusual Annuals For Sunny Locations
Pigeon Berry

Characteristics:
- Nectar source
- Shrub-like
- 30 - 50 inches tall

Location:
- Full sun

Plant Spacing:
- 24-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility
- No drought

Bloom Period:
- June – August

Culture Concerns:
- Tender perennial in South Alabama

Duranta erecta
Sun-Loving Coleus

Characteristics:
Mounding
36-54 inches tall

Location:
Full sun!

Plant Spacing:
24 to 26-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Heavy fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
Must deadhead

Culture Concerns:
Mealy bugs

Coleus ‘Solar Flare’
Ugandan Glorybower

Characteristics:
Shrub-like
45 - 60 inches tall

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
24 to 26-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Heavy fertility,
No drought
Even moisture

Bloom Period:
June – October

Culture Concerns:
Needs early shaping for best results.

Clerodendrum myricoides
Tall Cigar Plant

Characteristics:
Nectar source
Shrub-like
36 - 48 inches tall

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
24 to 26-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Heavy fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
June – November

Culture Concerns:
Aphids

Cuphea micropetalum
Angel’s Trumpet

Characteristics:
Tree-like
4 - 5 feet tall
Drought tolerant plant

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing
30 to 36-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Heavy fertility
No drought for best bloom

Bloom Period:
June - September

Culture Concerns:
All parts poisonous
Brought indoors
Mealy Cup Sage (perennial in well drained sites)

Characteristics:
- Nectar source
- Mounding
- 24 - 28 inches tall

Location:
- Full sun

Plant Spacing:
- 5 - 6 inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility
- No drought

Bloom Period:
- June – October

Culture Concerns:
- Well drained soils
- Aphids

Salvia farinacea
Globe Allium

Characteristics:
Nectar source
Back border
Specimen plant
36 - 54 inches tall

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
10 to 12 - inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
June – August

Culture Concerns:
Well drained

Allium giganteum
Joseph’s Coat

Characteristics
   Tall back border
   Specimen plant
   Drought tolerant
   36 - 54 inches tall

Location:
   Full sun

Plant Spacing:
   14- 18 inch centers

Care and Feeding:
   Moderate fertility
   Staking

Bloom Period:
   June – August

Culture Concerns:
   Huge plant
   Mildew

Amaranthus tricolor
Hibiscus

Characteristics:
Nectar source
Shrub-like
30 - 48 inches tall

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
26 to 30-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
June – October

Culture Concerns:
Brought indoors
Japanese Beetles like it

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis
Ornamental Peppers

Characteristics:
Colored fruit
Container plant

Location:
Full sun bedding

Plant Spacing:
12 to 15-inches tall

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
June – October

Culture Concerns:
Very hot peppers!

Capsicum annuum
Texas Firebush

**Characteristics:**
- Nectar source
- Shrub-like
- 14 - 24 inches tall

**Location:**
- Full sun

**Plant Spacing:**
- 12-inch centers

**Care and Feeding:**
- Moderate fertility
- Deer protection

**Bloom Period:**
- June – October

**Culture Concerns:**
- Well drained

*Hamelia patens*
Leadwort

Characteristics:
- Nectar source
- Shrub-like
- 24 - 36 inches tall

Location:
- Full sun

Plant Spacing:
- 24 to 26-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Heavy fertility
- No drought
- Organic soil

Bloom Period:
- June – October

Culture Concerns:
- Tender perennial in South Alabama

Plumbago auriculata
Cat Whiskers

Characteristics:
Unusual flowers
Height to 28 inches

Location:
Full sun/part shade

Plant Spacing:
6 to 8-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Heavy fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
June – August

Culture Concerns:
Declines in heat

Orthosiphon stamineus
Cannas

Characteristics
Tall – vigorous
48 - 84 inches tall

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
8-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility
No drought

Bloom Period:
June – September

Culture Concerns:
Pull flower canes
Leaf rollers
Lift tubers in fall

Canna x hybrida
Yellow Bleeding Hearts

Characteristics:
- Unusual flowers
- Trellis vine
- 6-7 feet per season

Location:
- Full sun

Plant Spacing:
- 6-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate, fertility
- No drought

Bloom Period:
- June – August

Culture Concerns:
- Never expose to drought!

Dicentra scandens
Medallion Flower

Characteristics:
Mounding
Drought tolerant
36 - 48 inches tall

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
4 to 6-inch centers
or random seedling

Care and Feeding:
Low fertility

Bloom Period:
June – October

Culture Concerns:
Reseeding!

*Melampodium paludosum*
Black-Eyed Susan Vine

Characteristics:
- Trellis vine
- 7 - 8 feet per season

Location:
- Full sun

Plant Spacing:
- 4-inch centers or
- 2-inch seeding

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility
- No drought

Bloom Period:
- June – October

Culture Concerns:
- Reseeds

*Thunbergia alata*
Princess Flower

Characteristics:
Specimen plant
36 - 48 inches tall

Location:
Full sun

Plant Spacing:
24-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility,
No drought

Bloom Period:
August - September

Culture Concerns:
Slow starter

Tibouchina urvilleana
Purple Calico Plant

**Characteristics:**
- Foliage effect
- Mounding
- 36 - 48 inches tall

**Location:**
- Full sun

**Plant Spacing:**
- 36-inch centers

**Care and Feeding:**
- Heavy fertility,
- No drought
- Keep moist

**Bloom Period:**
- Inconspicuous

**Culture Concerns:**
- Well drained soils

*Alternanthera dentata ‘Wave Hill’*
Purple Heart

Characteristics:
Groundcover
Drought tolerant
12 - 15 inches tall

Location:
Full sun/part shade

Plant Spacing:
6 to 8-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
Moderate fertility

Bloom Period:
Inconspicuous

Culture Concerns:
Tender perennial in middle and south Alabama

Setcreasea pallida
Lion’s Ear

Characteristics:
- Nectar source
- Drought tolerant
- Tall border plant
- 28 - 40 inches tall

Location:
- Full sun

Plant Spacing:
- 8-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility

Bloom Period:
- August-September

Culture Concerns:
- Well drained

Leonotis leonurus
Twinspur

Characteristics:
- Nectar source
- Groundcover
- 12 - 18 inches tall

Location:
- Full sun

Plant Spacing:
- 8-inch centers

Care and Feeding:
- Moderate fertility
- No drought

Bloom Period:
- June – August

Culture Concerns:
- Growth slow in heat

*Diascia rigescens*
Happy Gardening!