

Perennial Plants of the Year: 2012 - 1990

Each year the Perennial Plant Association designates one very special perennial as the Perennial Plant of the Year, selected for its beauty in all seasons, hardiness, and low maintenance requirements. If you are new to perennials, you can have a varied and interesting garden using these selections.

2012 – [Brunnera 'Jack Frost'](#): Heart-shaped silver leaves with tiny blue flowers in spring on this shade loving groundcover.

2011 – [Amsonia hubrechtii](#): Light blue summer flowers atop fine threadleaf foliage that turns golden in fall. Forms clumps 36" by 36". Tolerates drought.

2010 - [Baptista australis](#): Tall, with unique bluish foliage and bean like yellow or purple flowers. Forms a pleasing clump.

2009 - [Hakonechloa 'Aureola'](#): This is a striking, lime green low growing (12" to 18") grass. Complements flowers well and grows even in deep shade.

2008 - [Geranium 'Rozeanne'](#): Mounding form with striking blue-violet blossoms and can be used in borders, containers, or as a groundcover.

2007 - [Nepeta 'Walker's Low'](#): Commonly known as catmint, this perennial has silver green aromatic foliage and dark purple flower spikes that will rebloom if cut back after first bloom. Up to 36" tall. Attracts bees and butterflies.

2006 - [Dianthus 'Firewitch'](#): Low growing (6" to 8") with prolific hot pink aromatic blossoms. Does well in hot sun and dry soil. Great for the border, rock garden, or as groundcover.

2005 - [Hellebores x hybridus](#): One of the first perennials to bloom in the garden, thus its common name, Lenten Rose. It's great in the shade, and flowers prolifically into mid-summer. Grows 18" to 24" and comes in many colors.

2004 - [Athyrium 'Pictum'](#): The Japanese Painted fern has fronds that are silver gray with red and even blue highlights. Very elegant in the shade garden. Grows 18" to 24".

2003 - [Leucanthemum 'Becky'](#): This is a hearty, disease-resistant daisy that adds traditional delight to the perennial garden. Grows on strong stems 24" to 36" and has large, long lasting flower heads.

2002 - [Phlox 'David'](#): An old-fashioned favorite in the garden. This selection stands 36-40" tall with prolific white panicle blossoms from July to September. Resistant to mildew that affects many other phlox.

2001 - [Calamagrostis 'Karl Foerster'](#): Upright easy care ornamental grass that grows 4 to 6 feet tall. Blooms in fall with pinkish flower heads that deepen to golden.

2000 - [Scabiosa 'Butterfly Blue'](#): Lavender blue flowers floating above the ground on atop delicate stems 12" to 18" tall. Will rebloom all season. Foliage hugs the ground, making a nice mound.

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1999 - [Rudbeckia 'Goldsturm'](#): This Black-Eyed Susan is known for its hardiness, long blooming, and golden colored flower heads that are 24" to 36" tall.

1998 - [Echinacea 'Magnus'](#): This Purple Coneflower stands 2' to 4' on sturdy stems. Deep purple color and large, long lasting flower heads. Finches love it !

1997 - [Salvia 'May Night'](#): Spring blooming with dark blue black flower spikes that last! Grows to about 30". Very tolerant of dry conditions.

1996 - [Penstemon 'Husker Red'](#): The name refers to the foliage which is bronze red, and contrasts with airy white flower stalks growing to about 30". Likes dry conditions and makes a great cut flower.

1995 - [Perovskia](#): This Russian Sage has 3 to 4 ft. airy stalks of blue flowers and aromatic gray foliage. Great is a mass planting when combined with flowering shrubs and grasses.

1994 - [Astilbe 'Sprite'](#): A favorite for shade gardens, this dwarf variety has typical fern-like dark green foliage and delicate 12 " pink flower spikes that appear in mid-summer.

1993 - [Veronica 'Sunny Border Blue'](#): Provides bright lavender blue flower spikes over dark green foliage for the flower border. Stands 18 to 24" tall and is known for its long blooming time.

1992 - [Coreopsis 'Moonbeam'](#): This airy and delicate perennial features very fine foliage and happy yellow blossoms. Long blooming in the garden, reaching 12" to 18". Likes dry conditions.

1991 - [Heuchera 'Palace Purple'](#): Coral Bells are a popular groundcover plant tolerant of a wide range of garden sites. This one features red bronze foliage contrasting with very delicate, tiny white flower stalks.

1990 - [Phlox stolonifera](#): This is the creeping phlox that brings so many rock gardens to life in early spring with its masses of light purple blossoms. Foliage forms a nice mat of light green throughout the season.