

more and more often in Eugene gardens. They form balls of orange-scented ferny bright green foliage covered densely with small graceful single flowers of bright yellow ("Lulu"), orange ("Ursula"), or dark red and orange ("Paprika").

Hot, Dry Spots

At this time of year, perhaps it's hard to imagine that you have any hot, dry places in your garden! But come August, you may very well: places on tops of stone walls, in parking strips, traffic diverters, and along south walls. Plants that thrive in these conditions also need good drainage. Some great plants for hot, sunny places include California poppies, spider flower, gaillardia, daisy-family plants from South Africa such as African daisy, ursinia, and monarch of the veldt, succulent-leaved plants—ice plant and Livingstone daisy—and gray-leaved herbs: sage, rosemary, and thyme.

Several of my favorites for hot dry spots are low-growing and very bright-flowered: calandrinia, with silky-textured, rose-like flowers of bright magenta; phacelia or California bluebells, with upward-facing, bell-shaped flowers of bright deep blue; and portulaca, with rose-like flowers in glowing shades of yellow, orange, red, and pink. Portulaca, also called moss rose, is so drought-tolerant that it reseeds itself in dense colonies in the gravel on burning-hot New York City rooftops!

Shady Places

Lots of Eugene gardens are more than adequately supplied with shady places: on north-facing walls and fences, near omnipresent cherry laurel hedges and tall conifers. Lots of annuals tolerate partial shade, and a few endure fairly heavy shade, although few can grow and bloom well where there is heavy root competition—under or close to extensive root systems of larger plants.

Browallia and impatiens are two of the best choices for a lot of shade, along with fuchsias and ferns. In light shade, the choices are more extensive. I have a shady yard, so I've done a

good deal of experimenting. Annual flowers that bloom well in partial shade include anagallis, anchusa, cornflower, godetia, larkspur, Chinese forget-me-not, annual candytuft, alyssum, ageratum, pink and white cosmos, baby snapdragon, four o'clock, love-in-a-mist, torenia, nemesia, nasturtium, and lobelia. Godetia is a lovely plant with satiny, cup-shaped flowers in shades of pink, white, and red, and lots of bicolors. Root and leaf vegetables are also surprisingly tolerant of partial shade.



The Self-Seeding Garden

There are a number of annual flowers that come back fairly reliably year after year by sowing themselves. If your garden soil is light and well-drained, with good tilth, plants are much more likely to reseed themselves there—and of course you've also got to give them a chance to go to seed at the end of the summer. Some of the flowers I've had the best luck with are lobelia, viscaria, Chinese forget-me-not, California poppy, alyssum, larkspur, and pink and white cosmos. Others that reseed themselves sometimes but not always, or with only a few seedlings, include calliopsis, cornflowers, signet marigolds, godetia, clarkia, blue globe

gilia, corn poppy, baby snapdragon, love-in-a-mist, and nasturtium. Several annual herbs also self-sow—chervil, coriander, and especially summer savory.

Surprises

Every year I try some flowers that I don't know much about, because one or another thing about them sounds irresistible. This year abelmoschus or silk flower heads my surprise list. Seed catalogs are intriguingly vague about abelmoschus—botanists finished naming it yet it has a genus name but no species name—and nobody is sure where it's from, perhaps central Asia. The flowers look like smaller versions of hibiscus, three or four inches across, red or pink, with white centers. The plants are little more than a foot tall, and are said to bloom for a long time in sun or part shade.

Then there's leptosiphon, or star-dust. Everything about star-dust is miniature: its leaves, which resemble very fine-textured pine needles, and its one-half-inch flowers, wide-open and five-petaled, yellow, pink, white, and red, with red-and-yellow centers.

There's also a new variety of viscaria. Viscaria is an astonishingly sturdy plant, covering itself with flowers, reseeding prolifically, and I've always considered it unfortunate that viscaria should be so vigorous when its flowers are a magenta so intense that it causes wincing in the beholder. But "Blue Angel," new in this year's catalogs, has violet-blue flowers with dark red eyes. It sounds very restful.

And I want to try sweet sultan, a relative of cornflower with fringed, mildly fragrant flowers that are soft shades of pink, lavender, yellow, and white. I saw many buckets of these feathery, graceful flowers in markets in Soviet Central Asia last summer, and this summer I want to grow them myself. Maybe with carrots.

Almost all the flowers I've mentioned are available locally, some of them grown by many nurseries, others only by Lighthouse Plants, a wholesale nursery in Cottage Grove that specializes in unusual flowers and supplies many local nurseries.

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