

GARDEN TOPICS

Annuals For Fall Color

Do your containers or flowerbeds need a face lift for fall? Nature abounds with rich hues of orange, red, purple, and gold as we enter into autumn. Compliment the nature around you and replace those worn out summer annuals with the bright faces of fall. There are several different annuals available to help you create a display that reflects your personal style.

Flowering Kale – Waxy, round or ruffled leaves in showy round heads that get 12 to 18” tall and 15 to 18” wide. Gray- green or rose w/ green.

Garden Mums – An old favorite with many improved cultivars. Available in white, yellow, orange, red, pink or purple. Decorative and daisy type flowers. (Considered an annual in Minnesota , to improve chances of winter survival, plant with Root Stimulator, place in well-

drained soil, and mulch well.)

Herbs – Santolina, Oregano, Rosemary, Hyssop, Caraway, Lavender, Marjoram, Sage, Peppermint, Basil, Thyme, etc. – Herbs can add distinct scents and texture to a container or garden in the fall.

Indian Summer

Rudbeckia – An annual version of the popular perennial Black-eyed Susan. Large flower heads, green fuzzy foliage.

Island Asters – Dwarf asters about 8” tall with 1” daisy type flowers. Available in purple, lilac, or pink with yellow centers. Prefers a well-drained soil, but needs to be kept moist. Sold as an annual, but may survive winter.

Pansies – 6 to 8” plants that have large faces and love the cool weather of

fall. Yellow w/ brown, Yellow, White w/ Blue, White, Burgundy , Purple, Bronze, Orange

Pumpkins and Gourds – A great accent in and around your pots to create a harvest feel.

Perennials – There are several perennials that provide outstanding fall color. Perennials can be a great alternative to annuals for height and texture in the garden as well as in containers. If planted in containers, you can overwinter the perennials by planting them in the ground a few weeks before frost. Grasses, Black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia), Purple Coneflower (Echinacea), Sedums, Russian Sage, Joe Pye Weed, Asters, and Blanket Flower are a few examples of perennials that can add character to your containers and gardens.