

Herbaceous Perennials

Fact Sheet No. 7.405

Gardening Series | Flowers

by M. Meehan, J.E. Klett and R.A. Cox*

An ever-expanding palette of herbaceous perennials lets home gardeners create showy collections. New cultivars and hybrids become available regularly.

Under normal growing conditions, herbaceous perennials live many years. They die back to the ground each winter, unlike woody plants such as trees and shrubs. Perennials quickly establish themselves in a few growing seasons and create a backbone for the flower garden.

Plants vary in flower color, bloom time, height, foliage texture and environmental requirements. Environmental requirements include sun exposure, soil conditions and water needs. The key to a successful perennial garden is to choose plants whose requirements match your site's conditions.

Table 1 lists perennials adapted to the broad range of growing conditions in Colorado's lower elevations. Many also do well at higher elevations, but for a more specific listing of perennials adapted to higher elevation, see fact sheet 7.406, *Flowers for Mountain Communities*. Fact sheet 7.400, *Ground Cover Plants* includes herbaceous perennial groundcovers not listed below. More information on design and maintenance of perennial gardens can be found in fact sheet 7.402, *Perennial Gardening*.

Key to Table 1:

^a only most common cultivars are listed.

^b Not Important. Barely-noticeable flowers that are unimportant. The plant is grown for its foliage only.

X: Xeric; plants that are adapted to low water conditions once established.

M: Plants that prefer moist soils.

C: Flowers that are good for cutting.

* Cultivar - a variety of a species that is developed, propagated and maintained under cultivation. Short for "cultivated variety."

** Biennial - a plant that grows foliage the first year, blooms and sets seed the second year, then dies.



Quick Facts

- These herbaceous perennials are best adapted for Colorado's lower elevations.
- Herbaceous perennials differ in bloom period, flower color, height, foliage texture and environmental requirements.
- Environmental requirements include sun and wind exposure or lack of it, soil conditions and water needs.
- Matching the perennial plant to the site conditions produces a successful perennial garden.

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Table 1: Herbaceous perennials best adapted to lower elevations.

Botanical and Common Name	Flower Color	Bloom Period	SUNNY EXPOSURE		
			Height	Cultivars ^a	Comments/Cultural Hints
<i>Achillea</i> hybrids Yarrow	White-Red- Pastels-Yellow	June-Sept.	1.5-2.5'	Moonshine, Paprika, Summer Pastels	Spreads quickly; good for drying. X, C
<i>Achillea filipendula</i> Fernleaf yarrow	Yellow	June-Oct.	2.5-4.5'	Coronation Gold, Gold Plate	Fern-like leaf texture; spreads to 3'. X, C
<i>Agastache cana</i> Hyssop, double bubblemint	Pink	July-Sept.	1-3'	Sonoran Sunset®	Fragrant foliage; blossoms smell like bubble gum; Plant Select®. X
<i>Agastache rupestris</i> Sunset® hyssop	Orange-Red-Pink	July-Sept.	2-3'	Sunset®	Blossoms smell like root beer; favored by hummingbirds; Plant Select®. X
<i>Alcea rosea</i> Hollyhock	Red-Pink-White	June-Aug.	3-6'	Chater's Series, Watchman	Biennial or perennial; use as background plant; prone to rust disease. C
<i>Armeria maritima</i> Sea pink	Red-Pink-White	April-June	6-8"	Alba, Splendens, Victor Reiter	Dense rounded mat foliage, adapts to dry soil, salt tolerant.
<i>Artemisia</i> 'Powis Castle' Powis Castle sage	NI ^b	NI ^b	2-3'	Powis Castle	Gray foliage; mounding habit. X
<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i> Sagewort, prairie sage	NI ^b	NI ^b	1.5-3.5'	Valerie Finnis	Upright growth habit; large silver leaves. X
<i>Artemisia schmidtiana</i> Silver mound sage	NI ^b	NI ^b	8-12"	Silver Mound	Soft, feathery, silver gray foliage; used for specimen or contrast. X
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> Butterfly weed	Orange	June-Aug.	2'		Best in well-drained soil. X, C
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i> New England aster	White-Pink-Purple	Sept.-Oct.	3-4'	Alma Potschke, Purple Dome	Prefers well-drained soil; may require staking. C
<i>Aster novi-belgii</i> Dwarf Fall aster	White-Pink-Purple	Aug.-Sept	2-3'	Alert, Prof. Kippenburg, Snow Flurry	Prefers well-drained soil; may require staking. C
<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i> (<i>Alyssum saxatile</i>) Basket-of-gold	Yellow	April-May	9-12"	Compacta, Sulfureum	Gray-green mounding foliage; sheer after bloom.
<i>Baptisia australis</i> False indigo	Blue	May-June	2-4.5'		Background plant; interesting seed pods. X, C
<i>Berlandiera lyrata</i> Chocolate flower	Yellow	June-July	10-20 in.		Flowers give off the scent of chocolate in the early morning; very xeric. X
<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i> Poppy mallow, winecups	Reddish Purple	June-Aug.	6"		Trailing stems spread to 3'; blooms are cup-shaped. Plant Select®. X
<i>Catananche caerulea</i> Cupid's dart	Blue-Purple	June-Aug.	1-1.5'		Dark-eyed blooms; tall clumps of slender leaves. X, C
<i>Centaurea dealbata</i> Persian cornflower	Pink	May-June	1-2'	Rosea	Spiky flowers; deer resistant. X, C
<i>Centaurea montana</i> Perennial bachelor's button	Blue-Purple	May-June	1-2'		Perennial version of the bachelor's button (cornflower) wildflower. X, C
<i>Centranthus ruber</i> Jupiter's beard, red valerian	Red-Pink-White	May-Sept.	1-3'	Albus	Prefers well-drained soil; gray-green foliage. X, C
<i>Coreopsis auriculata</i> Dwarf coreopsis	Yellow-Orange	June-Sept.	4-8 in.	Nana	Dense, spreading mound of foliage. X
<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i> Coreopsis	Yellow	June-Sept.	1-2.5'	Baby Sun, Early Sunrise, Sunray	Extend bloom by removing spent flowers. X, C
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i> Lance-leaf coreopsis	Yellow	June-Aug.	1.5-2'		Slender shiny green leaves. X, C
<i>Coreopsis rosea</i> Pink coreopsis	Pink	Aug-Sept.	1-2'		A clump of thread-leaf foliage.
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i> Threadleaf coreopsis	Yellow	July-Sept.	1.5-2.5'	Moonbeam, Zagreb	Fine-textured foliage. X, C
<i>Dalea purpurea</i> Purple prairie clover	Purple	June-Aug.	2-3'		Long, thin stems with cylindrical flower heads; thread-like leaves. X
<i>Delphinium</i> hybrids Larkspur, Delphinium	White-Blue-Pink- Purple	June-Aug.	2-4'	Conn. Yankee, Dwarf & Giant Pacific hybrids	Seeds and plant poisonous; may need staking. C
<i>Dendranthema x morifolium</i> Hardy chrysanthemum Pink Daisy	Pink	June-Aug.	2-3'	Clara Curtis	Pink, daisy-like flowers bloom for long periods C
<i>Dianthus plumarius</i> Cottage pink	Pink-White	May-July	1-1.5'	Numerous	Dense rounded habit; fragrant blooms.
<i>Dianthus gratianopolitanus</i> Cheddar pinks	Pink-White	May-June	4-8 in.	Firewitch, Spotty, Tiny Rubies	Spreading, grass-like clumps; gray-green fragrant foliage.
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> Purple coneflower	Purple-Pink-White	July-Sept.	2-3'	Alba, Magnus, White Swan	Stiff habit; good in naturalized areas. X, C
<i>Echinops ritro</i> Globe thistle	Blue	July-Sept.	3-4'	Taplow Blue	Prefers well-drained soil; globe flowers can bloom 6-8 weeks. X, C
<i>Erigeron</i> hybrids Fleabane	Pink-Purple	June-July	1-3'	Azure Fairy, Pink Jewel	Needs well-drained soil; extend bloom by removing spent flowers. C
<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> Sulfur flower	Yellow	May-July	0.5-1'	Kannah Creek	Dark green foliage below sulfur yellow button -like blooms; Plant Select®. X
<i>Eryngium planum</i> Sea holly	Blue	June-Aug.	1-2'	Blaukappe	Silver-blue flower heads are good for drying X, C
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i> California poppy	Yellow-Orange	June-Sept.	1-2'		Reseeding annual/tender perennial. X, C

Table 1: Herbaceous perennials best adapted to lower elevations. (Continued)

SUNNY EXPOSURE					
Botanical and Common Name	Flower Color	Bloom Period	Height	Cultivars ^a	Comments/Cultural Hints
<i>Euphorbia polychroma</i> Cushion spurge	Yellow-Chartreuse	April-May	1.5-2'		Neat green mounds; red fall color; sap may be a skin irritant; less invasive.
<i>Gaillardia x grandiflora</i> Blanket flower	Yellow-Red-Orange	June-Sept.	.5-2.5'	Baby Cole, Burgundy, Dazzler, Goblin	Showy, daisy-like blooms. X, C
<i>Gazania krebsiana</i> Hardy orange gazania	Orange	May-Sept.	3-8 in.	Tanager®	Rosette of lobed leaves; short-lived perennial or reseeding annual; Plant Select®. X
<i>Gazania linearis</i> Hardy gazania	Yellow	May-Sept.	2-8 in.	Colorado Gold®	A mop of linear leaves; blooms open in sun; Plant Select®. X
<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i> Baby's breath	White- Pink	June-Sept.	2-3'	Bristol Fairy, Pink Fairy	Airy plant; delicate blooms; good for drying. X, C
<i>Helenium autumnale</i> Sneezeweed	Yellow-Red	Aug.-Sept.	2-4'	Butterpat, Moerheim Beauty	Brightly colored, daisy-like blooms. M, C
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i> Sun rose	Orange-Pink Yellow-Red-White	June-July	0.5-1'	Apricot, Wisely Pink, Wisely Primrose	Low growing; spreading mounds of foliage; rock garden plant. X
<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i> Maximilian sunflower	Yellow	July-Aug.	6-10'		Strong, branched stems, lance-shaped foliage may flop over if overhead irrigated. X, C
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i> False sunflower	Yellow	July-Sept.	3-4'	Summer Sun	Use as specimen planting or at back of garden. C
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i> Candytuft	White	April-June	1-1.5'	Alexander's White, Autumn Snow	Glossy green foliage; shear after bloom; may repeat bloom in fall.
<i>Iris</i> hybrids Bearded iris	Blue-White-Red- Purple-Yellow	May-June	1-2.5'	Numerous	Prefers well-drained soil; sword-like foliage. X, C
<i>Knautia macedonica</i> <i>Knautia macedonica</i>	Red	May-Sept.	1.5-3'		Burgundy pincushion-like flowers; open growing habit. X, C
<i>Kniphofia uvaria</i> Torch lily, red hot poker	Red-Orange- Yellow	June-Aug.	2-3'	Primrose Beauty, Springtime	Spikes of flowers arise from clumps of grasslike foliage. X, C
<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i> Perennial sweet pea	White-Pink-Red Purple	June-Sept.	4-12'		Vigorously climbing vine with mixed colored blooms. X
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> Lavender	Blue	July-Oct.	1-1.5'	Hidcote, Munstead	Aromatic blooms; semievergreen foliage. X, C
<i>Liatris spicata</i> Gayfeather, blazing star	White-Pink- Purple	July-Sept.	2-3'	Floristan Violet, Kobold	Clumps of grassy foliage; dense bottle brush blooms. C
<i>Limonium latifolium</i> Sea lavender	Purple	June-Sept.	1.5-3'		Blooms create an airy texture. X, C
<i>Linum perenne</i> Blue flax	Blue-White	May-June	2'	Sapphire	Light, airy plant; good wildflower; reseeds readily. X
<i>Lychnis coronaria</i> Rose campion	Purple-Red-Pink	June-Aug.	1.5-3'	Blood Red	Silver gray foliage. X
<i>Malva alcea</i> Rose mallow	Pink	June-Sept.	3-4'	Fastigiata	Hollyhock-like blooms; lobed foliage. X, C
<i>Mirabilis multiflora</i> Desert four o'clock	Purple-Red-Pink	July-Sept.	1-2'		Trumpet-shaped flowers; southern Colorado native; blue-green foliage. X
<i>Monarda didyma</i> Bee balm	Red-Pink-Violet- White	July-Aug.	2-3'	Cambridge Scarlet, Marshall's Delight	Spreads quickly; susceptible to powdery mildew. C
<i>Nepeta</i> species Catmint	Blue-Purple	May-Oct.	1-2'	Blue Wonder, Six Hills Giant, Walker's Low	Spreading habit; trim back after bloom, aromatic leaves.
<i>Oenothera speciosa</i> Mexican Evening Primrose	Rose	June-Sept.	0.5-1'	Siskiyou	Spreading; 2" blooms; subject to powdery mildew.
<i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i> Ozark sundrop	Yellow	June-Sept.	1-1.5'		Sprawling habit; 3-4" blooms. X
<i>Origanum laevigatum</i> Ornamental oregano	Pink-Purple-Red	June-July	1-2'	Herren-hausen	Foliage is very aromatic. X
<i>Paeonia</i> hybrids <i>Paeonia</i> hybrids	White-Pink Red-Purple	May-June	2-3'	Numerous	Showy, spring blooms; attractive foliage.M.C.
<i>Papaver alpinum</i> Alpine poppy	White-Orange-	May-June	0.5-1'		Lacy, blue-green foliage; allow to reseed. X, C
<i>Papaver nudicaule</i> Iceland poppy	Pastels	May-July	1'	Champagne Bubbles	Short-lived perennial; fragrant. X, C
<i>Papaver orientale</i> Oriental poppy	Orange-Red- Pink-White	May-June	2-3'	Allegro, Brilliant, Prince of Orange	Large papery blooms; foliage goes dormant after bloom; spreading. X, C
<i>Penstemon</i> species Penstemon, beard tongue	Blue-Pink-Red- Violet-White- Purple-Yellow	May-July	1-3'	Elfin Pink, Huskers Red, Prairie Dusk	Prefers well-drained soil; stalks of tubular blooms. X
<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i> Russian sage	Lavender	July-Sept.	4'	Praire Jewel, Rondo	Silver gray, aromatic foliage; cut back in spring above soil line. X
<i>Phlomis cashmeriana</i> Kashmir sage, Jerusalem sage	Pink	June-July	2-3'		Upright growth habit with blooms surrounding the stem at each set of leaves; unique plant; Plant Select®.
<i>Phlox paniculata</i> Garden phlox	White-Pink- Orange,Red Purple-Blue	July-Sept.	1.5-3'	David, Orange Perfection, Starfire	Tall stalks with bloom clusters; susceptible to powdery mildew. C

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Botanical and Common Name	Flower Color	Bloom Period	Height	Cultivars ^a	Comments/Cultural Hints
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i> Prairie coneflower	Yellow-Red	July-Oct.	1.5-2'	var. pulcherrima (Red)	Native wildflower; flower has a cone-shaped center; sometimes called Mexican Hat. X, C
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> Black-eyed Susan, coneflower	Yellow	July-Sept.	1.5'	Goldsturm	3" daisy-like blooms with brown-black centers. X, C
<i>Salvia argenta</i> Silver sage	White	June-Aug.	2-3'		Large, silvery leaves; Plant Select®. X
<i>Salvia nemorosa</i> Salvia	Pink-White-Blue-Purple	May-Aug.	1.5-2.5'	Blue Queen, May Night, Rose Queen	Spike-like blooms that repeat if spent blooms removed. X, C
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i> Lavender cotton	Yellow	July-Aug.	1-1.5'		Finely cut silver gray foliage; pungent. X
<i>Santolina rosmarinifolia</i> Green lavender cotton	Yellow	July-Aug.	1-2'		Bright green foliage; pungent. X
<i>Scabiosa caucasica</i> Pincushion flower	White-Blue-Pink	June-Oct.	1.5-2'	Perfecta Alba, Blue Perfection	Blooms on wiry stems; prefers cool summers. C
<i>Sidalcea</i> hybrids Miniature hollyhock	Pink	June-July	2-4'	Party Girl	Looks like a hollyhock but shorter. C
<i>Solidago</i> hybrids Goldenrod	Yellow	July-Sept.	1.5-2'	Golden Baby	Prefers well-drained soil; mistakenly blamed for hay fever. X, C
<i>Stokesia laevis</i> Stokes' aster	Blue-White	July-Aug.	1-2'	Blue Danube	Large, frilly flowers. X, C
<i>Tanacetum densum amarii</i> Partridge feather	Yellow	June-July	6-8 in.		Silvery-white foliage. X
<i>Tanacetum niveum</i> Snow Daisy	White	May-July	1.5-2.5'		Silvery-white foliage. X
<i>Tanacetum x coccineum</i> Painted Daisy	Red-Pink	June-July	1-2'	Robinson's hybrids	Fern-like leaves; daisy flowers. X, C
<i>Zauschneria californica latifolia</i> Hummingbird flower	Red	Aug-Oct.	1-3'		Gray-green leaves; good for attracting hummingbirds
<i>Zinnia grandiflora</i> Paper flower, desert zinnia	Yellow	June-Oct.	4-8 in.		Papery flowers that dry well. X, C
SUN TO PART SHADE					
Botanical and Common Name	Flower Color	Bloom Period	Height	Cultivars ^a	Comments/Cultural Hints
<i>Alchemilla mollis</i> Lady's mantle	Chartreuse	May-June	1-1.5'		Prefers cool summers; fertile soil. M
<i>Aquilegia caerulea</i> Rocky Mountain columbine	Blue-White	May-June	1.5-2.5'		Prefers well-drained soil; Colorado state flower. C
<i>Aquilegia</i> hybrids Columbine hybrids	Blue-Red-Yellow-White	May-June	1-3'	McKana Hybrids, Songbirds	Prefers well drained soil; extend bloom by removing spent flowers. C
<i>Artemisia versicolor</i> 'Sea Foam' Sea Foam artemisia	NI ^b	NI ^b	0.5-1'	Sea Foam	Low, spreading mound of silvery foliage; ideal for rock gardens; Plant Select®. X
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i> Goatsbeard	White	June-July	3-5'	Kneiffii	Large rounded shrub-like perennial; dense spikes of blooms. M
<i>Astilbe x arendsii</i> Astilbe, false spirea	Red-Pink-White-Lavender	June-July	2-3'	Amethyst, Fanal	Arching plumes of flowers; prefers cool summers, fertile soil. M, C
<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i> Heart-leaved bergenia	Pink	April-May	1-1.5'		Deep glossy green leaves with burgundy fall color.
<i>Campanula carpatia</i> Carpathian harebell	Blue-White	June-July	6-12"	Blue Clips, White Clips	Compact mounded habit; small, bell-
<i>Campanula glomerata</i> Clustered bellflower	Purple- White	May-Aug.	1-3'	Superba	Clusters of large purple bells.
<i>Campanula persicifolia</i> Peach-leaf bellflower	Blue-White	June-Aug.	1-3'	Alba, Blue	Large bell flowers; peach-like leaves.
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> Bluebells, harebells	Blue-White	May-Sept.	0.5-2'	Olympica, White Gem	Colorado native. X
<i>Dianthus</i> hybrid Dianthus, pinks	Pink-Red-White	April-Oct.	4-20 in.	First Love	Short lived perennial; carnation-like foliage. C
<i>Dianthus barbatus</i> Sweet William	White-Pink-Purple-Red	May-July	1'	Double Midget Mix	Biennial; flat-top cluster of blooms. C
<i>Diascia integririma</i> Twinspur	Pink	June-Sept.	1-1.5'	Coral Canyon	Heat tolerant; performs well in poor soils; Plant Select®. X
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> Foxglove	Purple-Pink-White-Yellow	June-July	3-4'	Excelsior Hybrids, Foxy	Biennial; reseeds readily; parts of plant are poisonous. M, C
<i>Digitalis obscura</i> <i>Digitalis obscura</i>	Orange-Red	June-July	1-2.5'	Sunset®	Narrow, willow-like foliage; heat tolerant; Plant Select®. C
<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i> Whirling butterflies	White-Pink	June-Sept.	1.5-4'	Crimson Butterflies, Siskiyou Pink	Slender, gracefully arching stems; blooms whirl like butterflies. X, C
<i>Geranium</i> hybrids Geranium, cranesbill	Blue-Purple	May-June	1-2'	Brookside, Johnson's Blue	Mounding clumps of foliage.

Table 1: Herbaceous perennials best adapted to lower elevations. (Continued)

SUN TO PART SHADE					
Botanical and Common Name	Flower Color	Bloom Period	Height	Cultivars ^a	Comments/Cultural Hints
<i>Geranium himalayense</i> Himalayan cranesbill	Purple-Blue	May-June	1-1.5'	Birch's Double, Plenum	Divided leaves; double blossoms.
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i> Bloodred cranesbill	Blue-Purple-Red-White	May-June	1-1.5'	Album, Max Frei	Mounding habit; foliage has red fall color. M
<i>Geum</i> hybrids <i>Geum</i> , avens	Red-Orange-Yellow	June-July	1.5-2'	Lady Stratheden, Mrs. Bradshaw	Prefers rich organic soil; dark green foliage. C
<i>Hemerocallis</i> species Daylily	Yellow- Red-Pink-Orange-Purple-White	June-Aug.	1.5-3'	Stella d'Oro, many others	Grass-like foliage; trumpet-shaped blooms.
<i>Heuchera micrantha</i> Alumroot	White	June-July	1-1.5'	Palace Purple	Some cultivars have purple foliage with a rounded habit. M, C
<i>Heuchera sanguinea</i> Coralbells	Red-White-Pink	June-Aug.	1-1.5'	Firefly, Snow Angel	Small bell-shaped blooms; extend bloom by removing spent flowers; Plant Select®. M, C
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> Rose mallow	Red-Pink-White	July-Sept.	2-4.5'	Disco Belle, Southern Belle	Prefers moist soil; 6-10 in. blooms. M
<i>Iris sibirica</i> Siberian iris	Purple-Blue-White	June	2-3'	Butter & Sugar, Caesar's Brother, Snow Queen	Clumps of slender leaves, M, C
<i>Leontopodium alpinum</i> Edelweiss	White	June-July	0.5-1'		Woolly gray foliage and flowers. X
<i>Leucanthemum x superbum</i> Shasta daisy	White	July-Aug	1-3'	Alaska, Silver Princess	Extend bloom by removing spent flowers. C
<i>Lilium</i> species Lily	Pink-White-Yellow-Red	June-July	1-4'	Stargazer, many others	Bulbs with trumpet-like, fragrant flowers. C
<i>Lupinus</i> hybrids Lupine	Yellow-Red-Blue-White-Purple	May-June	2.5'	Gallery or Russell	Prefers cool summers; large pea-like blooms. M, C
<i>Lychnis chalcidonica</i> Maltese cross	Scarlet-Pink-White	June-July	2-3'		Small groupings add bold color to the garden, M,C
<i>Origanum libanoticum</i> Hopflower oregano	Purple	June-Sept.	1-1.5'		Drooping, hop-like bracts remain after bloom; Plant Select®.
<i>Osteospermum barberiae</i> <i>v. compactum</i> Purple Mountain® sun daisy	Purple	April-Sept.	8-10 in.	Purple Mountain®	Tidy foliage with blooms above on stems; blooms open only in sun; Plant Select®. X
<i>Osteospermum</i> Lavender Mist® sun daisy	White-Purple	April-Sept.	10-12 in.	Lavender Mist®	Tidy foliage with blooms above on stems; blooms open only in sun; Plant Select®. X
<i>Phlox subulata</i> Creeping phlox	White-Pink-Red-Blue	April-May	4-6 in.	Candy Stripe, Emerald Blue, White Delight	Carpet-like mat; needle-like foliage. X
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i> Obedient plant	Pink-White-Lavender	Sept.-Nov.	2-4'	Pink Bouquet, Summer Snow	Dark green foliage; spikes of tubular blooms; spreading. M, C
<i>Platycodon grandiflorus</i> Balloon flower	White-Pink-Blue	July-Sept.	1.5-3'	Fuji Pink, Mariesii	Prefers well-drained soil; balloon-shaped buds. X, C
<i>Pulmonaria saccharata</i> Bethlehem sage	Blue-Pink-White	April-May	1-1.5'	Roy Davidson, Smoky Blue	Leaves with white spots; clump-forming. M
<i>Pulsatilla vulgaris</i> European pasqueflower	Purple-Red-White	April-May	0.5-1'	Red, Papageno	Fringed, fern-like foliage; Fuzzy seed heads endure. X
<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i> Purple robe saxifrage	Purple	June-Sept.	6-8 in.	Purple Robe	Foliage is in a tight rosette. X
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i> Pincushion flower	Blue-Pink	May-Oct.	0.5-2'	Butterfly Blue, Pink Mist	Similar to <i>S. caucasica</i> but shorter and more shade tolerant. X, C
<i>Sedum spectabile</i> Showy stonecrop	Pink-Red-White	Aug.-Sept.	1.5-2'	Autumn Joy, Brilliant, Indian Chief	Succulent foliage. X, C
<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i> Columbine meadow rue	Lavender	May-June	2-3'		Delicate blooms; columbine-like foliage. M, C
<i>Thermopsis rhombifolia</i> Golden banner	Yellow	May-June	2-3'		Spreading; dark green foliage. C
<i>Tradescantia x andersoniana</i> Spiderwort	White-Blue-Purple-Pink	May-July	1.5-2'	Concord Grape, Red Cloud, Red Grape	Strap-like leaves; cut back in mid summer. M
<i>Trollius chinensis</i> Globe flower	Yellow	July-Aug.	2-2.5'	Golden Queen	Dark green foliage with deeply cut lobes. M
<i>Veronica spicata</i> Spike speedwell	Blue-Pink-White	June-Sept.	1-2'	Blue Charm, Icicle, Red Fox, Sliver	Upright habit; Sunny Border is a commonly sold hybrid. M, C
<i>Viola corsica</i> Corsican violet	Purple-Blue	April-Oct.	6-8 in.		Low-growing foliage with large flowers above; Plant Select®. C
<i>Zauschneria garrettii</i>	Orange	Aug.-Sept.	4-12 in.	Orange Carpet®	Good for cascading over walls; tubular

Table 1: Herbaceous perennials best adapted to lower elevations. (Continued)

SHADE					
Botanical and Common Name	Flower Color	Bloom Period	Height	Cultivars ^a	Comments/Cultural Hints
<i>Aconitum napellus</i> Monkshood	Blue-Violet	June-Sept.	1.5-3'		Lacy foliage; helmet-shaped flowers; poisonous. M, C
<i>Anemone x hybrida</i> Japanese anemone	Pink-White	Aug.-Oct.	2-3'	Prince Heinrich, Whirlwind	Mounding foliage; flowers produced on tall stems. M
<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i> Siberian bugloss	Blue	May-June	1-1.5'		Blooms like forget-me-nots; heart-shaped leaves form rounded mound. M
<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i> Black snakeroot	White	Aug-Oct.	3-5'	Atropurpurea	Spires of flowers with clumps of green foliage. M
<i>Cimicifuga simplex</i> White snakeroot	White	June-Aug.	2-4'	White Pearl	Spires of flowers with clumps of green foliage. M
<i>Dicentra formosa</i> Fringed bleeding heart	Pink-White	April-May	1-1.5'	Luxuriant	With adequate water will bloom later into the summer. C
<i>Dicentra spectabilis</i> Bleeding heart	Red-White	April-June	2-3'	Alba	Fern-like leaves; heart-shaped blooms. C
<i>Filipendula rubra</i> Meadowsweet	Pink-Red	June-Aug.	4-6'	Venusta	Plumed foliage; fragrant. M
<i>Helleborus orientalis</i> Lenten Rose	Pink-White-Red	March-April	1-1.5'	Royal Heritage	Nodding blooms above palmate leaves. M, C
<i>Hosta</i> species Hosta	Purple-White	July-Aug.	1-3'	Blue Angel, Elegans, Patriot	Long, wide leaves; some with variegated foliage.
<i>Ligularia dentata</i> Ragwort	Dark Orange	July-Sept.	3-4'	Othello	Mounded habit; daisy-like blooms. M
<i>Ligularia stenocephala</i> Ragwort	Yellow	June-Aug.	3-5'	The Rocket	Rocket-like blooms reach 4-6'; foliage forms large clump below blooms. M
<i>Lobelia fulgens</i> Scarlet lobelia	Red	June-Aug.	2-3'	Queen Victoria	Maroonish foliage.
<i>Polemonium caeruleum</i> Jacob's ladder	Blue-White-Purple	May-July	1.5-3'	Album, Brise D'Anjou	Leaflets are arranged like rungs of a ladder; some varieties are variegated.