



## ‘Top’ Sun Perennial Plants

From Pat Curran  
CCE Tompkins County

Relatively long-lived and drought-resistant, don’t need frequent division, disease/pest resistant, staking not essential, winter-hardy, not fussy about soil if well-drained, don’t spread too much, preferably bloom for several weeks, good foliage quality.

- Achillea ‘Coronation Gold’, yarrow durable; deer-resistant
- Baptisia australis, false indigo takes time to establish; native further south
- Boltonia asteroides ‘Snowbank’ trouble-free native
- Coreopsis verticillata ‘Zagreb’ cultivar of native species
- Echinacea purpurea ‘Ruby Star’ purple coneflower, prairie native
- Helenium autumnale, sneezeweed likes it moist; native; red, yellow, orange
- Hemerocallis ‘Hyperion’, daylily very adaptable except for deer problem
- Leucanthemum ‘Becky’, Shasta daisy long-blooming and durable
- Lupinus polyphyllus, lupine will self-sow in a cool climate
- Nepeta ‘Walkers’ Low’, catmint long-blooming and nice, but NOT short
- Paeonia ‘Seashell’, peony watch out for botrytis, a fungal disease
- Phlox paniculata ‘David’ and other mildew-resistant varieties, deer problem, native
- Sedum ‘Matrona’, ‘Autumn Joy’, ‘Brilliant’ adaptable upright sedum cultivars
- Veronicastrum virginicum, Culver’s root vertical accent; native

### Reference:

Herbaceous Perennial Plants, Third Edition, by Allan M. Armitage  
Perennials for American Gardens by Ruth Rogers Clausen and Nicolas H. Ekstrom  
The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting & Pruning Techniques, by Tracy DiSabato-Aust

### Learn more:

Cornell Bluegrass Lane perennial research:  
[http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/cornell\\_herbaceous/](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/cornell_herbaceous/)  
Missouri Botanic Garden Plant Finder (over 6800 plants):  
<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>  
Garden Guidance  
[www.gardening.cornell.edu](http://www.gardening.cornell.edu)

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