



‘Top’ Fall Flowering 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.

Perennials for Sun

	<u>Comments</u>
• Allium thunbergii ‘Ozawa’	blooms in October
• Aster divaricatus, white wood aster	easy to grow and drought-resistant
• (Aster) Symphyotrichum novae-angliae ‘Alma Potschke’, New England aster, showy native	
• Aster oblongifolius ‘October Skies’	shorter aster closest to true blue
• Cerastostigma plumbaginoides, leadwort	groundcover with blue fall flowers
• Chrysanthemum ‘Sheffield Pink’, ‘Clara Curtis’	hardy mums
• Colchicum species, autumn crocus (NOT a true crocus)	showy and animal-resistant
• Geranium ‘Rozanne’	long-blooming sterile cultivar
• Iberis sempervirens ‘Autumn Snow’, evergreen candytuft	small shrub often reblooms
• Nepeta ‘Walkers’ Low’, catmint	long-blooming and nice, but NOT short
• Phlox paniculata ‘David’, tall phlox	fragrant, mildew-resistant, but deer problem
• Physostegia virginiana ‘Miss Manners’, obedient plant	spreads less than most; native
• Sedum ‘Matrona’, ‘Autumn Joy’, ‘Brilliant’	adaptable upright sedum cultivars
• Solidago rugosa ‘Fireworks’, rough goldenrod	showy goldenrod spreads less

Perennials for Light Shade

	<u>Comments</u>
• Aconitum carmichaelii, fall monkshood	frost-hardy blooms; poisonous
• Anemone x hybrida ‘Honorine Jobert’	not invasive like some varieties
• Anemone x hybrid ‘September Charm’	not invasive, but sensitive to hard fall frosts
• Cimicifuga (Actaea) matsumurae ‘White Pearl’, Japanese bugban, sensitive to hard fall frosts	
• Corydalis lutea	leave seedlings in place to replace older plants
• Corydalis ochroleuca	will self-sow somewhat; nice foliage
• Kirengeshoma palmata, yellow waxbells	sensitive to early fall frost
• Tricyrtis, toad lilies	plant close up to admire late summer/fall blooms

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/
Missouri Botanic Garden Plant Finder (over 6800 plants):
<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>
Garden Guidance
www.gardening.cornell.edu

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