



Annuals to Brighten the Fall Garden

Cooler temperatures may signal the end of another summer, but they don't have to mean the end of color in your landscape. Unlike summer-loving annuals, fall annuals relish cooler temperatures and happily replace summer worn flowers in the border and in containers.

Mums

What would the fall landscape be without mums? Although technically considered perennials, most mums that we plant in the fall have trouble making it through the winter unscathed. Plant them as annuals in a sunny site where they will shine in a wide variety of colors from white and yellow to gold and bronze, red to burgundy, and pink to lavender and purple. When you purchase them in fall at your local garden center, mums have been pinched repeatedly and have so many flower buds the plants are literally blanketed with blooms.

Pansies

Pansies are the next must-have plants for the fall landscape. Often thought of as a partner for tulips and daffodils in the spring, pansies are just as nice in the

fall. They add a bright splash of color in the garden or are perfectly paired with ornamental cabbage or kale in containers. The Delta series offers large-flowered blooms on compact 6" plants. They may be solid colored in shades of blue, yellow and orange or have a 'blotch' in the center of each red or orange flower. The Matrix series has superior branching resulting in better flowering with and without 'blotches' in shades of blue, purple, orange and yellow.

Cabbage & Kale

Ornamental cabbage and kale are the next group of plants to consider. They provide long-lasting color in the fall landscape. In fact, they must have cool temperatures to reach their color potential. Large rosettes of green foliage are marked with cream, pink or purple centers that become more intense as the weather turns cooler. Use ornamental cabbage or kale to brighten up gardens, window boxes and containers. They have looked beautiful in my garden as family arrived on Christmas morning. How can you tell the difference between cabbage and kale?

Plants with smooth leaf margins are considered types of cabbage; those with fringed or divided leaf margins are kale. Both are becoming classics in the fall garden.



The foliage color of ornamental cabbage and kale intensifies with cool fall temperatures.

Black-Eyed Susans

Annual black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia*) are the quintessential flowers for fall. Indian Summer produces large golden blooms with dark button centers on long, straight stems. I love the green-centered flowers of Prairie Sun. Their petals begin a soft orange and fade to yellow at the tips. Tiger Eye Gold offers masses of blooms with golden petals surrounding a brown eye. The flowers of a newer variety, Cappuccino, are huge compared to its cousins and look like miniature sunflowers. They sport petals divided into golden-yellow and mahogany-red surrounding a dark brown center. And last but

not least, Cherokee Sunset has a loving annual is also a charming Although these are not annuals, spectacular range of harvest pick for fall. The Cabaret series is but perennials, they are colors of golden yellow, orange, a good choice for trailing over the especially beautiful with blues, bronze and mahogany. Flowers edge of fall containers. They pinks and purples flowers in are semi to fully double on long, bloom heaviest in cool weather in containers. Powis Castle offers sturdy stems. shades of peach, purple, red, fine-textured, feathery soft

All black-eyed Susans attract request million bells make of their and looks great when planted to butterflies by the dozen to your gardener is to be careful of over contrast dark foliage. Silver landscape. Plant these 24" tall watering and provide good Brocade has wider, larger silvery-beauties in mixed borders or in drainage. white leaves.

large containers. They also make excellent cut flowers.

Wormwood

All you need to complete the fall

Plants with gray foliage are nice scene are some pumpkins and blenders in fall containers. Two gourds to nestle amongst the

Million Bells

Million bells (*Calibrachoa*) is ideal candidates are Powis fabulous fall bloomers. another flower we often choose in Castle and Silver Brocade spring, but this cool weather- Wormwood (*Artemisia*).