



LIME IN THE LANDSCAPE

The spring bulbs and wildflowers have performed their one-act play and are a memory until their next curtain call. Spring-blooming perennials have finished their performance as well. Late summer and fall-blooming perennials are waiting in the wings for their chance to star, but how does your garden look now? Does it need a punch of color?

Choose chartreuse! Chartreuse foliage helps to carry your garden through the seasons beautifully. It can perform a supporting role harmonizing with blue and purple flowers, or it can hold its own with intense colors like red and orange. Lime green also helps mediate primary colors such as purple and orange or red and yellow. Either way your garden will look better if you include the color chartreuse.

Fortunately for gardeners there are many plants that boast chartreuse foliage or lime green flowers. Some are annuals; some are perennials. Some yearn for sun; some prefer shade. Here are just a few you may want to consider to add the cheerful charm of chartreuse to your landscape:

Annuals for Sun
Marguerite sweet potato vine is the quintessential chartreuse-foliaged plant. It has large, heart-shaped leaves perfect for trailing down the edge of a large container, a hanging basket, or a groundcover. Give this fervent grower lots of room – you will be amazed at how much this plant grows by the end of the season.

Coleus is probably the most popular group of plants that offer lime green foliage. Gay's Delight has chartreuse leaves with burgundy veining. Emerald Snow has large bright lime green leaves liberally spattered with bright yellow. The margins of Solar Eclipse glimmer with chartreuse. These are all sun-tolerant varieties that are ready to inflame your border or sizzle in your containers.

An annual coreopsis, Sunshine Cherry, has deep cherry red blooms that contrast beautifully with its brilliant lime green, thread-leaf foliage. Growing 12 to 18" in compact mounds, this fine-textured plant is an excellent filler in containers featuring bolder foliage.

Limelight licorice plant (Helichrysum) has iridescent, chartreuse, felt-like foliage that

trails to 4 feet – perfect for a large container or groundcover in a hot spot in your garden. Mix it with hot pink petunias and a dark-leaved coleus for a colorful consortium.

Jester is an ornamental millet with chartreuse foliage lightly overlaid with burgundy. As it matures, the leaves turn to almost entirely burgundy if planted in full sun. It grows 42" tall with 8-12" showy burgundy flower spikes.

Annuals for Shade

Although coleus has been hybridized to enjoy the summer sunshine, there are still many varieties happier in the shade. Wizard Jade has large, heart-shaped leaves with green margins and ivory centers creating the overall effect of lime green.

If you are searching for a larger coleus try Kong Scarlet. It has huge leaves that are edged in chartreuse and grows up to 2' tall.



Ferns have always played an important role in shady borders

and containers. Rita 's Gold **Shade Perennials**

Fern, a variety of Boston fern, has upright, arching, lance-shaped lime green fronds that not only offer the same great textural element but also the refreshing color of chartreuse.

Sun Perennials

Putting a new twist on the perennial bachelor 's button (Centaurea), Gold Bullion has vivid blue flowers that sit atop striking lime green, fuzzy foliage in May and June. It grows up to 2 ' tall and wide.



Autumn Gold is a stable variegated compact sedum. Its green leaves are edged in creamy yellow – a color combination that makes the plant appear chartreuse. The flower heads begins as creamy white buds in August, then turn pink, and then finally red in September.

Isla Gold gold leaf tansy (Tanacetum vulgare) has finely

-cut, fragrant, brilliantly-colored foliage. Its white flowers appear

Aurea Dalmatian bellflower is the perfect plant to brighten up a small space in the shade garden. Its small purplish-blue flowers are held over 6 " mounds of playful, lime green leaves.

With the introduction of Color Flash Lime, there is even an astilbe with chartreuse foliage. It has lime green, finely-divided, fern-like foliage and showy pink flower spikes on plants growing up to 16 " tall. As with all astilbes, feed and water them well.

Lime Rickey coral bells (Heuchera) has frosty, ruffled lime green foliage forming cute little mounds 8 " tall x 18" wide. White flower spikes in May are an added bonus.

While the grass-like foliage of Sweet Kate spiderwort (Tradescantia) will be golden when planted in the sun, in the shade it will sport dazzling chartreuse leaves. Bluish-purple flowers embellish the plant in summer.

Groundcovers

Do you want a lime green groundcover for your shade

garden? Try Anne Greenaway spotted deadnettle (Lamium).

Its foliage is an attractive blend of chartreuse, dark green, pale green, and silver. It stays short but sprawls to 2 ' wide.

Or plant golden creeping Jennie (Lysimachia nummularia Aurea) in the shade and its diminutive round leaves will fade from golden yellow to chartreuse.

Both are equally effective when used in containers or hanging baskets. As the first frost approaches, remove them from their containers and plant them in your garden. Every gardener appreciates a multi-purpose plant!

Hostas

Most hostas with golden foliage will be a lovely shade of gold if planted in some direct morning sun, but site them in a shadier spot and you will be rewarded with brilliant chartreuse foliage.

A few of my favorites are Sum and Substance – a monster of a hosta growing up to 3 ' tall and 6 ' wide; Fragrant Bouquet with its creamy-margined chartreuse leaves and fragrant white flowers; and Lemon Lime – a small, but mighty hosta that makes an excellent groundcover.

Hummingbird Lemon Lime day in the summer garden. tobacco plant (Nicotiana) has **Chartreuse Flowers** star-like, iridescent light lime Lime green blossoms are as green blooms that glow brilliantly appealing as chartreuse foliage at dusk. Partner with purples, but not as easy to find. The lime-pinks, and blues for an alluring green flower heads of lady 's alliance.

A list of chartreuse flowers is not complete without mentioning the blooms of hydrangeas. Limelight flaunts lime green 6 to 12 " gently upon the rounded, scalloped leaves that proudly hold raindrops like sparkling diamonds.

flower heads appearing in mid-summer that hold their color well into fall when the blooms change to a rich deep pink. Hummingbird Lemon Lime tobacco plant (Nicotiana) has star-like, iridescent light lime green blooms that glow brilliantly at dusk. Partner with purples, pinks, and blues for an alluring alliance.

Add a little refreshment and excitement to your garden this summer with chartreuse plants. In your landscape 's final act of the day, chartreuse plants will glow as the sun sets and the curtain falls on another perfect day in the summer garden.

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