

ANNUAL FLOWERS FOR NEW YORK STATE

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Saber coleus.
Courtesy of Pan-American Seed Co.



Nicotiana Nicki-Rose.
Courtesy of Pan-American Seed Co.

An annual is a plant that produces a good display of flowers in one growing season, then dies in the fall because it has completed its life cycle or is killed by frost. Some plants (geraniums, Iceland poppies, mealy-cup sage) that may be perennial in warmer areas are treated as annuals in this climate.

Annuals are popular because they are versatile in use, are colorful, produce quick results, and are relatively inexpensive. They can be planted among young perennials to provide color until the permanent plants fill in the area. Most annuals have shallow root systems and are adaptable to planting over spring-flowering bulbs such as tulips and narcissus.

Recently plant breeders have succeeded in making the dwarfing gene partially or completely dominant in many annual varieties.

Dwarf types add summer color to rock gardens or can be used as edging plants. Others are used in planters or window boxes. The majority are useful as bedding plants for mass effects.

Dwarf varieties are available in the following annuals:

Ageratum	4-5"
Bachelor's button	12"
Begonia, fibrous rooted	6-8"
Calendula	6"
Calliopsis	6"
Celosia, crested type	6"
Celosia, plume type	8"
China aster	6"
China pink	4-6"
Cosmos	18"
Dahlia	12-14"
Gaillardia	12"
Marigold	8"
Nasturtium	12"
Nicotiana	15"
Periwinkle (vinca)	10"
Sunflower	15"
Sweet peas	8-30"
Zinnia	4-6"

In general, the best effect is created by massing the plants, setting them about 1 foot apart (the length of an average trowel). Small types such as sweet alyssum, lobelia, portulaca, dianthus, and alternanthera, however, are usually more effective if planted 6 inches apart.

Annual flowers are excellent materials for container culture during the summer months. Bright color effects are easily achieved in living areas by using portable, mobile, lightweight plastic containers. Other small "gardens" are

pillow paks, window boxes, porch boxes, and the like. Specific varieties of petunias, such as the cascade strain, are excellent for hanging baskets. Fuchsias, vining begonias, vining geraniums, and other trailing forms of annuals can be selected for specific roles in bringing enjoyable flower color into your outdoor living area.

All-America Selections was founded in 1932 to test new varieties of flowers and vegetables grown from seed and to make awards of recognition to the most outstanding. Entries are submitted to All-America Selections each year from all over the world by private, commercial, and government plant breeders. At the present time All-America Selections has 32 trial gardens devoted to testing new flower seed varieties. Seed is distributed to each of the trial gardens under a code number so that the judges have no knowledge of who submitted the trials. Each new entry is also grown alongside a "comparison" trial, representing the nearest equivalent existing variety. Judges are the horticultural leaders of America, including the presidents and research directors of leading seed companies plus the directors of botanical gardens and professors of leading universities. New varieties are introduced as a result of these trials.

Only the more common annuals that are successful in New York State are covered in the following checklist.

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Botanical name and common name	Height	Color	Blooming season	Situation	Uses	Approx. days to germination	Seeds/oz	Possible seeds/packet†
<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i> Ageratum	4"-12"	B Pn V W	Long	Av., dry	Bed, cont.	14	214,000	1,000 ^a
<i>Alcea (Althaea) rosea</i> Hollyhock (annual form)	24"	R Pn Y L W	Late	Sun	Nov.	10	3,000	60
<i>Alternanthera ficoidea</i> Telanthera	9"			Av.	Fol., edge			
<i>Amaranthus</i> sp. Amaranthus	36"-48"			Sun	Foliage	24	45,000	600
* <i>Antirrhinum majus</i> Snapdragon	6"-36"	L R V W	Long	Av.	Cut	14	220,000	2,500 ^b
<i>Arctotis</i> sp. African daisy	12"-24"	R Pn Y W	Long	Sun, dry	Bed, cut	10		50
<i>Asclepias fruticosa</i> (<i>Gomphocarpus fruticosus</i>) Gomphocarpus	36"	W	Mid-late	Av.	Fruit	15		50
<i>Begonia xsemperflorens-cultorum</i> Fibrous begonia	6"-12"	R Pn W	Long	Shade	Bed, cont.	18	950,000	200
<i>Briza maxima</i> Quaking grass	12"-18"	Brn	Short	Sun	Fruit, dried			50
<i>Browallia</i> sp. Browallia	12"-15"	B V W	Long	Shade	Cont.	35	70,000	225
* <i>Calendula officinalis</i> Calendula	6"-24"	O Y	Long	Av.	Cut	14	4,000	200
<i>Callistephus chinensis</i> China aster	6"-24"	B Pr R W	Short, late	Av.	Cut	10	12,000	200
<i>Capsicum</i> sp. Ornamental pepper	12"-18"	O Y R		Shade	Fruit	14	10,500	100
<i>Catharanthus roseus (Vinca rosea)</i> Periwinkle	10"-18"	Pn R W	Long	Av., shade	Bed, cont.	14	22,000	200
<i>Celosia cristata</i> Cockscomb	6"-24"	R Y	Long	Dry	Dried	6-10	30,000	400
<i>Celosia cristata</i> Plume cockscomb	8"-36"	R Y	Mid-late	Dry	Cut, dried	6-10	30,000	400
* <i>Centaurea cyanus</i> Bachelor's button	12"-24"	B R W	Short	Av.	Cut	15	7,000	350
<i>Centaurea</i> sp. Dusty miller	6"-24"			Av.	Foliage	18-25	7,000	200
<i>Chrysanthemum xmorifolium</i> Garden mum	14"-24"	R Pn Y W	Late	Av.	Bed, cut	8	65,000	85
<i>Chrysanthemum parthenium</i> Feverfew	10"-24"	W Y	Long	Av.	Bed, edge, cut	15	145,000	250
<i>Clarkia (Godetia) amoena</i> Satinflower	12"-24"	R Pn W	Long	Sun	Bed, cut	15	42,000	630
<i>Cleome hasslerana</i> Spider flower	48"	Pn Pr W	Long	Dry		15	12,500	400
<i>Coleus xhybridus</i> Coleus	18"-36"			Shade	Fol., cont., bed	14	115,000	125
* <i>Consolida orientalis</i> (<i>Delphinium ajacis</i>) Larkspur	36"	B Pn V W	Short	Part. shade	Cut	18	10,000	240
<i>Convolvulus tricolor</i> Dwarf bush morning glory	12"	B Pn W	Long	Av.	R G, edge	10	1,400	40
* <i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i> Calliopsis	6"-30"	R Y	Short	Dry	Cut	14	100,000	1,000
<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i> Cosmos	36"-48"	C P W	Long	Dry	Cut	10-14	5,500	100
<i>Cosmos sulphureus</i> Yellow cosmos	18"-36"	Y O R	Long	Dry	Cut	14	3,000	50
<i>Cuphea ignea</i> Cigar flower	12"	R	Long	Av.	Nov., cont.			50
* <i>Cuphea llavea</i> Firecracker flower	12"	R Pr	Long	Av.		20	7,000	
<i>Cynoglossum amabile</i> Chinese forget-me-not	24"	B	Short, late	Av., dry		10	5,300	200
<i>Dahlia</i> hybrids Dahlia	12"-36"	Various	Mid-late	Sun	Cut, bed	10	3,000	50
* <i>Dianthus chinensis</i> China pink	4"-12"	Pn R W	Long	Av.	Cut	10	28,000	100
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> Foxglove (annual form)	30"	Pr L Pn Y W	Short	Shade	Cut	7-14	180,000	1,000
<i>Dimorphotheca</i> sp. Cape marigold	10"	O Y W	Short	Dry	RG	18	10,000	100
<i>Emilia javanica</i> Paint brush	24"	R Y	Long	Sun, dry	Cut	8		100
* <i>Eschscholzia californica</i> California poppy	15"	O R Y W	Medium	Dry	RG	10	14,000	400
<i>Euphorbia marginata</i> Snow on the mountain	24"	W	Short, late	Av.	Foliage	10	7,000	180

†Possible seeds/packet for hybrids are (a)300, (b)350.

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* <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i> Basket flower	12"-24"	R Y	Long	Dry	Cut	18	15,000	450
<i>Gazania</i> sp. Gazania	8"-15"	R Pn O Y W	Long	Sun, dry	Bed, fol., cont.	8	12,000	350
<i>Gomphrena globosa</i> Globe amaranth	6"-18"	B Pr W	Mid-late	Dry	Cut, dried	15	5,800	150
* <i>Gypsophila elegans</i> Annual baby's breath	18"	W Pn	Short	Dry	Cut, RG	14	25,000	1,500
<i>Helianthus annuus</i> Sunflower	15"-8"	Y O	Short, late	Dry		12	varies	125
<i>Helichrysum bracteatum</i> Strawflower	12"-30"	O R W Y Pr	Short, late	Dry	Dried	14	45,000	500
<i>Heliotropium arborescens</i> Heliotrope	24"	Pr W	Long	Av.	Fragrant	21	55,000	600
<i>Helipterum (Acroclinium) roseum</i> Everlasting	15"	Pn W	Short, late	Dry	Cut, dried	14-20	9,000	60
<i>Hunnemannia fumariifolia</i> Mexican tulip poppy	15"	Y	Short, late	Av.	Cut	14	8,550	
<i>Hypoestes phyllostachya</i> (<i>H. sanguinolenta</i>) Polka-dot plant	12"-15"			Shade	Foliage	10		50
* <i>Iberis umbellata</i> Annual candytuft	12"	Pr R W	Short	Dry, shade	Cut	14	10,000	275
<i>Impatiens balsamina</i> Garden balsam	8"-24"	R Pn W	Short	Shade		12	3,500	80
<i>Impatiens wallerana</i> (<i>I. holstii</i> ; <i>I. sultanii</i>) Sultana; impatiens	6"-24"	R Pn W O	Long	Shade	Bed	15	60,000	75
<i>Kochia scoparia</i> Summer cypress	24"-36"			Sun, dry	Foliage	10	45,000	800
<i>Lantana camara</i> Lantana	12"-36"	L O R Y	Long	Sun	Cont.	45	1,300	50
<i>Lathyrus odoratus</i> Sweet pea	8"-30"	L R W	Short	Shade	Cut, fragrant	10-14	390	30
<i>Lavatera trimestris</i> Lavatera	36"	Pn W	Long	Av.		14-35	5,500	280
<i>Limonium</i> sp. Statice	24"-30"	L Pn W Y	Late	Dry	Cut, dried	20	350	20
<i>Lobelia erinus</i> Annual lobelia	6"-12"	B Pr R	Long	Shade	RG, cont., edge	10-15	750,000	3,000
* <i>Lobularia maritima</i> Sweet alyssum	6"	V W	Long	Shade	Fragrant	5	70,000	1,200
<i>Machaeranthera tanacetifolia</i> Tahoka daisy	18"	L	Long	Sun	Cut, bed	30		50
<i>Matthiola incana</i> Stocks	12"-24"	B L R W Y	Short	Av.	Cut	8	19,000	250
<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i> Four o'clocks	24"	Multicolor R Y W	Long	Av.	Bed	5	300	40
<i>Moluccella laevis</i> Bells of Ireland	24"	G	Medium	Av.	Cut	30	4,200	100
<i>Nemesia strumosa</i> Nemesia	18"	O R Y W	Long	Shade	Bed	8	90,000	650
<i>Nemophila menziesii</i> Baby blue eyes	6"	B	Long	Shade	Bed, edge, RG	10	11,000	300
<i>Nicandra physalodes</i> Shoo-fly plant	36"	B	Long	Av.	Fruit	15		50
* <i>Nicotiana glauca</i> Flowering tobacco	15"-36"	W	Long	Shade	Fragrant	10	200,000	3,000
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i> Red tobacco	15"-36"	R	Long	Shade		10	175,000	600
<i>Nierembergia hippomanica</i> Cup flower	9"	B L	Long	Av., dry	RG, cont.	18	175,000	600
<i>Nigella damascena</i> Love-in-a-mist	15"	B Pn R	Short	Av.	Cut, fruit	14	12,000	300
<i>Ocimum basilicum</i> Basil	15"			Av.	Fol.	10	16,000	250
* <i>Papaver nudicaule</i> Iceland poppy	12"-24"	O Pn W Y	Short	Dry, sun		12	448,000	3,000
* <i>Papaver rhoeas</i> Shirley poppy	24"	O R W Y	Short	Dry, sun		12	72,500	3,000
<i>Pelargonium ×hortorum</i> Geranium	18"	R Pn W	Long	Sun	Cont., bed	20	6,000	150 ^c
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> Fountaingrass	48"			Sun	Background fruit, dry foliage	30	14,000	50
<i>Perilla frutescens</i> Crinkled coleus	36"			Sun		15	2,000	
<i>Petunia ×hybrida</i> Petunia	10"-18"	B Pr R W	Long	Av.	Cont., bed	10	262,000	600 ^d

†Possible seeds/packet for hybrids are (c)10, (d)50.

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<i>Phlox drummondii</i> Annual phlox	8"	Pr R W Y	Long	Shade	Cut	12	18,000	225	
<i>Polygonum capitatum</i> Magic carpet	4"	Pn		Av.	RG	30	31,000	500	
<i>Portulaca grandiflora</i> Portulaca	6"	O R W Y	Long	Dry, sun	RG	14	300,000	4,000	
<i>Proboscidea louisianica</i> (<i>Martynia louisianica</i>) Unicorn plant	18"	B Y W	Long	Av.	Fruit	20		25	
<i>Reseda odorata</i> Mignonette	15"	Y	Long	Av.	Cut, fragrant	12	30,000	1,200	
* <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> (<i>R. bicolor</i>) Coneflower	30"	Y O Brn	Long	Dry		18	85,000	100	
<i>Rudbeckia</i> 'Gloriosa Daisy' Gloriosa daisy	24"-36"	Y O Brn	Long	Av.		20	80,000	100	
<i>Salpiglossis sinuata</i> Painted tongue	24"	Pr R Y	Short	Av.	Cut	14	125,000	1,000	
<i>Salvia farinacea</i> Mealy-cup sage	36"	B Pr W	Long	Shade	Dried	18	24,000	200	
<i>Salvia patens</i> Gentian sage	30"	B	Long	Shade					
<i>Salvia splendens</i> Scarlet sage	10"-24"	R W Pr	Long	Av.	Bed	14	7,500	100	
<i>Santolina</i> sp. Santolina	12"	Y	Long	Dry, sun	Edge, fol.	15	51,000	1,500	
<i>Sanvitalia procumbens</i> Creeping zinnia	6"-12"	Y	Long	Dry	RG	10	50,250	700	
<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i> Pincushion flower	24"-36"	Pr Pn W	Long	Av.	Cut	18	4,500	80	
<i>Schizanthus pinnatus</i> Poor-man's orchid	12"-18"	Pr L V Pn W	Short	Shade	Cut	15	50,000		
<i>Tagetes erecta</i> African marigold	12"-30"	O Y	Mid-late	Dry	Cut, cont., bed	8	11,000	100	
<i>Tagetes patula</i> French marigold	8"-24"	O R Y	Long	Dry	Cut, cont., bed	8	10,000	150	
<i>Tagetes tenuifolia</i> cv. 'Pumila' Scotch marigold	12"	Y Brn	Long	Dry	Cut	8	9,000	100	
<i>Talinum paniculatum</i> Jewels of Opar	18"-24"	Pn	Long	Dry	Cut	15			
<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i> Mexican sunflower	6"-48"	O	Mid-late	Dry		25	4,000	45	
<i>Torenia fournieri</i> Wishbone flower	12"-18"	Pr W	Long	Shade	RG, cont.	14	375,000	2,000	
<i>Trachymene (Didiscus) coerulea</i> Blue lace flower	24"	B W	Short	Av.	Cut	13	10,300		
<i>Tropaeolum majus</i> Nasturtium	12"	O R Y	Long	Dry	RG, cont.	13	250	60	
<i>Verbena xhybrida</i> Verbena	6"-12"	B Pr R W	Long	Shade	RG, cont.	14	12,500	140	
<i>Viola xwittrockiana</i> Pansy	12"	Various		Shade	Cut	14	22,000	300 ^d	
<i>Xanthisma texana</i> Star of Texas	18"	Y	Long	Sun		25		150	
<i>Zinnia angustifolia</i> (<i>Z. linearis</i>)	15"-20"	O	Long	Dry	Cut, bed	10	4,000		
<i>Zinnia elegans</i> Zinnia	4"-36"	Various	Long	Dry	Cut, bed	7-14	3,000	150 ^d	
<i>Zinnia haageana</i> Mexican zinnia	18"-24"	Various	Long	Dry	Cut, bed	7-14	3,000	100 ^d	
VINES									
<i>Cobaea scandens</i> Cathedral bells		Pr	Medium	Av.	Screen	21	400	25	
<i>Dolichos lablab</i> Hyacinth bean		Pr W	Medium	Av.	Screen	10	115		
<i>Ipomoea alba</i> (<i>Calonyction aculeatum</i>) Moonflower vine		W	Short	Av.	Screen	50-60	120		
<i>Ipomoea</i> sp. Morning glory		B Pr R	Long	Shade	Screen	21	700	40	
<i>Lathyrus odoratus</i> Sweet pea		L R W	Short	Shade	Cut, fragrant	10-14	390	30	
<i>Phaseolus coccineus</i> Scarlet runner bean		R	Long	Av.	Fruit			25	
<i>Tropaeolum majus</i> Nasturtium (vining)		O R Y	Long	Dry		13	250	60	
<i>Vinca major</i>				Av.	Fol., cont.		22,000		

†Possible seeds/packet for hybrids are (d)50.

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Fantasia impatiens.
Courtesy of Ball Seed Co.



Marigold, dwarf French Janie.
Courtesy of All-America Selections.



Zinnia, Peter Pan Flame hybrid.
Courtesy of All-America Selections.

Notes for Table

Height. The approximate height in average situations is given. A range indicates that there are different strains. For example, *Zinnia elegans* includes cupid zinnias that are dwarf types and giant- and dahlia-flowered types that grow to 3 feet.

Color. Only basic colors are listed. For instance, red often indicates a range from pink to rose, crimson, or scarlet. The following is a key to color abbreviations.

B—Blue	Pn—Pink
Brn—Brown	Pr—Purple
C—Crimson	R—Red
G—Green	V—Violet
L—Lavender	W—White
O—Orange	Y—Yellow

What to plant. Almost all annuals will be more satisfactory and produce a quicker display of flowers if plants are set out in late May when there is no danger of frost. Plants can be purchased from greenhouses, nurseries, or garden centers. Seed can be started indoors by the gardener if he or she has facilities. Species such as *ageratum* would have only a short flowering period at the end of the season if seed were sown directly out-of-doors.

The asterisk(*) indicates the so-called hardy annuals, which often self-sow from one year to another and can

tolerate light frost. Seeds of hardy annuals can be sown in the garden in the fall or in the spring as soon as the ground can be worked.

Situation. Tolerance (not necessity) of dry locations or of shaded areas is indicated. Sun identifies those that perform best in full sunlight.

Uses. Although annuals are versatile and can be used in many ways, certain ones are especially adapted for specific purposes. These are broadly outlined by the following designations.

Bed — useful in mass as bedding plants.

Cut — long lasting as cut flower.

Cont. — container including portable planters, urns, and porch and window boxes.

Dried — material can be dried for use in winter arrangements.

Edge — useful as an edging plant.

Fol. — the plant is grown only for its foliage effect. Flowers are usually insignificant.

Fruit — grown mainly for interesting fruit display.

Nov. — novelty in flower or fruit.

RG — useful in rock garden.

Screen — those vines that are dense and luxuriant enough in growth to produce a screening effect.

Seeds per ounce. This column lets the inexperienced gardener know that some annuals produce tiny seeds, which require extreme caution in seeding and growing. Seeds vary tremendously in shape and size.

Seeds per packet. There is no consistency in how many seeds you will get in a packet. The number varies with each variety. Hybrid and new introductions are more expensive than open-pollinated varieties. Mail order concerns usually indicate an approximate number of seeds per packet, which may vary considerably among seed companies. One company now puts 100 seeds in most retail packets. The table listing is to be used as a general guideline only.



*Ornamental pepper, Holiday Time.
Courtesy of All-America Selections.*

Plant Sciences
Floriculture and
Ornamental Horticulture II

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