

PERENNIALS

Cultural Details: ZZ288

PERENNIAL SEEDS FROM MOLES SEEDS

For the bedding plant producer these items fit in well between sowings of bedding plants in the early part of the year, and Pansies/Primroses in June/July. They are generally sold in 8 or 9cm square pots as green plants with label in late Winter/early Spring, and can be potted on for sales of larger plants in flower through the Summer, depending on natural flowering season (see catalogue).

Here's our opinion as to the key perennial varieties from our large perennial range, based on popularity and ease of growth, for pot sales as green plants with label in the Spring, from a sowing the previous Summer. It is easy to obtain pictorial labels for all of these items.

THE MOST POPULAR SEED-RAISED PERENNIAL SPECIES

1. Achillea – Summer Pastels, Cerise Queen, Cloth of Gold, Ptarmica Pearl
2. Aquilegia – McKana's Giants or the higher quality F1 hybrids like Music Mixed
3. Bergenia Cordifolia
4. Campanula - persicifolia, glomerata
5. Canterbury Bells (Cup and Saucer)
6. Carnation Hardy Border Mixed
7. Catananche Caerulea (Blue)
8. Centaurea – perennial Cornflowers, all 3 do well as garden plants, especially Montana
9. Chrysanthemum Maximum, also Shasta Daisy
10. Coreopsis – Early Sunrise, also grown as an Annual
11. Cowslip (Primula veris)
12. Delphinium – Magic Fountains (dwarf) and Pacific Giants – mixtures and colours
13. Foxglove (Digitalis) Foxy, Camelot and newer separate colours like Carillon (Yellow)
14. Doronicum Little Leo – bold yellow daisies in full flower in April.
15. Echinops Ritro – globe thistle
16. Eryngium – sea holly - planum is the easier one to grow.
17. Gaillardia – Arizona Sun, New Giant Hybrids
18. Geum – Lady Stratheden, Mrs Bradshaw and Cooky
19. Helenium – Helena Mixed
20. Heuchera – getting more popular, all three we offer are excellent
21. Hollyhock – Summer Carnival (look out for early signs of rust on leaves)
22. Kniphofia (Red Hot Poker) – Flamenco
23. Lavender – some in Herb section, some perennial. Germination can be erratic
24. Lobelia – Fan, Compliment, and especially Queen Victoria
25. Lupin – Gallery and Russells equally popular – mixtures and colours, also Lulu
26. Monarda – especially Panorama Mixed
27. Nepeta mussini (Catnip), often sold with the herbs
28. Poppies – Garden Gnome and Pizzicato
29. Polemonium – Jacob's Ladder (blue)
30. Polyanthus Gold Lace (germination can take a while)
31. Potentilla Miss Willmott
32. Primulas – Denticulata, Vialli, Auricula
33. Pulsatilla – vulgaris (Anemone) and Rubra
34. Rudbeckia – purpurea (Echinacea)
35. Salvia Superba – both Blue and Pink types

36. Scabiosa – Isaac House Hybrids and Fama, and the compact Blue Diamonds
37. Sidalcea Partygirl
38. Solidago – Golden Rod
39. Verbascum – either the mixture phoeniceum hybrids, or Southern Charm
40. Veronica – all make well-behaved plants for flowering in the early summer, or green sales

DIVISION 2 – slightly less popular varieties, still easy to raise

1. Anacyclus Garden Gnome
2. Anaphalis New Snow
3. Anthemis Kelwayi
4. Erigeron – various types
5. Geranium sanguineum
6. Grasses – a wide selection of perennial grasses
7. Gypsophila paniculata
8. Heliopsis Scabra Summer Sun
9. Inula ensifolia
10. Jasione perennis Blue Light
11. Lathyrus latifolius – Perennial Sweet Pea
12. Liatris spicata – Goblin and Florist
13. Linaria – Canon J Went
14. Linum – all the perennial varieties
15. Lobelia Fan and Compliment – spectacular Summer Flowering ‘dot’ plants
16. Lychnis chalcedonica
17. Lysimachia punctata
18. Lythrum Rosy Gem
19. Oenothera (Evening Primrose)
20. Physostegia virginiana
21. Pyrethrum – Robinson’s mixture
22. Primula japonica, rosea, capitata
23. Stachys Lanata – big silvery leaves

CHALLENGES – difficult to germinate but sell well – generally need cold treatment (stratification)

1. Aconitum Newry Blue
2. Astilbe Showstar and Bella
3. Hardy Cyclamen Coum and Neopolitanum
4. Dicentra spectabilis (Bleeding Heart) pink and white types
5. Dodecatheon meadia
6. Gentiana acaulis and lagodechiana
7. Helleborus niger
8. Hemerocallis (Day Lily)
9. Hypericum
10. Incarvillea delavayi – quite spectacular when in flower
11. Lewisia Sunset and Little Peach
12. Meconopsis baileyi – irresistible when flowering
13. Phlox New Hybrids
14. Primula Candelabra
15. Primula vulgaris (Common Primrose) and candelabra
16. Rudbeckia Goldsturm
17. Sisyrinchium
18. Trollius (Globe Flower)
19. Tropaeolum speciosum (Scottish Flame Flower)
20. Viola Freckles or Queen Charlotte

SOMETHING DIFFERENT – less well known but good garden plants – some are recent introductions – try selling in flower in early Summer

1. Aquilegia skinneri (yellow/red bicolour) – easy germinator
2. Delphinium Zalil, Belladonna and Laurin
3. Gaillardia Sundance Bicolour
4. Juncus effusus 'Spiralis' – Corkscrew Rush
5. Malva Zebrina – striking bicolour flowers
6. Rehmannia – Chinese Foxglove – always does well in our trials
7. Salvia Lyrata – a recent introduction with dark foliage

POPULAR COMPACT (ROCKERY) PERENNIALS –

Main sellers amongst the dwarf perennials. Due to compact habit, most of these can be sold in flower in a fairly small pot, or as green plants. All easy to grow. Generally Spring-flowering (End Feb-May, depending on variety).

Often mixed in with the taller perennial varieties for Spring sales.

1. Achillea Tomentosa Aurea
2. Alyssum yellow (saxatile and montanum)
3. Aquilegia Cameo – very dwarf habit, and the cheaper variety Alpina
4. Arabis – white and pink flowered types
5. Armeria - maritima splendens (Thrift)
6. Aster - Alpinus Mixed.Trimix
7. Aubrietia – Royal series or Cascade
8. Bellis (Daisy) – all big sellers, only Galaxy flowers in the Autumn of the sowing year. For Spring Bedding use, generally grown as biennial, not perennial.
9. Dwarf Campanulas like Clips, Carpatica and Pusilla
10. Cerastium Tomentosum (Snow in Summer)
11. Dianthus ('Pinks') – lots of perennial types – deltoides has lots of tiny flowers, plumarius has the larger flower
12. Draba aizoon
13. Erinus alpinus
14. Erysimum/Cheiranthus – perennial wallflowers
15. Gypsophila – repens white and repens rosea, also Silverstar
16. Iberis – Candytuft, both white and lilac pink
17. Leontopodium alpinum – Edelweiss
18. Lobelia kalmii Blue Shadow
19. Lychnis alpina
20. Mimulus perennial varieties
21. Myosotis (Forget-me-not) blue most popular followed by pink, then white. For Spring Bedding use – biennial, not perennial.
22. Poppy (Alpine)
23. Saponaria (Soapwort) – ocymoides
24. Saxifraga – Mossy Species Mixed
25. Sedum – Species Mixed, and newer types Voodoo and Spirit
26. Sempervivum (Houseleek) mixed
27. Silene schafta
28. Sweet William Indian Carpet
29. Teucrium chamaedrys
30. Thymus serpyllum – creeping thyme
31. Veronia Nestor