

## PERENNIALS

Cultural Details: ZZ288

**What are perennials?** In general they are plants which are sown one year and flower the subsequent year and for a number of years thereafter. We've also included in this leaflet **biennials**, such as Forget-me-nots, which flower the year after sowing then set seed and die.

Recent breeding and selection work has focused partly on breeding a compact habit which makes shipment of flowering plants easier, and partly on '**first-year flowering**' perennials, which are sown Jan-Feb under heat, along with bedding plants, and provide flowering plants around July of the same year, without the need for winter cold to trigger flowering. A list of the most popular of the latter is provided at the end of this leaflet.

'Normal' perennials are generally sold in 8 or 9cm square pots as green plants with a label; sales for these small plants peak in March and April, and then they can be potted on for sales of larger plants in flower through the Summer, depending on their natural flowering season (see catalogue), starting with the earliest varieties like *Doronicum*, and finishing with the late types such as *Heleniums*.

We have been selling perennial seeds for over sixty years, and we share with you here our ideas based on our own trials and customer sales. All can be grown **WITHOUT ARTIFICIAL HEAT**, a consideration in this age of high fuel costs. In general perennial seed is relatively inexpensive, allowing a good range to be grown at moderate cost.

Full **descriptions and detailed cultural information** can be found in the catalogue. Pictorial **labels** can be obtained for most if not all items from your usual label supplier.

We also offer **improved performance seed** of certain popular but trickier items (such as *Rudbeckia Goldsturm*) – pricelist available on request.

Perennials are increasingly popular with **parks departments** for use in display beds. If you would like to discuss landscaping perennials, contact your Moles Seeds sales representative.

### THE MOST POPULAR 'STANDARD' SEED-RAISED PERENNIAL SPECIES – ESSENTIAL IN ANY SALES PROGRAMME

**Sow any time between April and August. The later sowings can be overwintered as small plants in plugs, allowed to go dormant, then potted up when growth restarts in Spring.**

1. *Achillea* Summer Pastels, Cerise Queen, Cloth of Gold, Ptarmica Pearl
2. *Agastache* Rose Mint
3. *Aquilegia* McKana's Giants or sep. colours like Tequila Sunrise, Wm Guinness
4. *Bergenia* Cordifolia and Red Beauty
5. *Campanula* persicifolia, glomerata, pyramidalis, Alpine Breeze
6. Canterbury Bells
7. *Carnation* Hardy Border Mixed
8. *Catananche* Caerulea (Blue)
9. *Centaurea* perennial Cornflowers, all 3 do well as garden plants
10. *Chrysanthemum* Maximum, also Shasta Daisy and Crazy Daisy (double type)
11. *Coreopsis* Early Sunrise, Sunfire, and taller Mayfield Giants

12. Delphinium	Magic Fountains (dwarf) and Pacific Giants – mixtures and colours
13. Digitalis	(Foxglove) Foxy, 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 Series, New Giant Hybrids
18. Geum	Lady Stratheden, Mrs Bradshaw and Cooky
19. Helenium	Helena Mixed
20. Heuchera	All very popular, green and purple leaved types
21. Hollyhock	Summer Carnival (all are prone to rust unfortunately)
22. Knautia	Melton Pastels
23. Kniphofia	(Red Hot Poker) – Flamenco
24. Lavender	some in Herb section, some perennial. Germination can be erratic
25. Lobelia	Queen Victoria, siphilitica
26. Lupin	Gallery and Russells equally popular –also Lulu
27. Poppies	e.g. Garden Gnome (nudicaule) and Pizzicato etc (large-flowered)
28. Polemonium	Jacob's Ladder (blue)
29. Potentilla	Miss Willmott etc
30. Primulas	Denticulata, Vialli, Auricula
31. Pulsatilla	vulgaris (Anemone) and Rubra
32. Rudbeckia	purpurea (Echinacea)
33. Salvia	Superba – both Blue and Pink types
34. Scabiosa	Isaac House Hybrids and Fama, and the compact Blue Diamonds
35. Solidago	Golden Rod
36. Verbascum	either the mixture, phoeniceum hybrids, or Southern Charm
37. Veronica	all make well-behaved plants

## **DIVISION 2 – slightly less popular varieties, raise and sell as above**

1. Anacyclus	Garden Gnome
2. Anaphalis	New Snow
3. Anthemis	Kelwayi
4. Asphodeline	Yellow Candle
5. Centranthus	Pink and White types (Valerian)
6. Cephalaria	Gigantea
7. Cirsium	Pink Beauty
8. Delphinium	Nudicaule Fox, Laurin, Zalil
9. Dictamnus	Fraxinella Rose and White types
10. Dracocephalum	Rupestre
11. Echium	Russicum
12. Erigeron	Pink Jewel, Azure Fairy and Aurantiacus
13. Geranium	sanguineum
14. Grasses	a wide selection of perennial grasses is listed
15. Gypsophila	paniculata
16. Heliopsis	Scabra Summer Sun
17. Hemerocallis	Novelties Mixed
18. Hesperis	Sweet Rocket
19. Honesty	Lunaria
20. Incarvillea	Delavayi
21. Inula	ensifolia
22. Jasione	perennis Blue Light
23. Lathyrus latifolius	Perennial Sweet Pea
24. Liatris spicata	Goblin and Florist
25. Linaria	Canon J Went

26. Linum	all the perennial varieties
27. Lobelia	Fan and Compliment – spectacular Summer Flowering ‘dot’ plants
28. Lychnis	chalcedonica
29. Lysimachia	punctata
30. Lythrum	Rosy Gem
31. Malva	Zebrina
32. Monarda	Panorama etc
33. Nepeta	mussini (Catnip), often sold with herbs, also Blue Moon and Pink Cat
34. Oenothera	(Evening Primrose) yellow and orange
35. Perovskia	Taiga
36. Physalis	Chinese Lantern
37. Physostegia	virginiana white and rose types
38. Pyrethrum	Robinson’s mixture
39. Primula	japonica, rosea, capitata
40. Santolina	Tomentosa
41. Sidalcea	Parygirl
42. Stachys Lanata	big silvery leaves
43. Thalictrum	aquilegifolium
44. Tiarella	Silverado

### PREMIUM PERENNIALS

**These varieties are generally recently bred, high quality types for Summer sowing, for sales in flower the following early Summer in 2-litre pots**

- 1. Aquilegia Origami, Music, Spring Magic and Songbirds – large, showy flowers**
- 2. Campanula Takion & Alpine Breeze (pelleted seed) – blue and white types**
- 3. Digitalis Camelot (pelleted seed) irresistible in Summer in flower**
- 4. Eryngium Blue Hobbit (compact) and Blue Glitter (Tall)**
- 5. Gaillardia Mesa Yellow – big yellow flowers, compact**
- 6. Lobelia Fan Series – for Summer sales in large pots**
- 7. Lupin Gallery – feature item for early Summer sales**
- 8. Penstemon Now a good range from seed – see catalogue**

**CHALLENGES** – difficult to germinate but sell well – generally need cold treatment (stratification), i.e. sow, and leave in cold frame over the winter

1. Aconitum	Newry Blue
2. Alchemilla	Mollis Thriller
3. Astilbe	Showstar, Astary and Bella
4. Astrantia	Primadonna
5. Cyclamen	Coum and Neopolitanum
6. Dicentra	spectabilis (Bleeding Heart) pink and white types
7. Dierama	pulcherrimum (Angel’s Fishing Rod)
8. Dodecatheon	meadia
9. Dracocephalum	rupestre
10. Echium	russicum
11. Euphorbia	polychroma
12. Gentiana	acaulis and lagodechiana
13. Helleborus	niger and Ballard Strain mixture (new 2010)
14. Hypericum	Calycinum and Polyphyllum grandiflorum
15. Lewisia	Sunset and Little Peach
16. Meconopsis	baileyi – irresistible when flowering
17. Phlox	New Hybrids

18. Primula	vulgaris (Common Primrose) and candelabra
19. Rudbeckia	Goldsturm
20. Sisyrinchium	Blue and Yellow flowered
21. Tradescantia	virginiana
22. Trollius	(Globe Flower)
23. Tropaeolum	speciosum (Scottish Flame Flower)
24. Viola	Freckles or Queen Charlotte

### 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. Also excellent in mixed arrangements, patio containers etc for sales in April and May, before the main summer bedding can be put out for sale. All easy to grow. Generally Spring-flowering (End Feb-May, depending on variety). **Peak sowing period June-July.**

Often mixed in with the taller perennial varieties for Spring sales. Can also be offered for sale in 6-packs, or in trays of mixed pots.

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. Arenaria	Montana
6. Armeria	maritima splendens (Thrift)
7. Aster	Alpinus Mixed.Trimix
8. Aubrietia	Royal Series or Cascade
9. Barbarea	Sunnyola
10. Bellis	All varieties, but only Galaxy flowers in the Autumn of the sowing year.
11. Calceolaria	Sunset and Goldcrest
12. Campanula	Clips, Carpatica, Glomerata acaulis, and Pusilla
13. Cerastium	Tomentosum (Snow in Summer)
14. Cowslip	Primula veris
15. Dianthus	('Pinks') – lots of perennial types – deltoides has lots of tiny flowers, plumarius has the larger flower. Sweetness is a recent introduction
16. Draba	aizoon
17. Erinus	alpinus
18. Erysimum/Cheiranthus	– perennial wallflowers
19. Gypsophila	repens white and repens rosea, also Silverstar
20. Iberis	Perennial Candytuft, both white and lilac pink
21. Leontopodium alpinum	– Edelweiss
22. Lobelia	kalmii Blue Shadow
23. Lychnis	alpina
24. Mimulus	perennial varieties
25. Myosotis	(Forget-me-not) biennial, not perennial.
26. Poppy	(Alpine)
27. Polyanthus	Gold Lace (germination can take a while)
28. Primula	various compact types like denticulate, viallii, rosea
29. Saponaria	(Soapwort) – ocymoides (Tumbling Ted)
30. Saxifraga	Mossy Species Mixed
31. Sedum	Species Mixed, and newer types Voodoo, Spirit and Reubens
32. Sempervivum	(Houseleek) mixed
33. Silene	schafta and maritima
34. Sweet William	Indian Carpet

35. Teucrium	chamaedrys
36. Thymus	serpyllum – creeping thyme
37. Tunica	saxifraga
38. Veronia	Nestor

### FIRST-YEAR FLOWERING PERENNIALS

**Germinate at 65-70F January-February, grow on in a heated glasshouse, pot up April-May as required, sell in flower during summer. You can also raise them as normal perennials, sowing April-Aug and flowering the following year. With certain varieties, there may be a proportion of non-flowering plants – sell the following season**

1. Achillea	Colorado, Cerise Queen
2. Agastache	All types. Not generally winter-hardy in UK
3. Alyssum	Montana Luna
4. Armeria	Joystick Series
5. Asclepias	Silky (not generally Winter-hardy in UK)
6. Astilbe	Astary
7. Campanula	Takion, Clips, Pearl
8. Coreopsis	Presto, Rising Sun etc
9. Delphinium	Summer Series (grandiflorum), Fox, Laurin
10. Dianthus	Deldoides
11. Digitalis	Foxglove Camelot
12. Eryngium	Blue Glitter
13. Gaillardia	Arizona Sun
14. Gaura	The Bride (not generally Winter-hardy in the UK)
15. Geum	Cooky
16. Helenium	Helena
17. Hollyhock	Summer Carnival etc
18. Kniphofia	Flamenco
19. Lavender	Check variety descriptions to select quick-flowering types
20. Linaria	Canon J. Went
21. Lobelia	Fan, Compliment Series
22. Lupin	Gallery Series
23. Lychnis	Molten Lava
24. Mimulus	Bounty Series
25. Nepeta	Blue Moon and Pink Cat
26. Oenothera	Both types
27. Poppy	Summer Breeze, Pacino, Garden Gnome etc
28. Penstemon	All types
29. Perovskia	Taiga
30. Physostegia	Crown of Snow
31. Primula	Capitata Noverna
32. Prunella	Freelander
33. Salvia	Superba Blue and Pink, Purple Volcano
34. Scabiosa	Blue Diamonds, Fama, Compliment
35. Sedum	Spirit
36. Sidalcea	Partygirl
37. Silene	Robin White Breast
38. Verbascum	Southern Charm
39. Verbena	Bonariensis
40. Veronica	Blue Bouquet

*Information provided for guidance only, as cultural practices and climatic circumstances vary.  
Rev 04/11*