

## Growing the Easy Annual “Backdoor Bouquet”

These species are versatile and prodigious bloomers. They thrive in cool to moderate temperatures: daytime temperatures from the upper 50°s to mid-upper 70°s and nights in the upper 40°s to upper 50°s. They can be grown in waves or successions: transplanted in mid to late August through mid September, they grow vegetatively (and get quite large), coming into bloom from mid to late March through mid to late May(ish)—

\*= *can be dried as everlastings*

- Agrostemma
- *Ammi majus* (False Queen Anne's Lace)
- Bells of Ireland\*
- Calendula
- Centaurea (Batchelor's Buttons)
- Cynoglossum (Chinese forget-me-not, not the true forget-me-not)
- *Dianthus barbatus* (Sweet William—the true biennial not that wimpy little annual—lace mantle and such)
- Larkspur\* (you can treat the perennial delphinium similarly)
- Nigella (Love-in a mist)
- *Salvia viridis/horminum\** (Marble Arch)
- Salpiglossis
- Scabiosa
- Snapdragon
- Statice
- Stock
- Sweet Peas (my neighbor Paula Haller, who is an excellent gardener but knows nothing of baseball, always flags me down in the fall and asks - is the world series on yet? Her line of inquiry being: sweet peas are best seeded in October when the fall classic is on—go Giants!)

The summer-blooming equivalent: these species should be transplanted on May 1 and another round transplanted in late June—early July for blooms continuously from mid July through “quittin’ time.”\*\* *Note, some of these species also appear above—*

- Ageratum\* (tall cutting types)
- Amaranths (cutting types)
- *Ammi majus* (False Queen Anne's Lace)
- Asters

- Bells of Ireland\*
- Calliopsis (an annual coreopsis)
- Celosia
- *Gomphrena*\*
- Gypsophila/saponari (annual types—best direct sown)
- Rudbeckia
- *Salvia coccinea* (cutting annual salvia—‘Coral’, ‘Snow Nymph’, and ‘Lady in Red’)
- *Salvia farinacea*\* (‘Gruppenblau’)
- Scabiosa
- Silver and black tipped wheat\* (direct sow)\*
- Snapdragon
- Statice\*
- Stock
- Strawflower\*
- Sunflowers (single stem and multi-branching types)
- Tithonia (Mexican sunflower—a huge attractant of incoming/overwintering migrating monarch butterflies)
- Zinnias

\*\*A vague term indicating either gardener’s interest waning in the fall or the onset of cool wet weather. Being largely of tropical origins, these species quit at that juncture, in early to mid October.