DIRECT-SEEDED ANNUAL FLOWER MIXES

by

Dr. Patricia Holloway
Associate Professor of Horticulture

Patricia Wagner
Horticulturalist

Grant Matheke
Horticulturalist

Alaskans are wild about flowers. Colorful flower gardens are popular in our short growing season, and enthusiastic gardeners have helped make the greenhouse industry the largest agricultural industry in Alaska. Because "instant color" in home landscapes is preferred, most gardeners grow their own annual flowers as transplants or purchase them from commercial greenhouses. Another landscape alternative is direct-seeded annuals. Although some annuals may bloom from direct-seeded beds, many gardeners feel that they bloom too late in the season for good color.

The thirteen beds (numbered 1 - 13) in the center of the Georgeson Botanical Garden have been seeded with annual flower mixes, some from commercial sources and some created by the Garden staff and volunteers. The purpose is to evaluate these mixes and determine which ones, if any, would provide adequate color during our short growing season. Below are lists of the seed mixes, their source, and the corresponding plot number. A list of scientific names corresponding to the common names follows the plot lists. Plots were seeded on May 20, 1993 by mixing 1 part seed with approximately 10 parts moist sand. The mixture was divided into 2 portions for more even coverage and spread by hand.

Plot No. 1 — Annuals for Sun
Seeds from Applewood Seed. Co.

African daisy
Baby blue-eyes
Bird’s eyes
California poppy
Candytuft
Clarkia
Corn poppy
Dwarf cornflower
Dwarf Catchfly
Dwarf Godetia
Dwarf plains coreopsis
Five-spot
Pimpernel
Rocket larkspur
Spurred snapdragon
Sweet alyssum
Texas bluebonnet

Plot No. 2. — Proven All-annual Wildflower Mix
Seeds from The Vermont Wild-flower Farm

Annual lupine
Baby blue-eyes
Baby’s breath
California poppy
Catchfly
Corn poppy
Cornflower
Cosmos
Farewell-to-spring
Indian blanket
Orange cosmos
Plains coreopsis
Red flax
Rose mallow
Succulent lupine
Sunflower
Thimble flower

Catchfly
Corn poppy
Cornflower
Cosmos
Indian Blanket
Plains coreopsis
Red Flax
Yellow cosmos

Plot No. 3 — Rainbow Blend (Wildflower mix for cutting)
*Seeds from* Johnny’s Selected Seeds

Baby’s breath
Black-eyed Susan
Cornflower
Cosmos
Indian Blanket
Larkspur
Purple coneflower
Shasta daisy

Plot No. 6 — Firecracker 234
*Seeds from* Wildseed, Inc.

African daisy
Baby blue-eyes
Cushion baby’s breath
Black-eyed Susan
California poppy
Clasping coneflower
Com poppy
Cornflower
Five-spot
Lemon mint
Plains coreopsis
Rocket larkspur
Scarlet flax
Sweet alyssum
Toadflax
Yellow Cosmos

Plot No. 4 — Golf Course Mix
*Seeds from* Applewood Seed Co.

African daisy
Baby blue-eyes
Baby’s breath
Black-eyed Susan
California Poppy
Candytuft
Catchfly
Clarkia
Com poppy
Dwarf coneflower
Dwarf Godetia
Dwarf Plains coreopsis
Rocket Larkspur
Spurred snapdragon
Virginia stock

Plot No. 7 — Nasturtium Mix
*Seeds from* W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Park Seed Co.,
Northrop King and Stokes Seeds, Inc.

'Alaska Mix'
'Fordhook Favorites'
'Empress of India'
'Jewel Mix'
'Park's Fragrant Giant Mix'
'Whirlybird Mix'
'Whirlybird Tangerine'

Plot No. 5 — Pinto Brand All-annual Wild Flower Mix
*Seeds from* Loft’s Seed Inc.

Baby snapdragon
Baby’s breath
Calendula
California poppy

Plot No. 8 — Experimental mix by Pat Wagner
*Seeds from* Ball, Inc. Stokes Seeds Inc., Wildseed, Inc.,
Applewood Seed Co. and The Vermont Wildflower Farm

Baby’s Breath
Bachelor Button ‘Florist’s Blue Boy’
Bishop’s flower
Calendula ‘Lemon Beauty’
California bluebell
Catchfly
Dwarf California poppy
Farewell-to-spring
Globe gilia
Tidy-tips

---

Plot No. 9 — Experimental Red, White and Blue Mix by Ginger Gauss
*Seeds from* Johnny's Selected Seeds, Wildseed, Inc., Thompson & Morgan and The Vermont Wildflower Farm.

Baby's breath
Bachelor Button 'Florist's Blue Boy'
California bluebell
German camomile
Globe gilia
Poppy 'Danebrog Laced'
Poppy 'Lady Bird'

---

Plot No. 10 — Experimental Low-growing Mix by Grant Matheke
*Seeds from* The Vermont Wildflower Farm, Applewood Seed Co., and Wildseed, Inc.

African Daisy
Baby blue-eyes
Catchfly
Dwarf California Poppy
Farewell-to-spring
Five spot
Forget-me-not
Johnny-jump-up
Lance-leaved coreopsis
Missouri primrose
Perennial sweet pea
Plains coreopsis
Toad flax
Virginia stock

---

Plot No. 11 — Wildflower Carpet Mixture No. 12
*Seeds from* George W. Park Seed Co.

African daisy
Baby blue eyes
Blue flax
Calendula
Candytuft
Dwarf California poppy

---

Plot No. 12 — Experimental Pastel Mix by Pat Wagner
*Seeds from* Wildseed, Inc., Applewood Seed Co., Johnny's Selected Seed and The Vermont Wildflower Farm.

Baby's breath 'Covent Garden'
Blue flax
Candytuft
Chinese houses
Cornflower
Larkspur 'Giant Imperial Mix'
Toad flax
Tree mallow
Virginia Stock

---

Plot No. 13 — Experimental White Flower Mix by Janet Bradner

Baby's breath
California poppy
Camomile 'German'
Chrysanthemum paludosum
Snapdragon 'Floral Carpet White'
Stock 'Midget White'
Sweet alyssum
Zinnia 'Big Snowman'
| Annual lupine *Lupinus* sp. | Lance-leaved coreopsis *Coreopsis lanceolata* |
| African daisy *Dimorphotheca aurantiaca* | Larkspur *Consolida ambigua* |
| Baby blue-eyes *Nemophila menziesii* | Lemon mint *Monarda citriodora* |
| Baby snapdragon *Antirrhinum majus* | Matricaria *Matricaria sp.* |
| Baby's breath *Gypsophila elegans* or *G. muralis* | Missouri primrose *Oenothera missouriensis* |
| Bachelor button *Centaurea cyanus* | Mignonette *Reseda odorata* |
| Bird's eyes *Gilia tricolor* | Nasturtium *Tropaeolum majus* |
| Bishop's flower *Anmni majus* | Nodding catchfly *Silene pendula* |
| Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia hirta* | Orange cosmos *Cosmos sulphureus* |
| Blue flax *Linum perenne* ssp. *lewisii* | Perennial sweet pea *Lathyrus latifolius* |
| Calendula *Calendula officinalis* | Pimpemel *Anagallis arvensis* |
| California bluebell *Phacelia campanularia* | Plains coreopsis *Coreopsis tinctoria* |
| California poppy *Eschscholzia californica* | Poor man's weather glass *Anagallis arvensis* |
| Camomile, German *Matricaria camomila* | Purple coneflower *Echinacea purpurea* |
| Candytuft *Iberis umbellata* | Red flax *Linum grandiflorum* 'Rubrum' |
| Catchfly *Silene armeria* | Red ribbons *Clarkia concinna* |
| Chinese houses *Collinsia heterophylla* | Rocket larkspur *Delphinium ajacis* |
| Clarkia *Clarkia unguiculata* | Rose mallow *Lavatera trimestris* |
| Clasping coneflower *Rudbeckia amplexicaulis* | Sanvitalia *Sanvitalia procumbens* |
| Corn poppy *Papaver rhoesas* | Shasta daisy *Chrysanthemum maximun* |
| Cornflower *Centaurea cyanus* | Spiny Spiderflower *Cleome spinosa* |
| Cosmos *Cosmos bipinnatus* | Spurred snapdragon *Linaria maroccana* |
| Cushion baby's breath *Gypsophila muralis* | Stock *Matthiola incana* |
| Dwarf California poppy *Eschscholzia coepitosa* | Succulent lupine *Lupinus succulentus* |
| Dwarf coneflower *Centaurea cyanus* | Sweet alyssum *Lobularia maritima* |
| Dwarf Godetia *Clarkia (Godetia)* amoena | Texas bluebonnet *Lupinus texensis* |
| Dwarf Plains coreopsis *Coreopsis tinctoria* | Thimble flower *Gilia capitata* |
| Evening primrose *Oenothera lamarckiana* | Tidy-tips *Layia platyglossa* |
| Farewell-to-spring *Clarkia (Godetia)* amoena | Toadflax *Linaria maroccana* |
| Fivespot *Nemophila maculata* | Tree mallow *Lavatera trimestris* |
| Globe gilia *Gilia capitata* | Viper's Bugloss *Echium vulgare* |
| Indian blanket *Gaillardia pulchella* | Virginia stock *Malcomia maritima* |
| Johnny jump-up *Viola tricolor* | Yellow cosmos *Cosmos sulphureus* |
| 'Lady Bird' Poppy *Papaver commutatum* | Zinnia *Zinnia elegans* |

We thank the following companies for donating seeds for this project. Refer to the publication, 'Commercial Seed and Plant Sources', (Georgeson Botanical Notes No 4 Revised edition, June 1992) for complete addresses of these companies.

Applewood Seed Co.
Ball Seed Co.
Johnny's Selected Seeds
Loft's Seed, Inc.
George W. Park Seed Co.
Stokes Seeds
Thompson & Morgan
Vaughan’s Seeds Co.
The Vermont Wildflower Farm