As of September 15, the frost still hasn’t settled on the flower garden, and many plants are providing a spectacular show of blooms and colorful foliage. Below is a list of plants that are still in full bloom and can be used to extend the season of an unfrosted garden. Many plants simply exhaust themselves by this time of year, and flowering declines, leaves turn strawy brown, and plants look awful, even without a frost. Many like the marigolds will be mush as soon as frost appears. However, in those nice years when frost is held at bay, the following plants can provide some welcome late season color.

African Marigold Sweet Cream
Ageratum Blue Bouquet
   Blue Mink
   Red Top
   Southern Cross
Asclepias Red Butterfly
Amaranth Elephant Head
   Pygmy Torch
Calendula Green Heart Orange
   Pink Surprise
   Touch of Red Mix
Centaurea Alaska
Chilean Glory Vine Fireworks
Cleome Colour Fountain Mix
Cosmos Sensation Mix
   Versailles Mix
Chrysanthemum Charmer
   Silver Spoons
Dahlia Figaro Mix
Dianthus Floral Lace Crimson
   Floral Lace Lilac
   Floral Lace Violet
   Melody Pink
Flowering cabbage Tokyo White
   Tokyo Pink
French Marigold Safari Red
   Bonanza Bolero
   Nugget Supreme Yellow
Gaillardia Burgundy Wine
Gazania Daybreak Pink Shades
   Red Stripe
Gypsophila Gypsy
Helichrysum Chico Orange
Lavatera Beauty Mix

Mexican Sunflower (*Tithonia*)
Mignonette White Mignonette
Monarda Lambada
Nasturtium Apricot Trifle
   Cherry Rose Jewel
   Creamsicle
   Jewel Mix
   Moonlight
Nicotiana Hummingbird Pink
   Lumina
   Only the Lonely
Ornamental Pepper Medusa
Osteospermum Passion Mix
Pansy Crown Mix
   Fama Clear Face Mix
   Fama Mixed Colors
   Impressions Mix
   Masterpiece Mix
   Oliver Twist
   Purple Rain
   Rococo
   Ultima Silhouette Mix
   Zorro
Petunia Double Madness Rose
   Dramatica Cherry
   Dramatica Hot Pink
   Fantasy Ivory
   Madness Lilac
   Rose Carpet Improved
   Summer Kiss
Phlox Starry Eyes Mix
Polygonum Pink Punching Balls
The Best and the Worst Annual Flowers of 1999

There were some real standouts in the annual flower trials this year as well as some very visible duds. Fortunately, the list of winners far exceeds the losers. Below is our list of plants worth trying followed by those to avoid. The list includes all the losers you will not see in the Garden next summer, but only a selection of the large number of annual flower winners. Expect a more extensive review in our upcoming Annual Flower Trials Report. We would also be interested in hearing from our readers about their own winners and losers. Please send your list to the address on the back of the Review, and we will share them with others in a future edition.

Winners
Ageratum ‘Red Top’ (Johnny’s)— 10–21-inch plant, excellent for cutting, beautiful two-toned flowers of reddish purple and burgundy
California Poppy ‘Buttermilk’ (Thompson & Morgan)— beautiful creamy yellow flowers all summer
Calendula ‘Pink Surprise’ (Thompson & Morgan)— outstanding pink/light orange color, needs less deadheading than most
Centaura ‘Alaska’ (Burpee)— giant, pure white bachelor’s button-type flowers with very ornamental, netted flower buds, blooms late, but worth the wait
Chilean Glory Vine ‘Fireworks’ (Unwins)— excellent annual vine that grows as well as scarlet runner bean, beautiful glossy green, finely segmented foliage and very ornamental rose and orange flowers, great addition to our small list of vines
Mexican Sunflower (Tithonia) (Seeds of Change)— very showy orange flowers, large plant up to 60 inches tall, great with sunflowers
Pansy ‘Rococco’ (Seeds of Distinction) and ‘Masterpiece Mix’ (Harris Seeds)— very ornamental ruffled edges, dark faces

Rudbeckia Indian Summer
Rustic Colors
Sputnik
Toto
Salvia splendens Orange Zest
Salsa Salmon
Red Hot Sally
Red Vista
Salvia hormium Bicolor Mix
Claryssa Pink
Salvia coccinea Coral Nymph
Salvia farinacea Rhea
Sanvitalia Mandarin Orange
Shoo Fly Plant (Nicandra)
Signet Marigold
Lulu
Silene Hot Pink
Snapdragon Black Prince
Pink Bells
Sonnet Mix
Trumpet Serenade
Statice Sirima Pastel
Sunflower Crimson Thriller
Giant Sungold

Sunflower Kong
Lemon Queen
Santa Fe
Soraya
Sunbeam
Sun Goddess
Sunbright
Titanic
Valentine
Vanilla Ice
Sweet Alyssum Carpet of Snow
New Apricot
Venidium Jaffa Ice
Zulu Prince
Verbena Moon River
Quartz PolkaDot Mix
Quartz Formula Mix
Verbena Sterling Star
Viola Sorbet Blackberry Cream
Four Seasons Golden Yellow
Sorbet Blue Mix
Sorbet Formula Mix
Sorbet French Vanilla
Sorbet Lemon Chiffon
Sorbet Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
Zinnia angustifolia Star Orange
Profusion Orange
Zinnia elegans Blue Point Eldorado
Oklahoma Mix
Persian Carpet
Zinnia Bonita Red
Pansy ‘Oliver Twist’ (Seeds of Distinction)— unusual purple and yellow bicolor flowers with dark red face
Petunia ‘Dramatica Hot Pink’ and ‘Dramatica Cherry’ (Ball Seed)— certainly were ‘damatica’, huge mounds of flowers more than two feet tall, looked great all summer, even in the rain
Phlox ‘Starry Eyes Mix’ (Burpee)— outstanding mix of flower colors in pink, red, rose, white, lavender and cream with white markings, looks like stars
Polygonum ‘Pink Punching Balls’ (Johnny’s)— very unusual ground cover annual with dark reddish green leaves topped with pink balls of flowers
Salvia ‘Splendissima’ (Thompson & Morgan)— truly splendid, very tall 18–to 22–inch scarlet flower spikes, holds up well all summer, little maintenance needed
Statice ‘Sirimia Pastel’ (Shepherd’s)— outstanding statice for dried arrangements in pastel pinks, purples and lavender
Stock ‘Legacy Mix’ (Thompson & Morgan)— the very best, long-blooming stock in the GBG, 12– to 24–inch stalks of pink, lavender and white flowers
Sweet William ‘Red Monarch’ (Stokes Seeds)— very showy in mid to late summer, outstanding red color, mounds of flowers up to 27 inches tall
Viola ‘Four Seasons Golden Yellow’ (Park Seed)— eye–popping bright yellow 20–inch mounds, excellent full–season color
Zinnia ‘Bonita Yellow’ (Thompson & Morgan)— profusion of dusky yellow flowers on 15– to 27–inch stems, outstanding mass display all summer (in contrast, the ‘Bonita Red’ cultivar was not nearly as floriferous and colorful)
Zinnia ‘Profusion Cherry’ and ‘Profusion Orange’ (All America Selections)— 12–to 18–inch compact mounds covered with brilliant shiny flowers all season, a no maintenance plant

Losers
Agrostemma ‘Purple Queen’ and ‘Ocean Pearls’ (Johnny’s)— bloomed early, weak and floppy stems, disappeared by midsummer, might be good in flower mixes where other flowers take over later in the season, but should not be planted alone
Centaurea ‘Dairy Maid’ (Thompson & Morgan)— interesting yellow bachelor’s button’s flowers but very weak stems and poor cover, died out in July
Carnation ‘Lillipot Mix’ (Twillie)— interesting blue–green foliage, but poor flowering all season
Chrysanthemum ‘Charmer’ (Johnny’s)— looked like wild chamomile, only taller, very ragged appearance, nothing charming about it
Coreopsis ‘American Dream’ (Thompson & Morgan)— shorter than advertised, tiny, pink flowers, barely taller than foliage, not showy
Eucinide ‘Golden Tassel’ (Seeds of Distinction)– never flowered
Gypsophila ‘Lady Lace’ (Johnny’s) and ‘Covent Garden’ (Harris Seeds)—tiny flowers in early summer, short lived, dead by mid summer, may work well in seed mixes with other flowers that take over later in the season, but should not be planted alone
Mesembryanthemum ‘Lemon Soda’ (Seeds of Distinction)— hot pink flowers, not yellow as advertised
Poached Eggs [Limnanthes douglasii] (Thompson & Morgan)— tiny, yellow and white flowers on very weak, sprawling stems, poor cover, died out in July
Poppy ‘Burnt Orange’ (Thompson & Morgan)— blink and you missed the blooms on this one, dead in June
Salvia ‘Salsa White’ (Harris Seeds)— poor flower development, older flowers were a dirty brown, not attractive, little reblooming
Silene ‘Pink Pirouette’ (Thompson & Morgan)— bloom time was very short, all but one plant died by July 1, the remaining plant bloomed through July, but looked very lonely in a bed of brown, dead plants
Scabiosa ‘White Perfection’ (Seeds of Distinction)— finally had one bloom in mid September
Snapdragon ‘Powy’s Pride’ (Thompson & Morgan)— variegated yellow and green foliage looked ‘sick’, not a robust plant
Zinnia ‘Desert Sun’ (Thompson & Morgan)— poor flower development, not showy
All America Selections 2000

Nine varieties won top honors as All America Selections winners for 2000. They included four flowers, one bedding plant and four vegetables. We tested some of the varieties in the Garden this summer. Benary Seed’s cosmos ‘Cosmic Orange’ won for its compact growth habit, pest and disease resistance, and great flowers. In the GBG, it certainly performed better than the other varieties of Cosmos sulphureus, but its appearance was still very ragged. Serious deadheading was required to keep it looking nice. By the end of the season, it had few flowers and plenty of not-so-pretty seed pods.

The dwarf Mexican sunflower, ‘Fiesta del Sol’, also from Benary Seeds, didn’t hold a candle to its normal sized cousins. The plants were tiny, about 12 inches in height rather than the advertised three feet! The plants were dwarfed by neighboring sunflowers, had few flowers and little ornamental appeal. We will plant them in another location next year to give them a better test.

Benary’s sunflower, ‘Soraya’ won rave reviews from Garden visitors. This is the first sunflower to win an AAS award. The six- to eight-inch heads had golden orange petals and large, chocolate brown centers. The long stems made them perfect cut flowers. It had abundant flowers on 64-inch stalks beginning the end of July.

Sakata Seeds won AAS honors for ‘Melody Pink’ dianthus, an outstanding cultivar that was covered with medium pink flowers from mid June through September. The long stems on 29-inch plants were great for cutting, and the flowers had a nice spicy fragrance. Minor deadheading was needed in late summer. This cultivar is the best of the 2000 AAS winners for Alaska gardens. All the pictures advertising this variety show coral pink flowers, but instead, the flowers are true light rose pink.

We tested two AAS vegetable winners, both from Seminis Vegetable Seeds. The cabbage, ‘Savoy Express’ matured early and produced nice, compact heads. It was not a good keeper and has its best market for fresh salads. The garden pea, ‘Mr Big’ was chosen an AAS winner for its large, 4-inch pods and high yield. At the GBG, it was ‘nothing special’, according to Grant Matheke. It produced nice pods, but other standard varieties yielded better.

The AAS bedding plant winner for 2000 was rose periwinkle ‘Stardust Orchid’. This plant won for its unusual orchid-colored flowers and compact mounding growth habit. Periwinkles as a group, never grow well in our cold soils, and this cultivar was no exception. The tiny five-inch plants had just a few tiny blooms, certainly not worth the effort.