

LATE BLOOMING PERENNIALS FOR FALL

Though many familiar garden perennials are finished blooming by late summer, there are some that are at their peak in the fall. If your garden looks dull by the end of August, here are some late bloomers to consider.

Mums (hardy chrysanthemums) offer a range of flower types and colors, from white to pink to brick red, yellow, gold and orange. They can be planted in the fall for instant color or planted in the spring and tended through the summer for a home-grown display.

Asters, with flowers resembling small daisies with narrow petals, produce flowers in white, pink, purple, blue and red on plants ranging from 2 to 4 feet in height, so they fit nicely behind a border (the shorter ones) or in the back or center of a bed where their height won't obscure other fall bloomers.

Artemisia 'Silver Mound' is generally grown for its fragrant silver foliage, which brightens the garden from May through October.

Ornamental grasses provide a contrast in form, texture and color all summer, but in the fall, their seed heads add an extra touch to the end-of-season garden. Grasses range in size from the 12-inch blue mounds of *Festuca cinerea* to 3 to 7 feet, so various species may be border or background or specimen plants in the bed or landscape.

Sedum 'Autumn Joy' changes color in autumn, trading its soft green for shades of pink to wine red. Its flowers dry and persist all winter, adding interest to the winter landscape.

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The **Master Gardener Hotline** is open from April to October, Monday through Friday. Lines are available 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at 888-678-3464

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