



## The Best of Bowood : Summer Garden Essentials

There are so many plants that we love it seems an impossible task to choose a short list of key plants for building a garden. By dividing the growing season into three parts we are giving you the opportunity to plan (or revise) a garden in stages, and select elements from each list to keep your garden interesting year-round. Here we focus on summer, which for gardeners usually means the plants that flower and flourish from around the first of June until late August. This can be a challenging time for plants and hopefully you've left room for some of these champions of heat and humidity. Longer bloom times make it easier to keep the landscape in flower, combining well with the maturing foliage of the spring bloomers. Don't forget to consider the largest elements of your design first – maybe read the list from end to beginning – and to save room for fall bloomers!

### Summer Bulbs, Roots, Rhizomes

Just like their spring-blooming cousins, these plants are happiest when given their own full sun space where they will be allowed to spread unimpeded, their roots left undisturbed and where watering can be monitored.

- Best planted in the fall: *Allium* (Ornamental Onion) and *Lilium* (Lily)
- Plant bareroot in spring, or potted anytime: *Iris*, *Hemerocallis* (Daylily)
- Plant in spring, dig in fall after a frost: *Dahlia*, *Canna*, *Colocasia* (Elephant Ears) – or choose winter-hardy cultivars.

### Shade Perennials

*Hosta* dominates the summer shade garden with extreme variations in size and wonderful variants of green. Enliven them with plants that provide contrasting textures, colorful foliage and splashes of flowering.

|  |                                   |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Alchemilla</i> / Lady's Mantle      | <i>Carex</i> / Sedge              | <i>Heuchera</i> / Coral Bells     |
| <i>Aralia cor</i> / Japanese Spikenard | Ferns – many choices              | <i>Hosta</i> / Hosta              |
| <i>Astilbe ch</i> / Chinese Astilbe    | <i>Hakonechloa</i> / Hakone Grass | <i>Ligularia</i> / Leopard Plant  |
| <i>Begonia grandis</i> / Hardy Begonia |                                   | <i>Viola corn</i> / Horned Violet |

### Sun Perennials

Summer brings an explosion of long-lasting color with these easy-care plants that take the heat and humidity.

|                                  |                                    |                                   |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Achillea</i> / Yarrow         | <i>Geum</i> / Avens                | <i>Nepeta</i> / Catmint           |
| <i>Agastache</i> / Anise Hyssop  | <i>Hibiscus</i> spp. / Rose Mallow | <i>Penstemon</i> / Beardtongue    |
| <i>Asclepias</i> spp. / Milkweed | <i>Liatris</i> / Blazing Star      | <i>Phlox pan</i> / Garden Phlox   |
| <i>Calamintha</i> / Calamint     | <i>Lobelia</i> / Cardinal Flower   | <i>Salvia</i> / Meadow Sage       |
| <i>Coreopsis</i> / Tickseed      | <i>Monarda</i> / Bee Balm          | <i>Stokesia</i> / Stokes' Aster   |
| <i>Echinacea</i> / Coneflower    |                                    | <i>Veronica</i> / Spike Speedwell |

## Vines

Decorating arbors, trellises and bare walls and fences, vines add vertical foliage and flowering interest.

*Clematis* spp. / Clematis

*Lonicera* spp. / Vining Honeysuckle

*Hydrangea pet* / Hydrangea Vine

*Schizophragma hyd* / Japanese Hydrangea Vine

*Wisteria mac* / Kentucky Wisteria

## Shade Shrubs

Dominating this category are the many long-flowering cultivars of bigleaf hydrangeas, but don't forget the broadleaf evergreens which are stalwarts of the shade even when they have finished blooming.

*Aesculus* / Bottlebrush Buckeye

*Buxus* / Boxwood

*Ilex* spp. / Holly

*Azalea* / Azalea

*Hydrangea* spp. / Big Leaf, Smooth

*Rhododendron* spp./ Rhododendron

## Sun Shrubs

A mixture of deciduous and evergreen shrubs can bring texture and substantial bulk even when not flowering.

*Buddleja* / Butterfly Bush

*Cornus* spp. / Twig Dogwoods

*Perovskia* / Russian Sage

*Calycanthus* / Carolina Allspice

*Cotinus* / Smokebush

*Rosa* / Rose

*Caryopteris* / Blue Mist Shrub

*Hydrangea* spp. / Panicle, Oakleaf

*Sambucus* / Elderberry

*Chamaecyparis* spp. / Falsecypress

*Hypericum* / St. John's Wort

*Sorbaria* / False Spirea

*Clethra* / Summersweet

*Juniperus* spp. / Juniper

*Spiraea* spp. / Spirea

## Trees

Some of the easiest trees to maintain, especially in a small garden, are also the most striking either as a background for shrubs and perennials or as a specimen that becomes the focal point for the whole garden.

*Corylus ave* / Contorted Hazlenut

*Magnolia* spp. / Magnolia

*Robinia pseud* / Black Locust

*Ginkgo* / Maidenhair Tree

*Styrax* / Japanese Snowbell

## Of course, that's not all...

We have limited ourselves to an ultimate list of indispensable favorites but there are plenty of other excellent choices to make your garden shine in summer. Consider this a fashion show to fire your imagination and come in to Bowood when you are ready to tailor your garden for your own personal look.