

Fall & Summer Blooming Favorites + Ideas on Combining Them

These 17 perennials are some of my favorites for summer & fall flowers. Most of them bloom a LONG time - 4 months or more. And I think they are beautiful when you combine the different flower and foliage shapes.

Try a combination of one from each category & vary the colors, for example:

1. Round flower: Dahlia Intrigue (coral)
2. Vertical spire flower: Hummingbird Mint Blue Fortune (purple)
3. Daisy-shaped flower: Gloriosa Daisy Cherry Brandy (burgundy)
4. Tubular flower: Penstemon Pink (light pink)
5. Foliage/flower contrast: Yarrow Raspberry (dark pink-red)

Big Round Flowers & Big Leaves

Dahlias. Huge round flowers that are some of the most impactful flowers in my garden and bloom from Jul. through Oct. Six varieties including hot pink, coral, orange, burgundy and more.

Hydrangeas. Summer classic with huge flower heads (up to 8" across) in white, pink, or purple. But some hydrangea blooms fade to brown. My favorite varieties don't do that - these fade to beautiful shades of green, pink and purple, giving a much longer color effect – well into fall.

Joe Pye Weed – Tall and stately, they stand at 6' and are covered with fragrant wine-red flower clusters from Jul-Sept.

Sedum. Lots of Sedums out there, but my favorite is Autumn Joy for it's pink flowers in September that age to a deep cranberry in Oct and Nov

Daisy-shaped flowers in bright colors

Gloriosa Daisy/ Rudbeckia Cherry Brandy. I love this color – deep burgundy flowers. Burgundy is one of my favorite colors to combine with bright colors like pinks, reds, oranges and people are always asking me about this one

Coneflower – Pow Wow Wild Berry. Bright pink coneflower – great summer color and love using these daisy-shaped flowers in combination with the big heads on dahlias and hydrangeas.

Blanket Flower/ Gaillardia Burgunder. Wine-red daisy-like flowers bloom continuously on this bushy perennial from May - Sept.

Aster Purple Dome. Award-winning, It has beautiful foliage starting in early spring and so makes a nice neat 18" tall 'mini-hedge' in the front of my borders - perfect foreground for the flowers behind. In Sept/ Oct it has mounds of rich purple daisy-like blooms.

Great foliage and flowers for interesting contrast in textures

Flag Lily. Blooms in winter! Love it. It has lovely weeping strappy foliage and blooms Sept – Nov/Dec. Makes a great front of border plant since it stays green all year. Also makes a long lasting cut flower.

Yarrow. I love these for long-lasting color (blooms for 4 months) and the great contrast they provide to other perennials with their ferny foliage and flat-headed flowers and so many colors – red, pink, yellow, wine, orange and more.

Tubular / Bell shaped flowers & loved by hummingbirds

Phygellus. Also known as Cape Fuchsia, this semi-evergreen long blooming woody shrub is not a fuchsia. It is filled with tubular flowers (I have cherry red and magenta) that hummingbird's love in my garden. They bloom June until Nov or sometimes Dec.

Penstemon (Beardtongue). Beautiful clusters of tubl have 6 varieties from rich raspberry pink to deep purple. Hummingbirds love these and it blooms June to Oct.

Hardy Fuchsia. Beautiful long blooming shrub that is the highlight of any summer garden – loaded with flowers (in SO many colors) and blooming nonstop for 4+ months.

Vertical flowers – striking when paired with other flower shapes

Hummingbird Mint (Agastache). Striking vertical purple or pink flowers and blooms up to 4 months! A beauty on its own, but outstanding when mixed with a contrasting color and large round flowers such as dahlias or roses.

Tree Mallow. Light pink hollyhock like flowers on a semi-evergreen shrub from early summer - fall. Can be used as a tall arching flowering hedge.

Salvia. I have short and tall varieties, with the tall ones up to 5' high. I love the spires of flowers that pair so beautifully with SO many other flowers like dahlias, roses, and hydrangeas, by giving a vertical contrast to those big round flowers.

Mullen/ Verbascum - Wedding Candles. Huge leaves in a rosettes about 1' tall sit under thick 4' tall stalks with masses of white flowers that form a 'candelabra' shape.



Hummingbird Mint/ Agastache Blue Fortune provides the vertical accent with Dahlia Intrigue's big round flowers behind



Dahlia Coral Gypsy



Flag Lily Crimson (in foreground) provides a beautiful shape with strappy evergreen leaves. Tree Mallow and its arching semi-evergreen stems and pink flowers are in the background.



Joe Pye Weed on right gives a large round flower cluster shape with purple Salvia Amistad to the left providing a vertical flower contrast



Burgundy Dahlia Holly Hill Black Beauty with orange Tiger Lily to the left. The deep burgundy color makes the other flower colors really 'pop'.



Hydrangeas provide great summer – fall color with beautiful pink or purple/ blue flowers up to 8" wide. They look great combined with most any of the flowers on these pages.



Yellow yarrow with it's flat flower heads and ferny foliage is combined with vertical spikes of purple lavender.



Sedum Autumn Joy provides huge flower heads in pink that fade through the fall to a gorgeous cranberry. And George, our resident tree frog, seems to love to pose for photos on this beautiful flower.



Rudbeckia Cherry Brandy makes a gorgeous fall statement in deep burgundy and its lovely daisy-shaped flowers.



Penstemon Twizzle Coral makes a lovely statement with vertical spires of bell-shaped flowers. Penstemon comes in SO many colors, lots to play with. This one is beautiful combined with purple and burgundy flowers.



Lovely Tree Mallow makes a beautiful long blooming and tall shub. Great against a fence or can use as a tall flowering hedge. Semi-evergreen.



Blanket Flower Burgunder gives deep wine-red color – beautiful with Hummingbird Mint Blue Fortune.