

2026 Seed Library Guide

**Use this guide as a starting place
to select what seeds will work best for you.**

For a greater chance of gardening success, we recommend that you research each variety in more depth and only select varieties that will work well with your garden and lifestyle. We can only provide limited information on the package due to space.

There is something for all gardening interests, experience levels, and garden sites in the Seed Library. Gardening is an adventure and an experiment, not a guaranteed success. Refer to our growing guides for more detailed information on growing plants from seeds.



Hamilton East Public Library

2026 Seed Library Guide

Before you plant your seeds

There is a time and a season for your vegetables to be harvested and for your flowers to bloom. Read about when the vegetables and herbs will be ready for harvesting or when the flowers will bloom and consider these factors in your gardening plan.

1. Research! To be successful, especially if you are new to gardening or trying a new variety, you need to research the plant and its needs.
2. Is it the right time of year to plant this seed? Some plants, like arugula and fava beans, prefer cooler weather and won't grow well in the summer heat. Most others need to be planted after the last frost date. Some short-season crops like radishes, beets, and arugula can even be planted in the fall and will survive light frosts.
3. Think about where you are going to plant the seed. What is the soil like? How much space do you have versus how much space the plant needs? Does the area get full sun or is it partially shaded? Is it a dry area or does water tend to gather there? Will you plant in a container? What other plants are in the area? Compare these factors to what is recommended on the seed packet.



How and when do I plant seeds?

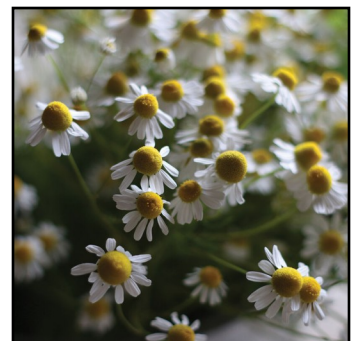
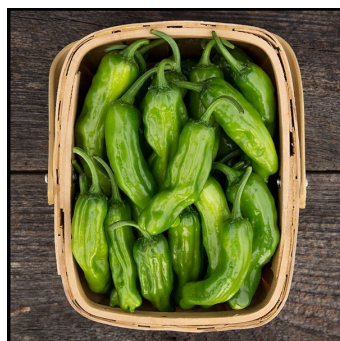
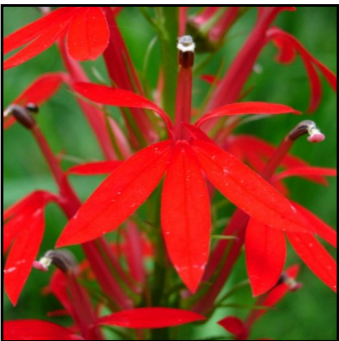
- **Direct sow:** Sow seeds in the ground, raised bed, or container. Assume you should do this after the average last frost date (April 30 in Hamilton County) unless noted.
 - You may see “direct sow when soil can be worked,” meaning you can sow the seed when the ground is no longer frozen, but before the last frost. These seeds germinate at lower temperatures and the seedlings tolerate mild frost.
 - Sometimes a soil temperature is given. Some seeds need a specific temperature in order to germinate or they may even go dormant at another temperature.
- **Start early/transplants:** Some plants, like tomatoes and peppers, need an early start indoors or in a heated space. Plan ahead! You'll need to start these in a warm place several weeks before hardening them off and transplanting outside after the last frost date (about April 30 in Hamilton County). To ensure you give your seedlings the best chance of success, research this process thoroughly.

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What do “days to maturity” and “bloom time” mean?

- **For direct sown seeds** (like radishes or marigolds), the approximate number of days from sowing until harvest/bloom.
- **For transplanted seeds** (like tomatoes and peppers), the approximate number of days from the transplant date until harvest. For example, the days to maturity for Glacier tomatoes is 55 days, but tomato seeds need to be planted indoors and hardened off 5-6 weeks (35-42 days) before being transplanted outside. The total number of days from seed planting to harvest is about 90-97.
- **Bloom time:** perennial flowers (like purple coneflowers and blue false indigo) usually do not bloom the first year. You may instead see an estimate of the months when it will bloom after the first year. Annual flowers (like sunflowers and marigolds) will bloom the first year a certain number of days after being sown.
- **This is an estimate from the seed company:** there are many factors that contribute to when a plant is ready for harvest or bloom, including weather, climate zone, water, and soil quality. Consider this number a guide, not an absolute.



How long will my plants live? Annuals, perennials, and biennials:

- **Annuals:** Most of the vegetables, fruits, and herbs in this list are annuals, as are many flowers. They will flower, produce seeds, and die after the first season.
- **Perennials:** Some herbs and flowers are perennials. They will live for more than two years if conditions are favorable.
 - Perennial flowers usually do not bloom in the first year if grown from seed since the plant needs the first year to become established. When you see perennial plants for sale at a store, they are often in their second year of life so they will be more likely to bloom the same year you plant them.
- **Biennials:** These plants live for two years: the first year the plant becomes established, and in the second year it flowers and produces seeds, after which it dies. Only a few plants in the Seed Library are biennials, such as carrots and black-eyed Susans.

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Fruit & Vegetables



Bean, Bush: Amethyst

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Purple beans will turn green when cooked
- Filet-style beans are 5-5.5 inches long
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Annual / Days to Maturity: 56



Bean, Bush: Gold Rush

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

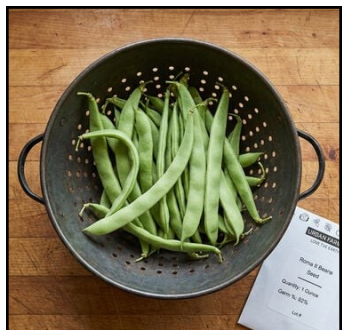
- Yellow beans with green tips
- Beans are 4-5 inches long
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Annual / Days to Maturity: 55



Bean, Bush: Provider

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom / Round green beans
- Beans are 5-6 inches long
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Annual / Days to Maturity: 50



Bean, Bush: Roma II

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom
- Flat beans are 5-6 inches long
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Annual / Days to Maturity: 59



Bean, Pole: Kentucky Wonder

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom
- Flat variety with 6-8 inch beans
- Direct sow. Pole beans need support (like a trellis) as they grow.
- Full sun / Annual / Days to Maturity: 70

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Fruit & Vegetables



Bean, Pole: Rattlesnake

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom
- Purple spots will fade when cooked
- Beans are 7 inches long
- Can be eaten in pods or as a dried bean
- Direct sow. Pole beans need support (like a trellis) as they grow.
- Full sun / Annual / Days to Maturity: 75-80



Beet: Chioggia

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom
- Both the greens and the root can be eaten
- Beets are best harvested in spring and fall and are frost-tolerant
- Direct sow when soil warms to 45°F or 8 weeks before heavy frost
- Full sun / Annual / Days to Maturity: 55 days



Broccoli: De Ciccio

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom
- Broccoli grows best in cool weather. Plan for spring or fall harvest.
- Start indoors 3-4 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to Maturity: 45 days



Carrot: Dragon

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom
- Avoid planting this variety in heavy soil
- Fall harvests can remain in the ground after frost and dug as needed
- Direct sow when soil can be worked. Best in spring and fall.
- Annual if you harvest the carrot, and a biennial if not harvested.
- Full sun / Days to Maturity: 75 days



Carrot: Rondo

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Carrots will be 2 inches long
- This variety does well in heavy/clay soils / good for containers
- Direct sow when soil can be worked. Best in spring and fall.
- Fall harvests can remain in the ground after frost and dug as needed
- Annual if you harvest the carrot, and a biennial if not harvested.
- Full sun / Days to maturity: 73-78

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Carrot: Scarlet Nantes

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom / Carrots are 7 inches long
- Direct sow when soil can be worked. Best harvested in spring and fall.
- Fall harvests can remain in the ground after frost and dug as needed
- Annual if you harvest the carrot, and a biennial if not harvested.
- Direct sow



Cucumber: Double Yield Pickling

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom
- Cucumbers will be 4-5 inches long
- Direct sow when air temperature is at least 60 degrees at night
- Can be trellised, but not required.
- Full sun / Annual / Days to Maturity: 55



Cucumber: Marketmore 76

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom
- Slicing cucumber / 8-9 inch fruits
- Direct sow. Can be trellised, but not required.
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 58



Cucumber: Striped Armenian

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom, AKA painted serpent, snake melons, or yard-long cucumbers
- 8-18 inch fruits / Widely grown in the Middle East and Asia
- Direct sow. Can be trellised for straighter fruit, but not required.
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 63



Cucumber: Suyo Long

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom Asian cucumber
- 15 inch fruits / Prickly when young, becoming smoother at maturity
- Direct sow. Can be trellised for straighter fruit, but not required.
- Full sun / Annual / Days to Maturity: 60 days

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Eggplant: Ping Tung

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom Asian eggplant
- Fruits will be 12-14 inches long and 1-2 inches wide
- Start indoors 8-12 weeks before transplanting outside
- Soil must be 80-90 degrees for germination. Use a seedling heat mat.
- Harden off plant gradually before transplanting outdoors.
- Full sun / Annual / Days to Maturity: 70 days



Gourd: Autumn Wings

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Gourds will be 8-12 ounces
- Direct sow after danger of frost when soil is at least 70 degrees
- Cure gourds before use/storage
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 95



Gourd: Luffa

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Mature fruit can be cured and used as a sponge
- Plant successively for more harvests
- Start indoors 4-5 weeks before transplanting outside
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 125



Greens: Allstar Lettuce Mix

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Mixture of green oakleaf, red oakleaf, green romaine, red romaine, lollo rossa, and red leaf lettuces
- Plant successively for more harvests
- Direct sow. Best in spring and fall.
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 28



Greens: Arugula

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- AKA Rocket
- Flavor is spicy, peppery, and nutty. Flowers are edible.
- Prefers cool weather: plant and harvest in spring or fall
- Direct sow as early as 4-6 weeks before last frost date
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 21 for baby or 40 for full size

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Greens: Deer Tongue Lettuce

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom, Bibb-type lettuce
- Crunchy and flavor said to be nutty, buttery, and sweet
- Prefers cool weather: plant and harvest in spring or fall
- Direct sow as early as soil can be worked / Frost tolerant
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 31 for baby or 46 for full size



Greens: Kale: Red Russian

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom
- Best in cool/frosty weather—plant for spring and fall crops
- Direct sow when soil temperature is at least 45°F
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 29 for baby leaf and 50 for full



Greens: Kale: Toscano

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

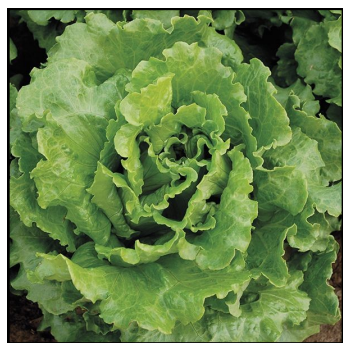
- Heirloom / AKA dinosaur kale, lacinato kale, and Tuscan kale
- Tolerant of both hot and cold, but flavor best in cool/frosty weather
- Direct sow when soil temperature is at least 45°F
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 32 for baby leaf and 65 for full



Greens: Little Gem Lettuce

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- French heirloom
- Start indoors 3-4 weeks before planting outdoors for head lettuce
- Direct sow when soil can be worked for baby leaf
- Grows best when temperature is 60-65°F
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 40-54



Greens: Nevada Lettuce

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Batavian/summer crisp-type lettuce, forming loose heads as it matures
- Heat-tolerant and bolt-resistant
- Direct sow as soon as soil can be worked
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 55

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Fruit & Vegetables



Greens: New Zealand Spinach

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom AKA kōkihi, Botany Bay spinach, tetragon, & warrigal greens
- Leaves and tender shoots have a spinach-like taste
- Direct sow after danger of frost
- Full sun / Annual or tender perennial / Days to maturity: 50



Greens: Pac Choi: Ching-Chiang

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- AKA bok choy, pak choi, or Chinese cabbage
- Dwarf variety with mild flavor and few strings
- Best in cool seasons, but tolerant of heat and cold
- Direct sow 1-2 weeks before last frost date or for fall harvest
- Full sun / Annual / Maturity: 40



Greens: Red Malabar Spinach

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Vining Asian green, not related to spinach
- Leaves and tender shoots have a taste similar to Swiss chard
- Flavor is best with young leaves and stems
- Start indoors 5-6 weeks before transplanting outside
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 50 for baby leaf / 85 for full



Greens: Romaine Mix

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Mix of red, green, and speckled romaine lettuces
- Best in cool weather (spring and fall), but somewhat heat tolerant
- Direct sow as early as soil can be worked
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 28



Greens: Sorrel

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Green with lemon flavor
- Best in cool weather: plant in early spring or fall
- Direct sow as early as soil can be worked / Frost tolerant
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 40 for baby leaf; 60 for full

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Fruit & Vegetables



Greens: Spinach: Bloomsdale

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Best in cool weather: plant in early spring or fall
- Direct sow as early as soil can be worked / Frost tolerant
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 30



Greens: Swiss Chard: Bright Lights

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Flavor is similar to spinach; full size leaves/stalks are usually cooked
- Slow-bolting and somewhat heat tolerant
- Seedlings are tolerant of light frosts
- Direct sow in midspring through midsummer
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 28 for baby leaf & 55 for full



Ground Cherry: Goldie

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Fruit whose taste is described as cross between a tomato and a pineapple when fully ripe
- Fully ripe fruits will drop to the ground and husks will be papery
- Start indoors 6-8 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 75



Leek: American Flag

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom
- Fall harvest variety
- Should be started indoors 8-10 weeks before transplanting outside
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 90-120



Melon: Cantaloupe: Charentais

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom
- Melons are 2-3 pounds and delicate
- Direct sow 1-2 weeks after last frost date when soil warms to 70°F
- Melons need a large space to grow and for fruit to develop
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 85

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Okra: Perkins Long Pod

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom
- Pods will be 3-4 inches long
- Soak seeds prior to planting
- Start indoors 4-5 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 55



Onion: New York Early

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom
- Good for short-term to medium-term storage; be sure to research how to cure and store onions like these
- Direct sow in April or early May
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 98



Pea, Shelling: Alaska Early

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom
- Pods are 2-3 inches long / Peas can be eaten fresh or dried for later
- Direct sow when soil can be worked. Cool season crop: spring & fall
- Be sure to add support as the plant climbs!
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 57



Pea, Snap: Sugar Snap

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom
- Pods and peas are edible
- Direct sow when soil can be worked. Cool season crop: spring & fall
- Be sure to add support as the plant climbs!
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 58



Pea, Snow: Oregon Sugar Pod II

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom
- Direct sow when soil can be worked. Cool season crop: spring & fall
- Snow peas have edible pods
- 30 inches tall – be sure to add support as the plant climbs!
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 55

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Pepper: Anaheim

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom
- Mild pepper: 500-2,500 Scoville Heat Units
- 5-8 inch fruits will ripen from purple to orange to red
- Start indoors 8-10 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 77



Pepper: Ancho Poblano

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Called poblano when fresh & ancho when dried
- Mild pepper with smoky flavor: 1,000-2,000 Scoville Heat Units
- 4-6 inch fruits
- Start indoors 8-10 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / 76 days to harvest



Pepper: Bishop's Crown

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom
- Hot pepper: 5,000-30,000 Scoville Heat Units
- 4-6 inch fruits
- Start indoors 8-10 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / 75 days to harvest



Pepper: California Wonder

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom
- Classic sweet bell pepper: 0-100 Scoville Heat Units
- 3.5 x 4 inch fruits that turn green to red
- Start indoors 8-10 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / 65 days to harvest



Pepper: Corno di Toro Rosso

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom / sweet Italian frying pepper
- Mild: 0-100 Scoville Heat Units
- 8-inch long red fruits when mature
- Start indoors 8-10 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 60-80

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Pepper: Hungarian Hot Wax

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom
- Mild to hot pepper: 1,000-15,000 Scoville Heat Units
- 2-4 inch long fruits
- Start indoors 8-10 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 59 days for green, 84 for red



Pepper: Jalapeno Early

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom
- Hot pepper: 2,000-8,000 Scoville Heat Units
- 4-inch long fruits
- Start indoors 8-10 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 65-70



Pepper: Shishito

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom / Japanese frying pepper
- Mild heat: 100-1,000 Scoville Heat Units
- 2-4 inch long fruits
- Start indoors 8-10 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 60 days for green, 75 for red



Pumpkin: Long Island Cheese

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom
- 6-10 pound fruits suitable for cooking or ornamental use
- Direct sow
- Pumpkins need a large space to grow and for fruit to develop
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 108



Pumpkin: New England Pie

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom
- 4-6 pound fruits suitable for cooking or ornamental use
- 3-4 fruits per plant
- Direct sow
- Pumpkins need a large space to grow and for fruit to develop
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 105

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Fruit & Vegetables



Radish: Cherry Belle

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom
- Mature radishes will be 1-2 inches in diameter
- Prefers cool weather: plant in early spring or fall
- Direct sow when soil can be worked: 4-6 weeks before last frost date
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 21



Radish: Daikon: Miyashige

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Intended for fall harvest / suitable for pickling and storage
- Mature radishes will be 16-18 inches long
- Direct sow in late July or August
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 50



Radish: French Breakfast

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom
- Mature radishes are about 3 inches long
- Prefers cool weather: plant in spring or fall
- Direct sow when soil can be worked: 4-6 weeks before last frost date
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 28



Rutabega: Laurentian

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Roots will be 5-6 inches when ready
- Direct sow / cool weather crop best in fall
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 95



Salsify: Mammoth Sandwich Island

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom with an oyster-like flavor
- Direct sow in mid-late spring
- Harvest in fall / flavor is best after several frosts
- Roots are 8-10 inches long
- Annual if you harvest the root, and a biennial if not harvested.
- Full sun / Days to maturity: 120

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Squash: Black Futsu

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Japanese heirloom
- 2-4 pound fruits with thin edible skin
- Flavor described as sweet, fruity, and nutty
- Start indoors 3 weeks before transplanting outdoors or direct sow
- Long vines; leave adequate space for the plant to grow
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 105



Squash: Buttercup Burgess

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

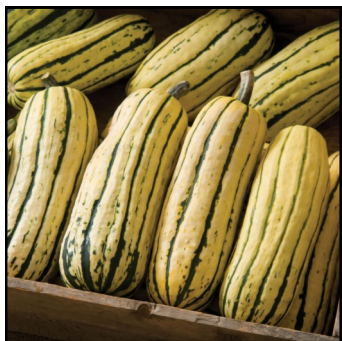
- Heirloom winter squash
- Mature squash will be 5-8 inches
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 95



Squash: Cushaw Striped

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Winter squash with a sweet, mild flavor
- 7-25 pound fruits
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 105



Squash: Delicata JS

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Winter squash with a sweet taste and tender skin
- 7-9-inch fruits
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 100



Squash: Spaghetti

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Sweet, nutty squash often used as a pasta alternative
- 3-5 pound fruits ripen from white > yellow
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 88

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Fruit & Vegetables



Squash: Waltham Butternut

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Winter squash that can be stored 2-3 months
- 4-5 pound fruits
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 105



Tomato: Amana Orange

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom
- Large fruits (16+ ounces), with a sweet, fruity, low-acid flavor
- Beefsteak & slicing tomato / Indeterminate
- Start indoors 5-6 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 78



Tomato: Black Krim

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

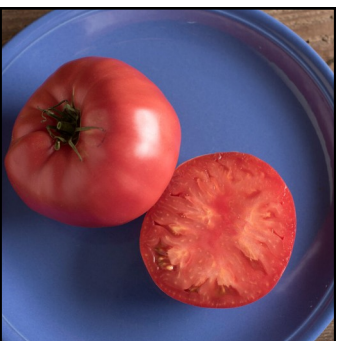
- Heirloom
- 8-16 ounce, multicolored fruits / Indeterminate
- Beefsteak & slicing tomato
- Start indoors 5-6 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 80



Tomato: Blue Beech

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom
- 8-10 ounce fruits/ Indeterminate
- Paste tomato / less susceptible to blossom end rot
- Start indoors 5-6 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 75



Tomato: Brandywine

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom
- Large fruits (16+ ounces), with a rich flavor / Indeterminate
- Beefsteak & slicing tomato
- Start indoors 5-6 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 78

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Tomato: Cherokee Purple

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom
- 10-12 ounce, multicolored fruits
- Beefsteak & slicing tomato / Indeterminate
- Start indoors 5-6 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 75



Tomato: Glacier

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom
- 1-2 ounce fruits (small) / Determinate
- Cocktail & snacking tomato
- Start indoors 5-6 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 55 (extra early)



Tomato: Matt's Wild Cherry

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

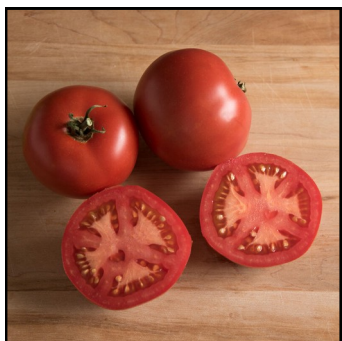
- Heirloom
- 5 gram bright-red fruits / Indeterminate
- Cherry tomato for salads and snacking
- Start indoors 5-6 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 60



Tomato: Mountain Princess

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom from Monongahela National Forest region of West Virginia
- 8-10 ounce fruits / Determinate
- Start indoors 5-6 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 68



Tomato: Nepal

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom
- 10-12 ounce fruits in late season / Indeterminate
- Start indoors 5-6 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 78

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Tomato: Pruden's Purple

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom
- Large (16+ ounce) fruits / Indeterminate
- Brandywine-type tomato; crack-resistant
- Start indoors 5-6 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 67



Tomato: Striped German

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom
- 12+ ounce bicolor yellow and red fruits / Indeterminate
- Beefsteak-type tomato
- Start indoors 5-6 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 78



Tomato: Washington Cherry

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- 1 oz fruits / Determinate
- Cherry tomato
- Start indoors 5-6 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 60



Zucchini: Costata Romanesco

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom
- Edible flowers as well as fruit
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 52

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Herbs



Basil: Genovese

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom / Classic Italian basil with a spicy, herbal flavor
- Attracts beneficial insects and pollinators if allowed to flower
- Height: 24-30 inches / White flowers are edible
- Direct sow / Good for container gardening
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 68



Basil: Sweet Thai

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- AKA horapha, hung que / widely used in Southeast Asia
- Spicy flavor with cinnamon, clove, and anise
- Height: 16-20 inches
- Direct sow / Good for container gardening
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 64



Borage

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

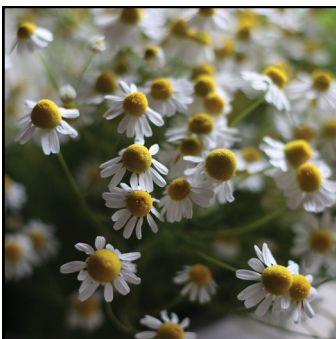
- Flowers often used as garnishes, candied, or frozen in ice cubes
- Leaves have a cucumber flavor and used in salads and teas
- Attracts bees, butterflies, beneficial insects, and pollinators
- Height: 24 inches
- Direct sow / Does well in containers
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 50



Catnip

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Attracts bees and other beneficial insects. Also cats.
- Height: 24-48 inches
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Perennial / Days to maturity: 75-85



Chamomile: German

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Often used in teas and edible flowers used as a garnish
- Height: 15-24 inches / White and yellow daisylike flowers
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 60-65

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Herbs



Chives

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Common herb with an onion flavor
- Height: 12 inches; can be divided as it grows
- Sow indoors 8 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Good for containers
- Full sun or part shade / Perennial/ Days to maturity: 75



Cilantro: Santo

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- AKA coriander (seeds) / cilantro refers to the leaves
- Used in many cuisines around the world
- Can be planted successively throughout the season
- Direct sow / Good for container gardening
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 55 for leaves & 95 for seeds



Dill: Bouquet

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Attracts butterflies and other beneficial insects
- Height: 30 inches
- Direct sow / Can be planted successively throughout the season
- Good for container gardening
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 45-55 for leaf; 95 for seed



Hyssop

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Ornamental & aromatic herb used in teas and for attracting bees
- Height: 16-24 inches
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Biennial / Days to maturity: 85-90



Lavender: Munstead

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- English lavender with flowers ranging from pale blue to purple
- Usually blooms in second year; do not expect blooms the first year
- Height: 12-18 inches
- Sow indoors 8-10 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Tender perennial / Days to maturity: 100-110

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Herbs



Lemon Balm

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Lemon-flavored herb
- Small, white flowers will attract pollinators
- Height: 18-26 inches; may need cover in winter
- Sow indoors 6-8 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Perennial / Days to maturity: 70



Lovage

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

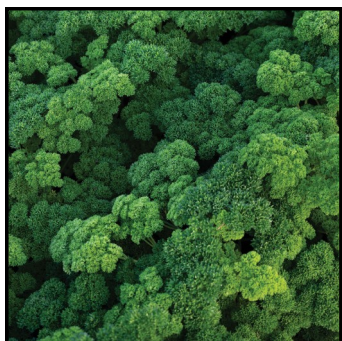
- Taste is like celery with a hint of anise
- Attracts beneficial insects if allowed to flower
- Height: 48-78 inches
- Sow indoors 6-8 weeks before transplanting outdoors / Direct sow ok
- Full sun / Perennial / Days to maturity: 90



Oregano, Greek

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Strong aroma and flavor perfect for Mediterranean dishes
- Attracts beneficial insects
- Height: 8-24 inches / grows well in containers
- Sow indoors 8-10 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Perennial / Days to maturity: 80-90



Parsley, Curled: Katinka

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Good for container gardening
- Height: 18-24 inches
- Seeds germinate in 3 weeks / Start early indoors or direct sow
- Good for container gardening
- Blooms and seeds in the second year / Leaves ready any time
- Full sun / Biennial / Days to maturity: 75



Parsley, Italian: Giant of Italy

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Flat-leaf parsley
- Height: 18-20 inches
- Direct sow / Good for container gardening
- Blooms and seeds in the second year / Leaves ready any time
- Full sun / Biennial / Days to maturity: 75

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Herbs



Savory, Summer

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Peppery herb with hints of mint and pine
- Height: 5-7 inches
- Direct sow after last frost
- Full sun / Annual / Days to maturity: 60-70

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Flowers/Ornamentals



Ageratum: Red Flint

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom AKA Floss flower, *Ageratum houstonianum*
- Attracts butterflies, moths, & pollinators
- Blooms 60-90 days after sowing
- Height: 24 inches
- Direct sow
- Full sun or partial shade / Annual / Deer & rabbit resistant



Anise Hyssop

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- AKA *Agastache foeniculum*
- Attracts butterflies, pollinators, & birds
- Blooms June-September, likely during the first year
- Height: 36 inches
- Direct sow after cold moist stratification
- Full sun or partial shade / Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant



Aster, China: Valkyrie Mix

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- AKA *Callistephus chinensis*
- Attracts beneficial insects
- Blooms 110-120 days after transplanting
- Height: 26-32 inches
- Start indoors 6-8 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual



Bachelor's Button: Florist Blue Boy

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom/naturalized wildflower AKA cornflowers; *Centaurea cyanus*
- Attracts beneficial insects / Edible flowers
- Blooms 65-75 days after sowing
- Height: 30-38 inches
- Direct sow / Prefers cooler temperatures
- Full sun / Annual / Deer resistant



Bee Balm

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Native plant AKA wild bergamot; *Monarda fistulosa*
- Attracts butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, and beneficial insects
- Blooms July-September
- Height: 48 inches
- Full sun or partial shade / Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant

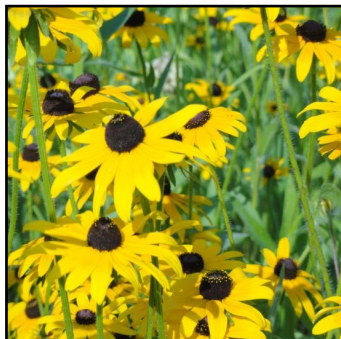
2026 HEPL Seed Library - Flowers/Ornamentals



Bellflower, American

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Native plant AKA Tall bellflower; *Campanula americana*
- Blooms June-October / Great for birds and pollinator insects
- Height: 36-60 inches / Deer & rabbit resistant
- Cold, moist stratification for 4-6 weeks prior to sowing
- Partial shade to full shade / Annual or Biennial / Self-seeding



Black-Eyed Susan

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Native plant AKA Rudbeckia; *Rudbeckia hirta*
- Blooms June-September, likely in the first year if started indoors
- Height: 18-48 inches
- Direct sow or start indoors after cold moist stratification
- Full sun/partial shade / Biennial / Deer & rabbit resistant



Blanket Flower

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Native plant AKA Common Gaillardia; *Gaillardia aristata*
- Attracts butterflies, native bees, and beneficial insects
- Flowers may not bloom first year / Blooms July-September
- Start indoors up to 8 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Height: 24-36 inches
- Full sun / Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant



Blazing Star, Marsh

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Native plant; AKA gayfeather or *liatris spicata*
- Attracts butterflies, beneficial insects, and birds
- Blooms July, August, and September, not in the first year
- Start indoors 6-8 weeks early, needs cold moist stratification
- Grows well in marshy and wooded areas / Height: up to 60 inches
- Full sun or part shade / Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant



Blue False Indigo

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Native plant AKA wild blue indigo or *Baptisia australis*
- Attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds
- Blooms May-July, likely not the first year / Height: 48 inches
- Blooms will be showier as plant becomes established
- Direct sow after cold moist stratification & scarification
- Full sun or partial shade / Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Flowers/Ornamentals



Calendula: Pacific Beauty

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

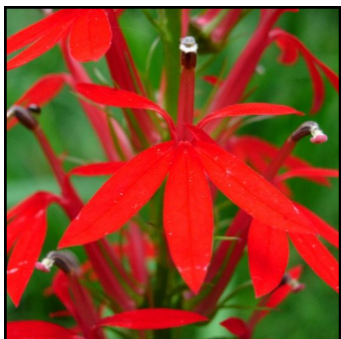
- Heirloom AKA *Calendula officinalis* / Edible flowers
- Attracts butterflies, bees, and beneficial insects.
- Blooms throughout season 60 days after sowing
- Height: 12-24 inches
- Direct sow / Good for container gardening
- Full sun to partial shade / Annual / Deer & rabbit resistant



Candytuft: Dwarf Fairy Mix

Level 1: Easy to Grow

- Heirloom AKA *Iberis umbellata*
- Attracts butterflies & pollinators
- Blooms 60-90 days after sowing
- Height: 8-10 inches
- Direct sow after cold, moist stratification
- Full sun / Annual / Deer & rabbit resistant



Cardinal Flower

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

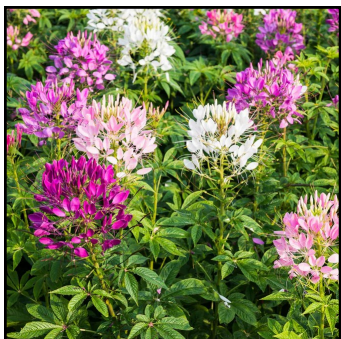
- Native plant AKA *Lobelia cardinalis*
- Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds
- Blooms July-September, likely not the first year
- Height: up to 48 inches
- Start indoors 8-10 weeks early after cold, moist stratification
- Full sun to partial shade / Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant



Celosia: Mixed Pampas Plume

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- AKA *Celosia plumosa*
- Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, and beneficial insects
- Blooms 60-90 days after sowing
- Height: 30 inches
- Start indoors 6-8 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Deer & rabbit resistant



Cleome: Mixed Colors

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- AKA *Cleome hassleriana*
- Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, and beneficial insects
- Blooms 60-90 days after sowing
- Height: 36-60 inches
- Direct sow; optional cold moist stratification helps with germination
- Full sun / Annual / Deer & rabbit resistant

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Flowers/Ornamentals



Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Native columbine variety
- Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, and beneficial insects
- Blooms April-June, likely not the first year
- Height: up to 24 inches
- Direct sow after cold, moist stratification
- Full sun, partial shade, or shade / Perennial / Deer & rabbit



Coreopsis, Lance-leaf

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Native plant AKA Lanceleaf tickseed & *Coreopsis lanceolata*
- Attracts beneficial insects, butterflies, and birds
- Blooms 60-90 days after sowing
- Height: about 18 inches
- Direct sow / Does well in most soil conditions
- Full sun to partial shade / Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant



Coreopsis, Plains

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Native plant AKA golden tickseed, calliopsis, & *Coreopsis tinctoria*
- Attracts beneficial insects, butterflies, and birds
- Blooms 60-90 days after sowing
- Height: 12-36 inches
- Direct sow / Does well in most soil conditions
- Full sun to partial shade / Annual / Deer & rabbit resistant



Corn Poppy

Level 1: Easy to Grow

- Naturalized wildflower in Indiana
- AKA Flanders poppy, red poppy, *Papaver rhoeas*
- Prefers cooler temperatures
- Blooms 55-65 days after sowing / Height: 12-24 inches
- Direct sow as soon as soil can be worked
- Full sun / Annual in Indiana / Deer & rabbit resistant



Cosmos: Bright Lights

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom AKA *Cosmos sulphureus*, sulphur cosmos, dyer's cosmos
- Attracts bees, butterflies, & beneficial insects
- Blooms 65-75 days after sowing
- Height: 40-48 inches
- Start indoors 5-7 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual / Deer resistant

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Flowers/Ornamentals



Cosmos: Sensation Mix

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom AKA Cosmos bipinnatus
- Attracts beneficial insects
- Blooms 75-90 days after sowing / Deadhead for continued blooms
- Height: 48-54 inches
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Annual / Deer resistant



Culver's Root

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- AKA Veronicastrum virginicum
- Attracts birds, butterflies, and pollinators
- Bluish-green stems turn coppery-pink in fall / Winter interest
- Height: 60 inches
- Direct sow / Moist, well-drained soil
- Full sun to partial shade/ Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant



Foxglove Beardtongue

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

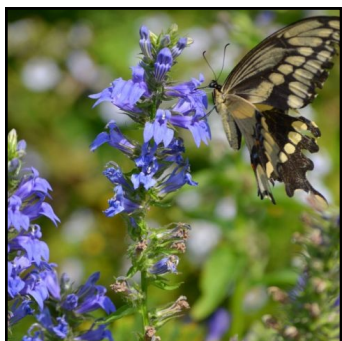
- Native plant AKA Penstemon digitalis. Not toxic.
- Attracts beneficial insects, butterflies, and hummingbirds
- Blooms June-July, likely not the first year
- Height: 48 inches
- Direct sow after cold moist stratification
- Full sun to partial shade / Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant



Grass: Little Bluestem

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Native grass used as an ornamental, AKA Schizachyrium scoparium
- Attracts birds and butterflies
- Bluish-green stems turn coppery-pink in fall / Winter interest
- Height: 24-48 inches, may get taller
- Direct sow / Tolerant of many soils, but no wetland areas
- Full sun to partial shade/ Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant



Great Blue Lobelia

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Native plant AKA Lobelia siphilitica
- Attracts beneficial insects, butterflies, & hummingbirds
- Blooms July-October, likely the first year
- Height: 36 inches / Deer & rabbit resistant
- Direct sow after cold moist stratification / Prefers moist soil
- Full sun or partial shade / Perennial (short-lived)

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Flowers/Ornamentals



Helenium

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

Native plant AKA Helenium autumnale, sneezeweed (refers to its historical use as snuff / does not produce wind-borne pollen)

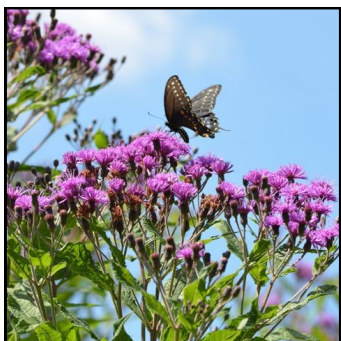
- Attracts butterflies, native bees, birds, & pollinators
- Blooms August-October, likely in the second year / Height: 48 inches
- Direct sow after cold moist stratification / Prefers moist soil
- Full & partial sun / Annual / Deer & rabbit resistant



Hollyhock: Single Mix

Level 1: More effort & equipment required!

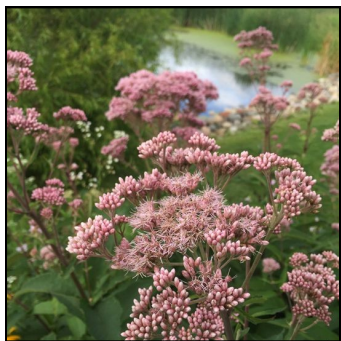
- Heirloom AKA Alcea rosea
- Blooms summer-fall, possibly in the first year
- Height: up to 60 inches / May need support
- Direct sow up to 1 week before last frost
- Full sun / Biennial or short-lived perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant



Ironweed, Common

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Native plant AKA Vernonia fasciculata
- Attracts birds, butterflies, native bees, & pollinators
- Blooms July-September, likely in the second year
- Height: up to 6 feet
- Direct sow after cold moist stratification / Prefers moist soil
- Full & partial sun / Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant



Joe Pye Weed

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Native plant AKA Eutrochium maculatum
- Attracts butterflies, bees, and beneficial insects
- Blooms July-September, likely not first year
- Height: 60 inches
- Direct sow after cold moist stratification / Prefers moist soil
- Full sun / Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant



Marigold: Lemon Gem

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- AKA Tagetes tenuifolia
- Attracts beneficial insects / Good in containers or as a cut flower
- Blooms 60 days after sowing
- Height: 12-18 inches
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Annual / Deer & rabbit resistant

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Flowers/Ornamentals



Marigold: Queen Sophia

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- AKA French Marigold; *Tagetes patula*
- Grows well in containers
- Blooms 60 days after sowing
- Height: 10-12 inches
- Full sun / Annual / Deer & rabbit resistant



Milkweed, Butterfly (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Native plant AKA Pleurisy Root
- Attracts butterflies, beneficial insects, and hummingbirds
- Blooms June-August, maybe not first year
- Height: up to 24 inches
- Direct sow / Prefers well-drained sandy soil and tolerates drought
- Full sun / Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant



Milkweed, Common (*Asclepias syriaca*)

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

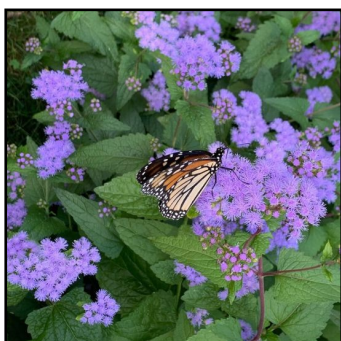
- Native plant AKA silkweed
- Attracts butterflies, bees, and beneficial insects
- Blooms June-September / may not bloom the first year
- Height: 36 inches
- Direct sow in early spring or fall / Requires cold moist stratification
- Full sun or partial shade / Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant



Milkweed, Rose (*Asclepias incarnata*)

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Native plant AKA Swamp Milkweed, Red Milkweed, Marsh Milkweed
- Attracts butterflies, bees, and beneficial insects
- Blooms June-August / Height: 48 inches
- Prefers moist soils
- Direct sow in fall or in spring after cold moist stratification
- Full sun or partial shade / Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant



Mistflower

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Native Plant AKA *Conoclinium coelestinum*
- Attracts butterflies
- Blooms September-October, likely not the first year
- Direct sow after cold moist stratification
- Height: 24 inches
- Full sun / Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Flowers/Ornamentals



Mountain Mint

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Native plant AKA *Pycnanthemum virginianum*
- Attracts birds, bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects
- Blooms June-September, may not bloom the first year
- Height: 36 inches / Leaves are edible
- Direct sow / Does well in moist conditions
- Full sun or partial shade / Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant



Nasturtium: Empress of India

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom AKA *Tropaeolum minus*
- Attracts beneficial insects / Flowers and leaves are edible
- Blooms 55-65 days after sowing
- Height: 16-20 inches / Good for containers
- Direct sow with seed preparation / Does well in most soil conditions
- Full sun to partial shade / Annual / Deer & rabbit resistant



Nigella

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom AKA Love-in-a-Mist and *Nigella damascena*
- Attracts beneficial insects
- Blooms 65-70 days after sowing
- Direct sow when soil warms to 60°F
- Height: 12-24 inches
- Full sun / Annual / Deer & rabbit resistant



Paper Flower

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom AKA *xeranthemum annuum* and *immortelle*
- Flowers can be dried
- Blooms 80-90 days after transplanting
- Start indoors 5-8 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Height: 18-24 inches
- Full sun / Annual



Purple Coneflower

Level 1: More effort & equipment required!

- Native plant AKA *Echinacea purpurea*
- Attracts beneficial insects
- Blooms midsummer-fall, not the first year
- Direct Sow
- Height: 48 inches
- Full sun or partial shade / Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Flowers/Ornamentals



Purple Prairie Clover

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

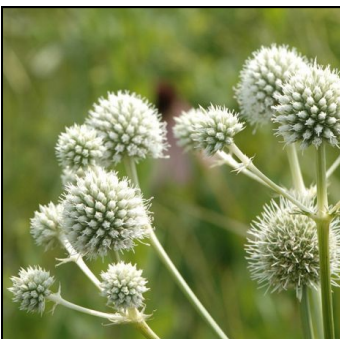
- Native plant AKA *Dalea purpurea*
- Attracts bees, butterflies, pollinators, and other beneficial insects
- Blooms July and August, perhaps the first year
- Direct sow
- Height: 24 inches
- Full sun to partial shade / Perennial



Purpletop Vervain

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- AKA *Verbena bonariensis*, Purpletop verbena, tall verbena
- Attracts beneficial insects
- Start indoors 8-12 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Height: 36-48 inches
- Full sun / Tender perennial / Blooms July-September



Rattlesnake Master

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

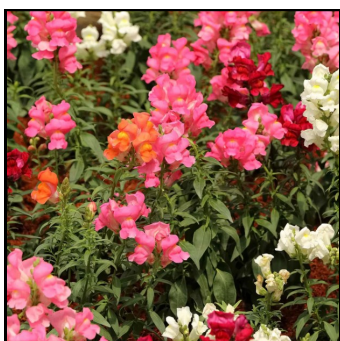
- Native plant AKA *Eryngium yuccifolium*
- Attracts beneficial insects / Deer and rabbit resistant
- Blooms July-September, likely not the first year
- Direct sow after cold moist stratification or plant in late fall
- Height: 48 inches
- Full sun / Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant



Rose Mallow

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Native, hardy hibiscus AKA *Hibiscus laevis*
- Attracts beneficial insects, butterflies, and birds
- Blooms July-August in the second or third year
- Height: 60 inches / prefers wet or medium-wet soil
- Direct sow after cold, moist stratification
- Full sun or partial shade / Perennial / Deer & rabbit resistant



Snapdragon: Magic Carpet Mix

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom AKA *Antirrhinum majus*
- Excellent cut and container flower
- Blooms 75-80 days after transplanting
- Height: up to 8 inches / dwarf variety / Deer & rabbit resistant
- Start indoors 10-12 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full sun / Annual

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Flowers/Ornamentals



Snapdragon: Tetra Mix

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Heirloom AKA Antirrhinum majus
- Excellent cut and container flower
- Blooms 75-80 days after transplanting
- Height: 28 inches
- Start indoors 10-12 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Full Sun / Annual



Spiderwort, Ohio

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Native plant AKA Tradescantia ohioensis
- Attracts butterflies & beneficial insects, especially native bees
- Blooms May-July, likely not the first year / Deer resistant
- Height: 3 feet
- Direct sow after cold, moist stratification, best planted in fall
- Full to partial sun / Perennial



Sunflower: Lemon Queen

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- AKA Helianthus annuus
- Blooms are 5-7 inches wide / Height: up to 70 inches
- Blooms 80-100 days after sowing
- Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, and pollinators
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Annual



Sunflower: Sunspot

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- AKA Helianthus annuus / dwarf variety
- Blooms are up to 10 inches wide / Height: 18-24 inches
- Blooms 85-95 days after sowing
- Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, and pollinators
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Annual



Sunflower: Teddy Bear

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- AKA Helianthus annuus / compact variety
- Blooms are 3-5 inches wide
- Height: 8-12 inches in containers / 35-42 inches in ground
- Blooms 80-100 days after sowing
- Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, and pollinators
- Direct sow / Full sun / Annual

2026 HEPL Seed Library - Flowers/Ornamentals



Sunflower: Velvet Queen

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- AKA *Helianthus annuus*
- Blooms are 5-6 inches wide / Height: 60 inches
- Blooms about 100 days after sowing
- Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, and pollinators
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Annual



Swamp Marigold

Level 2: More effort & equipment required!

- Native plant AKA *Bidens aristosa*
- Despite its name, it is related to sunflowers, not marigolds
- Blooms 85-95 days after sowing
- Height: 48 inches / Prefers wet/medium-wet soil
- Direct sow after cold, moist stratification
- Full sun or partial shade / Annual



Tithonia

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- AKA *Tithonia rotundifolia* & Mexican Sunflower
- Attracts butterflies, bees, and beneficial insects
- Blooms 85-90 days after sowing
- Height: 60-72 inches
- Direct sow / Needs dry soil
- Full sun / Annual



Zinnia: Giant Dahlia-flowered Mix

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom AKA *Zinnia elegans*
- Blooms 90-100 days after sowing
- Height: 30-40 inches
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Annual / Deer & rabbit resistant



Zinnia: Sprite Mix

Level 1: Easy to Grow!

- Heirloom AKA *Zinnia elegans*
- Height: 18-20 inches
- Blooms about 100 days after sowing
- Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, and pollinators
- Direct sow
- Full sun / Annual / Deer & rabbit resistant