



Perennial Flowers

Prairie Bloom

A collection of perennial flowers tested by K-State for the prairie climate

Prairie Bloom perennial flowers are varieties best adapted to the challenging prairie climate. Planting varieties in the Prairie Bloom collection is the best way to assure the eye-catching appearance gardeners hope for. The list contains perennial flower varieties that have exhibited superior performance for three to five years or more in K-State bedding-plant research trials. The Prairie Bloom collection consists of high-performance perennial flowers of great vigor and spectacular bloom. Prairie Bloom perennials are the best of the best—flowers that grow and bloom like crazy with minimal care.

Flowering plant research is headquartered at the Horticulture Research and Extension Center in Olathe with other flower trial sites in Wichita, Hays, and Colby. Research trial sites encompass two USDA cold hardiness zones (5, 6) and two American Horticulture Society heat-tolerance zones (7, 8). All varieties on the list grow well across the state, east to west and north to south.

Plants are rated for vigor—how fast and how strong they grow and how much substance they have. They are also rated on floriferousness, or total overall visual impact of the flower display. The number of flowers, size of flowers and how flowers are borne on the plant are important. Flowers that hang down with backs showing are not as pretty as those presented in profile. Ideally, flowers should tilt up and invite viewing.

Both vigor and floriferousness are rated on a scale of 1 to 7 with 1 being almost dead or no flowers, 4 being acceptable, and 7 excellent. All plants on the list have scored a 6 or higher for both vigor and floriferousness combined, at all trial sites. Plant height and width are of a mature plant measured in mid-August.

Flowering plant varieties in the research trials are submitted by or collected from plant breeders and distributors from around the world. All varieties on the list are available from retail garden centers or mail-order plant companies. The list contains many varieties. No greenhouse, garden center or nursery is likely to carry them all. The Prairie Bloom list is not a commercial brand or product line. Gardeners will need to look for the specific variety on the list, i.e. not the generic daisy but the specific daisy variety ‘Becky’. Not all daisies have great vigor and floriferousness when planted in Kansas soils and prairie climate. The specific varieties on the list are truly superior. Plants at the garden center may or may not be labeled Prairie Bloom, so take the list to shop for specific varieties.

Perennial flowering plants on the Prairie Bloom list have been tested by K-State and been found to grow well in Kansas soils and transitional prairie climate. Some excellent plants that grow well are not included because they have not been tested. As more perennial flower trials are completed, more plants will be added to the Prairie Bloom collection.

The current Prairie Bloom perennial list and color pictures of each flower can be found at www.prairiestarflowers.com. The Web site also contains the Prairie Star list of K-State-tested annual flowers.

Common Name	Cultivar	Flower Color	Sun	Height	Width	Week of First Bloom
Aster	Hella Lacy	Blue	Sun	36	24	36
Aster	September Ruby	Red	Sun	18	11	37
Aster	Professor Kippenburg	Blue	Sun	15	16	37
Aster	Wood's Blue	Blue	Sun	20	17	37
Aster	Sapphire Blue	Blue	Sun	16	30	37
Aster	Wood's Pink	Pink	Sun	21	19	38
Aster	Raydon's Favorite	Blue	Sun	33	28	38
Beebalm	Marshall's Delight	Purple	Sun	28	17	22-32
Beebalm	Croftway Pink	Pink	Sun	26	16	23-30
Beebalm	Violet Queen	Violet	Sun	24	16	23-30
Bellflower	Kent Belle	Purple	Sun	28	18	24

Common Name	Cultivar	Flower Color	Sun	Height	Width	Week of First Bloom
Black-Eyed Susan	Goldstrum	Gold	Sun	20	16	26-37
Blanket Flower	Goblin	Red-Yellow	Sun	10	12	25
Bontonia Aster	Pink Beauty	Pink	Sun	32	32	33
Bontonia Aster	Snowbank	White	Sun	40	33	37
Carnation	King of the Blacks	Black	Sun	18	13	21
Carnation	Little Jock	Pink	Sun	5	8	23
Catnip	Blue Wonder	Blue	Sun	12	15	22
Cheddar Pinks	Bath's Pink	Pink	Sun	6	8	21
Cheddar Pinks	Firewitch	Purple	Sun	6	8	21-39
Coneflower	Magnus'	Pink	Sun	32	19	28
Coral Bells	Jade Gloss	White-Pink	Shade	12	14	18
Coral Bells	City Lights	Yellow	Shade	18	19	21
Coral Bells	Raspberry Ice	Raspberry	Shade	15	16	24
Coral Bells	Stormy Seas	Pink	Shade	18	17	17-29
Daylily	Happy Returns	Yellow	Sun	18	16	25-36
Daylily	Stella de Oro	Gold	Sun	18	18	25-36
Garden Phlox	David	White	Sun	36	20	26
Garden Phlox	Laura	Pink	Sun	34	20	26
Garden Phlox	Robert Poore	Red	Sun	42	24	27
Globe Thistle	Blue Glow	Steel Blue	Sun	34	18	30
Hardy Ice Plant	Pink	Pink	Sun	6	12	13-39
Hen and Chicks	Carmen	White	Sun	5	7	21
Lamb's Ear	Cotton Ball	Lavender	Sun	6	12	25
Lavender	Dilly Dily	Lavender	Sun	15	20	26
Lavender	Provence	Lavender	Sun	21	20	26
Lavender	Twickle Purple	Purple	Sun	18	20	26
Meadow Sage	May Night	Blue	Sun	16	16	20
Meadow Sage	Amethyst	Purple	Sun	18	17	21
Meadow Sage	Viola Klose	Blue	Sun	15	15	22
Meadow Sage	Blue Hill	Blue	Sun	16	16	23
Meadow Sage	Plumosa	Blue	Sun	14	16	23
Mexican Hat	Red	Red	Sun	28	18	25
Mullein	Violetta	Violet	Sun	40	25	25
Mullein	Yellow	Yellow	Sun	44	28	25
Oriental Poppy	Brilliant	Orange	Sun	21	16	21
Ornamental Grass	Overdam	Tan	Sun	16	26	26
Ornamental Grass	Elliotti – Wind Dancer	Tan	Sun	40	30	26
Ornamental Grass	Karl Forester	Tan	Sun	40	20	27
Peony	Sarah Bernhardt	Pink	Sun	37	38	18
Peony	Karl Rosenfield	Red	Sun	35	34	19
Peony	Duchesse de Orleans	Pink	Sun	34	35	19
Peony	Shawnee Chief	Red	Sun	34	34	20
Peony	Festiva Maxima	White with Red Flecks	Sun	34	35	20
Perennial Hibiscus	Anne Arundel	Pink	Sun	58	56	24
Perennial Hibiscus	Candy Stripe	White with Red Veins	Sun	54	56	24
Perennial Hibiscus	Fireball	Red	Sun	54	58	24
Perennial Hibiscus	Pink Champagne	Pink	Sun	62	56	24
Perennial Hibiscus	Sweet Caroline	Pink with Dark Red Eye	Sun	64	60	24
Perennial Hibiscus	Lady Baltimore	Pink	Sun	59	54	25
Perennial Hibiscus	Lasiocarpus	White/Pink	Sun	74	64	25
Perennial Hibiscus	Pink Cloud	Pink	Sun	56	60	25

Common Name	Cultivar	Flower Color	Sun	Height	Width	Week of First Bloom
Pinks	Oakington	Pink	Sun	5	8	18
Pinks	Kinsey Blue	Blue	Sun	8	10	20
Pinks	Pink	Pink	Sun	11	9	21
Plantain Lily	Krossa Regal	Lavender	Shade	28	32	22
Plantain Lily	Gold Drop	White	Shade	7	12	24
Plantain Lily	Parky's Prize	Lavender	Shade	18	28	24
Plantain Lily	Lemon Lime	Lavender	Shade	12	18	25
Plantain Lily	Samuel Blue	Blue	Shade	18	20	25
Plantain Lily	Golden Tiara	Purple	Shade	15	24	25
Plantain Lily	Pacific Blue Edger	Blue	Shade	12	26	25
Plantain Lily	Halcyon	Blue-Lavender	Shade	18	35	25
Plantain Lily	Striptease	Violet	Shade	20	30	26
Plantain Lily	Sun and Substance	Lavender	Shade	30	52	26
Poppy Mallow	Wine-Purple	Purple	Sun	8	26	21
Russian Sage	Filagrin	Blue	Sun	38	24	26-32
Russian Sage	Longin	Blue	Sun	39	24	26-32
Sea Holly	Sapphire Blue	Blue	Sun	25	18	26
Sea Pink	Joy Stick Red	Red	Sun	6	5	18
Sea Pink	Rubra	Pink	Sun	18	8	19
Shasta Daisy	Becky	White	Sun	34	16	23-39
Shasta Daisy	Thomas Killen	White	Sun	30	16	24-34
Sheffield Mum	Hillside Pink	Pink	Sun	28	18	35-41
Spotted Dead Nettle	Orchid Frost	Orchid	Shade	5	16	17-39
Spurge	Niciana	Yellow	Sun	10	9	19
Spurge	Fens Ruby	Yellow	Sun	8	12	25
Tall Sedum	Autumn Fire	Red	Sun	18	15	35
Tickseed	Baby Sun	Yellow	Sun	16	13	22
Tickseed	Little Red Hen	Red	Sun	16	18	22
Tickseed	Sterntaler	Yellow	Sun	20	18	22
Tickseed	Sunburst	Yellow	Sun	15	20	22
Tickseed	Early Sunrise	Yellow	Sun	16	14	24
Wandflower	Karalee Petite Pink	Pink	Sun	18	15	22-35
Wandflower	Karalee White	White	Sun	19	15	22-35
Wandflower	Stratosphere Pink Picotee	Pink	Sun	19	16	22-35
Wormwood	Silver King	White	Sun	30	31	23
Wormwood	Silver Mound	White	Sun	10	24	33
Yarrow	Moonshine	Yellow	Sun	22	17	23
Yarrow	Terra Cotta	Orange	Sun	27	20	23
Yarrow	Schwellenberg	Yellow	Sun	19	21	23
Yarrow	Coronation Gold	Gold	Sun	24	22	23

Author

Alan Stevens, horticulturist

Brand names appearing in this publication are for product identification purposes only. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

Publications from Kansas State University are available on the World Wide Web at: www.oznet.ksu.edu
Contents of this publication may be freely reproduced for educational purposes. All other rights reserved. Credit Alan Stevens,
Prairie Bloom Perennial Flowers, MF-2772, Kansas State University, April 2007.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

MF-2772

April 2007

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, as amended. Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating, Fred A. Cholick, Director.