

REDUCING PESTICIDES

it's perfectly natural.



PEST AND DISEASE RESISTANT PLANTS

An excellent strategy in planning your organic flower garden is to choose plants which are disease and pest resistant and to ensure they are planted in suitable conditions. Healthy plants eliminate the need for chemical intervention and reduce maintenance. Native plants are often a good choice as they have adapted to our growing conditions and tend to be trouble free. They also provide habitat for insects, birds and butterflies. Ornamental grasses are another good choice since most have excellent pest and disease resistance.

Here are some suggestions for plants which are considered pest and disease resistant. Light and moisture requirements have been indicated to help you choose plants according to the conditions in your garden.

The plants are listed by their Latin names, which are consistent between nurseries. Common names, where available, are also listed. One or two cultivars have been listed for many of the choices, other cultivars would also be appropriate. Plants that will thrive in dry shade are marked “DS”, those that thrive in moist conditions are marked “M” and deer and rabbit resistant plants are marked “D” and “R”, respectively. Native plants are marked “N”.

Spring blooming perennials for sun

Latin Name	Common Name	Cultivars	Conditions
<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>	Rock Cress	‘Royal Blue’; ‘Royal Violet’	
<i>Aurinia saxatalis</i>	Basket of Gold	‘Citrina’; ‘Gold Ball’	D
<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>	Heartleaf Bergenia		R
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	Candytuft	‘Little Gem’; ‘Snowflake’	

Long blooming summer perennials for sun

Latin Name	Common Name	Cultivars	Conditions
<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i>	Marguerite Daisy	‘Sauce Hollandaise’	
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Weed		D; M; & N
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	Threadleaf Tickseed	‘Moonbeam’	D
<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i>	Butterfly Gaura	‘Whirling Butterflies’	
<i>Hemerocallis</i>	Daylily	‘Happy Returns’; ‘Stella d’Oro’	
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	Lavender	‘Munstead’	R
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Blazing Star	‘Kobold’	N
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal flower		M & N
<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	Russian Sage		R
<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Garden Phlox	‘David’; ‘Delta Snow’; ‘Norah Leigh’ (mildew resistant cultivars)	
<i>Platycodon grandiflorus</i>	Balloon Flower		
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	Ironweed		M & N



This fact sheet has been prepared by the Toronto Master Gardeners



Fall blooming perennials for Sun

Latin Name	Common Name	Cultivars	Conditions
<i>Chelone obliqua</i>	Pink Turtlehead	Also: <i>C. glabra</i> , which is white	D; M; & N
<i>Cimicifuga simplex</i>	Snakeroot	'Hillside Black Beauty'	D
<i>Nipponanthemum nipponicum</i>	Nippon Daisy		
<i>Sedum spectabile</i>		'Autumn Joy'; 'Matrona'	R
<i>Tricyrtis hirta</i>	Toad Lily	'Lightning Strike'; 'Tojen'	

Perennials for shady borders

Many of these plants have a very long bloom period or attractive foliage which can enhance the beauty of your garden for many months.

Latin Name	Common Name	Cultivars	Conditions
<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Maidenhair Fern		
<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	Lady's Mantle		DS
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-pulpit		N
<i>Athyrium niponicum</i> var. <i>pictum</i>	Japanese Painted Fern	'Wildwood Twist'	
<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>	Siberian Bugloss	'Variegata'; 'Jack Frost'	
<i>Corydalis lutea</i>	Yellow Corydalis		
<i>Epimedium x versicolor</i>	Barrenwort; Bishop's Hat	'Lilafee'; 'Sulphureum'	DS
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted Deadnettle	'Beedham's White'; 'Pink Pewter'	DS
<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	Japanese Spurge	'Green Sheen'	DS
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	Mayapple		N
<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>	Solomon's Seal	'Variegatum'	N
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Foamflower		DS; N
<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	Merrybells		N
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Periwinkle		DS
<i>Waldsteinia ternata</i>	Barren Strawberry		

Although many **hostas** are prone to slug damage, newer cultivars with thicker, waxier leaves have good slug resistance. These include: June, Halcyon, Aspen Gold, Northern Halo, Royal Splendour, among others.

Roses

In recent years, hardy roses with good disease resistance have become available. Some of the best are the hardy shrub roses, especially the Canadian Explorer series. Any of the *Rosa rugosa* cultivars are also good choices, including "Blance Double de Coubert". Many of the David Austen English roses, including Othello, are also excellent alternatives.

There are many wise plant choices you can make to ensure a healthy vibrant organic garden. One of the best ways to identify good choices is to visit gardens and displays in the late summer and note which plants show little damage from pests and diseases. Then you just need to be sure that you match the pest and disease resistant plants with their appropriate growing conditions for a relatively carefree organic garden.