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Is It Too Late To Purchase Perennials?

Bill Varga

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A weekly question/answer column

Is It Too Late To Purchase Perennials?

Bill Varga answers:*

Now is a good time to purchase perennials since many garden centers are selling their stock at bargain prices. If the plants are a little leggy, they can be cut back to encourage branching. However, avoid buying plants that are wilted.

Consider purchasing some of these perennials that bloom into the fall for late season color.

- **Chrysanthemum x morifolium (Cushion or Hardy Garden Mums)** - These perennials give a showy burst of color in mid- to late-autumn when little else is blooming.
- **Heliopsis (Daisy family False Sunflower)** - The flowers may be single or semi-double and bloom from early July until frost.
- **Helianthus decapetalus (Sunflowers)** - Unlike many other sunflowers, the foliage usually stays attractive all season and can reach four to five feet high.
- **Aster novaeangliae (Michaelmas Daisy) or novibelgii** - Both are noted for their reliability and long blooming season.
- **Hibiscus moscheutos (Rose Mallow)** - The flowers are red, pink or white and can be up to 12 inches across. They bloom from mid July until frost.
- **Rudbeckia echinacea (Purple Cone Flower)** - These bloom from midsummer to late fall.
- **Sedum spectabile (Showy Stonecrop)** - The flowers can be pink, rose or white and will turn to bronze as they mature. They will flower until frost hits.
- **Coreopsis lanceolata** - These flowers will bloom continuously until frost if deadheaded consistently.
- **Plumbago larpentae (Leadwort)** - This groundcover produces small blue flowers from midsummer to early autumn.

* Bill Varga is Utah State University Extension Horticulturist