

2002

How Can I Put Color In My Garden This Time Of Year?

Bill Varga

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Recommended Citation

Varga, Bill, "How Can I Put Color In My Garden This Time Of Year?" (2002). *All Archived Publications*. Paper 363.
http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/extension_histall/363

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A weekly question/answer column

How Can I Put Color In My Garden This Time Of Year?

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 will 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 4 to 5 feet high.
- **Aster novae-angliae (Michaelmas Daisy) or novi-belgii** 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