

TOP PLANT PICKS | SEPTEMBER 2023

Bear's Breeches (*Acanthus mollis* 'Summer Beauty')



Bloom Time: July–September

Sun Requirement: Full sun to part shade

Water Requirement: Medium

Wildlife: Attracts bumblebees

Tolerates: Rabbits

Native to North America: No

Other: This clump-forming perennial features both attractive foliage and architecturally bold flower spikes. It has dark, spiny, glossy leaves and produces creamy white snapdragon-like flowers. This species can be an aggressive grower, so gardeners should keep an eye on its spreading habits.

Zones: 6–10

Location: [Sigourney Cheek Literary Garden](#)

Neil Diamond Rose (*Rosa* 'Neil Diamond')



Bloom Time: May–September

Sun Requirement: Full sun

Water Requirement: Medium

Wildlife: Attracts butterflies

Tolerates: Tolerates a wide array of soil types

Native to North America: No

Other: Strongly fragrant, this showy hybrid tea rose will be the star of your garden with full, deep pink flowers adorned with white speckles and stripes. They bloom in flushes from spring to fall.

Zones: 5–9

Location: [Rose Garden](#)

Hyperion Daylily (*Heemerocallis* 'Hyperion')



Bloom Time: July–September

Sun Requirement: Full to part sun

Water Requirement: Medium

Wildlife: Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds

Tolerates: Drought and rabbit tolerant

Native to North America: No

Other: This radiant midseason daylily produces an abundance of canary-yellow flowers that are sweetly fragrant. Daylilies are extremely adaptable perennials that are easy to grow, perfect for a low-maintenance garden or border.

Zones: 3–9

Location: [Bracken Foundation Children's Garden](#)

Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)



Bloom Time: July–September

Sun Requirement: Full sun to part shade

Water Requirement: Medium to high

Wildlife: Attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds

Tolerates: Deer, heavy shade, wet soil

Native to North America: Yes

Other: This colony-forming perennial grows deep blue-violet flowers on spikes. It is quite an architectural plant that adds vertical interest to the landscape and is extremely hardy and low maintenance.

Zones: 4–9

Location: [Howe Garden](#)

Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*)



Bloom Time: August–October

Sun Requirement: Full sun

Water Requirement: Medium

Wildlife: Attracts butterflies

Tolerates: Deer, clay, and wet soil

Native to North America: Yes

Other: In the late summer and fall, Sneezeweed is crowned by an abundance of golden daisy-like flowers. This is a good choice for a pollinator garden or perennial border.

Zones: 3–8

Location: [Wills Perennial Garden](#)

Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)



Bloom Time: June–September

Sun Requirement: Full sun

Water Requirement: Medium

Wildlife: Attracts butterflies

Tolerates: Deer

Native to North America: No

Other: Fennel grows three to five feet tall and features feathery, aromatic yellow-green leaves and tiny yellow flowers in clusters.

Fennel is a larval plant for certain swallowtail butterflies, making it a good choice for a pollinator garden.

Zones: 4–9

Location: [Wills Perennial Garden](#)

Threadleaf Ironweed (*Vernonia lettermanii* ‘Iron Butterfly’)



Bloom Time: July–September

Sun Requirement: Full sun

Water Requirement: Low to medium

Wildlife: Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds

Tolerates: Drought, erosion, shallow rocky soil

Native to North America: Yes

Other: This ironweed has narrow fine-textured foliage and makes for a dramatic accent for a garden. In late summer, it is covered by small clusters of royal purple flowers.

Zones: 4–9

Location: [Howe Garden](#)

Baby Lace Hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata* ‘Piihp-1 Baby Lace’)



Bloom Time: July–September

Sun Requirement: Full to part sun

Water Requirement: Medium

Wildlife: Attracts bees

Tolerates: Very winter hardy

Native to North America: No

Other: This attractive dwarf shrub has petite lacy white blooms that stand out against dark green foliage. This hydrangea makes a nice specimen, accent or hedge plant and provides late summer bloom when few other shrubs are in flower.

Zones: 4–8

Location: [Dogwood Garden](#)