







EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Currituck County

Your Key to Plant Purchase Success!







NATIVE PLANT



CATERPHILAR HOST PLANT



Full Sun (6-8 Hours)

PART SUN/SHADE (4-6 Hours)



SHADE >2 Hours)

ANGELONIA

"Archangel"



DESCRIPTION

Angelonia is a vigorous, herbaceous flowering perennial shrub in the Plantaginaceae family and native to Mexico and the West Indies. It is an upright, glabrous, somewhat bushy, tropical that sprawls, but does not need staking. Angelonia is noted for its long summer bloom of small, two-lipped, snapdragon-like flowers and it does not need deadheading. This plant was formerly in the Scrophulariaceae family. The genus name comes from the Latinized version of the South American vernacular name of one of the species of these perennial herbs and sub-shrubs.

Angelonia prefers moist, fertile soils with good drainage in full sun. The plant has some drought tolerance and good tolerance for summer heat and humidity. Space plants 9 to 12 inches apart in the ground. Plants typically grow 12 to 18 inches tall. Plants grown in containers may be difficult to overwinter indoors and many backyard gardeners will treat the plant as an annual and obtain new plants each spring. Cultivars are available in white, blue, and light pink..

Hardiness Zone:	9a-11b. Grown as an annual in regions that frost.
Bloom Season:	Fall & Summer
Growth Habit:	Height: 1 ft. 0 in 1 ft. 6 in.Width: 0 ft. 8 in 1 ft. 0 in. Medium growth. Erect. This plant has 3/4 inch blooms with 5 petals on 8 inch long spikes from June into September. The flower is deep mauve, pink, blue, white, purple or bi-colors. The two-lipped flowers are reminiscent of a snapdragon, hence the common name.
Soil Preference:	Moist, fertile, well-draining
Light Preference:	Full sun



CALIBRACHOA

"Bumble Bee"

DESCRIPTION

You cannot find a more perfect hanging basket plant with eye popping color! Calibrachoa is a dazzling prolific bloomer and can be used in containers and as a ground cover. This plant has a trailing habit and is smothered with petite blooms all summer long. Looking like miniature petunias, these tender perennials come in a variety of colors.

Fertilizing is key for flowering because they bloom all summer and need the energy and strength to continue. Provide a slow or controlled release fertilizer when you first plant the Calibrachoa.

Its flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds. It is also a fast grower and quickly reaches toward the ground as a "spiller" when grown as a container plant. Because of its trailing habit, it looks great in hanging baskets, bowls, or mixed containers. It also works well planted in-ground as a border plant.

Hardiness Zone:	7-11 (tender perennial, grown as annual)
Bloom Season:	Fall, Spring & Summer
Growth Habit:	Height: 0 ft. 3 in 0 ft. 9 in. Width: 0 ft. 6 in 2 ft. 0 in. Mounding, Prostrate. Prolific flowers, produces hundreds of 1" flowers from late spring to first frost. Long bloom season.
Soil Preference:	High Organic Matter, Loam (Silt), Good Drainage, Moist.
Light Preference:	Full sun to Part shade



COLEUS

Red Head, Limewire, Flamethrower Chili Pepper & Dragon Heart

DESCRIPTION

Planted outdoors in early spring, coleus quickly spreads and grows to full size in a single season. Large swaths of assorted coleus plantings in a landscape or garden bed take on a quilt-like appearance and vividly colored foliage adds a decorative touch to window boxes, outdoor container gardens, and hanging baskets. Since coleus is usually grown as an annual, these plants only live a year outdoors, but indoors the plant can last several seasons. Coleus is toxic to pets.¹

For full, bushy plants, pinch out the growing tips when the plants are about 6 inches tall. Pinch under the flower buds if you want the plant to spend its energy on leaves and not flowers and seeds. Plants that are not pruned tend to get leggy and lose their shape and dense foliage.

Hardiness Zone:	10-11. Annual not intended to overwinter.
Bloom Season:	Fall & Summer
Growth Habit:	Height: 0 ft. 6 in 3 ft. 0 in. Width: 0 ft. 6 in 3 ft. 0 in. Showy leaves. Leaves are ovate to oblong toothed and frequently feature a mixture of colors and patterns including red, burgundy, and pink. This plant is grown for its multi-colored foliage. This plant has opposite, simple leaves on 4-angled stems. They are often blotched with various colors and patterns. Flowers are small, blue-violet, in slender, terminal clusters, and irregularly shaped. Blue-white two lipped nettle-like flowers appear in racemes, early summer to fall but are not showy and can distract from the leaves. The flowers are insignificant. The calyx of the flower is persistent and resembles a saucer hence the Latin name "scutella."
Soil Preference:	Consistently moist, rich, loose, well-draining soil.
Light Preference:	Full sun to Deep Shade



GERANIUM



"Galaxy Salmon"

DESCRIPTION

Geranium is a short-lived perennial that is tufted and grows up to 2' long. Leaves are simple or divided and are variously colored. This plant has a low drought tolerance. This plant is a summer bloomer and lasts until frost. Wet leaves have a strong unpleasant fishy odor. Geranium is a complex group of hybrids, but easily recognized in beds by the umbels and reniform leaves with large stipules. This plant has numerous cultivars and is utilized in hanging baskets, planters, containers, and bedding. This plant prefers the full sun and cool, moist soils that are well-drained. Seeds should be sown in January-February at 70-75 degrees and planted out in late May. Stem cuttings are taken in July-August and grown under glass until frost danger has passed.

Use this plant as a houseplant or interiorscape or in the landscape grow in a container, in a flower or bedding garden as herbaceous annual.

Hardiness Zone:	9-11
Bloom Season:	Fall & Spring
Growth Habit:	Annual. Mounded. Erect. Flowers are single, semidouble to double, uniform in color of red, pink, or salmon, and occasionally peppermint. Flowers have 5 petals and appear subrotate. Inflorescence is an erect umbel on a long peduncle with involucral bracts hidden.
Soil Preference:	Loose soil with high organic matter. Moist, well-draining.
Light Preference:	Full sun



LANTANA

"Sunrise Rose"

DESCRIPTION



Lantana is known for its rounded clusters of small, brightly colored flowers that may be yellow, orange, white, red, pink, blue, or purple. Often the almost fluorescent colors are mixed within the same cluster, creating a bicolored effect. Lantana's colorful blooms make good specimen plants. They are also used as border shrubs and as ground cover in areas with full sunshine in warm climates. The plants tolerate salt spray very well, making them popular in yards located near the ocean.

The flower's nectar attracts several species of butterflies including the spicebush swallowtail.

Hardiness Zone:	7-11 tender perennial. Grown as an annual in regions that frost.
Bloom Season:	Fall & Summer
Growth Habit:	Height: 1 ft. 0 in 6 ft. 0 in. Width: 3 ft. 0 in 5 ft. 0 in. Rapid growth. Arching, Erect, Prostrate, Rounded. 1 - 2 in. spherical clusters of tubular white, red, pink, or yellow flowers, with five lobes in a flat-topped cluster on a long stalk.
Soil Preference:	Clay, High Organic Matter, Loam (Silt), Sand. Moist & well-draining. Neutral acidity.
Light Preference:	Full sun



PERSIAN SHIELD

DESCRIPTION

Persian Shield is noted for and grown for its showy foliage. Its silvery iridescent sheen can coat the foliage, creating a metallic look. It's a soft-stemmed, tropical, evergreen shrub or sub-shrub. The leaves are a variegated dark green deep pink or purple blotching with silvery-purple iridescence and dark purple on the underside. It can be grown as a perennial in warmer climate zones, 8b and warmer. In other zones, it can be planted as an annual. It is not an evergreen in locations that experience frost.

Cool temperatures and low lighting conditions can reduce the color of the foliage, giving the plat a sort of washed out appearance. As the plant ages, it can also lose its brilliant coloring. It grows best when planted in a rich soil and located in an area that receives bright light with no direct sunlight. To promote a more bushy appearance, pinch back the stems.

Although a flowering plant, it is not grown for the flowers. The tiny flowers will bloom in the winter months when grown as a houseplant or outdoors in zones 10 and 11. It makes an excellent container plant, however, over time, it will need to be repotted into a larger container. A larger container will also encourage larger growth. A 3 gallon (11.36 liters) container would be a good choice. Ensure that the container has good drainage.

Hardiness Zone:	8b-11b.
Bloom Season:	Spring & Winter
Growth Habit:	Rapid growth. Clumping, Mounded, Rounded. Height: 3 ft. 0 in 4 ft. 0 in. Width: 2 ft. 0 in 3 ft. 0 in. Purple/Lavender 4-5 petaled flower. Seldom flowers in the first season. The small flowers form along a spike with glandular hairs.
Soil Preference:	High organic matter with good drainage
Light Preference:	Dappled sunlight – Part Shade



POTATO VINE

"Bright Ideas" (Lime Green), "Blackie" (Dark Purple), "Tricolor" (Green/White/Red)



DESCRIPTION

Ornamental sweet potato vines are a classic "spiller" plant perfect for container gardening. They are cultivars of the same species as edible sweet potatoes but are only ornamental, not edible, as they are very bitter.

Ornamental sweet potato vines are versatile plants that are equally suitable for filling outdoor containers, spilling over a wall, or covering ground in a landscape bed. Sweet potato vines love the sun but will also grow in partial shade. The more sun the plant gets, the more vibrant its leaf color will typically be. Sweet potato vines are drought-tolerant, though they will grow more vigorously with frequent watering. Water enough to keep the soil consistently moist but not overly wet. Its leaves will wilt when the plant is thirsty.

Hardiness Zone:	9-11. Annual, not intended to overwinter.
Bloom Season:	Spring & Summer
Growth Habit:	Height: 6 ft. 0 in 10 ft. 0 in. Width: 8 ft. 0 in 10 ft. 0 in. Rapid growth. Climbing/spreading. Heart-shaped lobed colorful leaves 6" long. Leaf Color: Gray/Silver, Green, Purple/Lavender, Variegated.
Soil Preference:	Good Drainage, Moist, Occasionally Dry, Occasionally Wet.
Light Preference:	Full sun to Part Shade



SALVIA

"Black and Blue"

DESCRIPTION

'Black and Blue' salvia is an attractive cultivar that is grown as a perennial or subshrub. It is hardy in zones 7 through10, but it may be grown as an annual in colder climates. They are one of the most popular and common salvias on the market. This plant grows 2 to 5 feet tall and equally as wide. It has an upright, open, and clumping habit. The fragrant leaves are dark green, and the plant produces showy spikes of cobalt blue flowers with black calyces in mid-summer. The nectar of the flowers attracts hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. It is a member of the Lamiaceae or mint family.

"Black and Blue' salvias enjoys full sun. If planted in too much shade, they tend to flop over and have fewer flowers. They prefer rich loamy soils that are moist and well-drained. Once they are established, they may become more heat and drought-tolerant. It is best to provide sheltered exposure from cold winds for these plants. Deadheading spent flowers will encourage more blooms. It is recommended to prune these plants to the ground in late winter. Dividing the clumps every couple of years will make them more attractive. They may be propagated by stem cuttings or division. In colder climates, the tuberous roots of this plant may be harvested in early autumn and stored in a cool dark area and replanted in the warm spring. In warm climates, the plant may be evergreen through the winter.

The stems are usually dark green and grow to 3 to 5 feet tall. When 'Black and Blue' salvia is grown as an annual, it is shorter. It may only reach a height of 2.5 to 3 feet. The leaves of this plant appear wrinkled, and the undersides are a paler green than the upper surface. The deep cobalt blue flowers with the black calyx are distinctive for this cultivar.

Hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies are attracted to the nectar of the flowers. Interestingly, many bees are nectar robbers. They chew or drill holes through the calyx to get to the nectar directly versus entering the flowers.

Hardiness Zone:	8a-11
Bloom Season:	Fall, Spring & Summer
Growth Habit:	Height: 1 ft. 0 in 3 ft. 0 in. Width: 0 ft. 8 in 0 ft. 10 in. Rapid growth. Clumping, Erect. The flowers are two-lipped, tubular, and cobalt blue with black calyces. The flowers are 1.5 to 2 inches long, and they appear in axillary and terminal spikes that are up to 10 inches long. The flowers bloom from July to the first frosts of fall.
Soil Preference:	Loamy, moist, well-draining.
Light Preference:	Full sun to Part shade.



SALVIA

"Roman Red"



DESCRIPTION

Scarlet sage is a tender perennial in the Lamiaceae (mint) family native to Brazil that is grown as an annual in North Carolina. It grows from 1 to 3 feet high and 8 to 10 inches wide. The genus name Salvia comes from the Latin word salveo meaning 'to save or heal' and refers to the medicinal properties attributed to some plants in the genus. The specific epithet means splendid.

This low maintenance plant prefers full sun to part shade and well-drained soil. Propagate scarlet sage by stem cutting.

Flowers are typically red, and bloom a long time, from summer to frost. The tubular showy flowers provide nectar to local butterflies and hummingbirds. Cultivars are available in various shades of red, pink, blue, lavender, orange, and white. Use scarlet sage in the middle of beds or borders or use their bright cherry red blooms to provide an accent in a cottage or pollinator themed garden. The flowers can also add interest indoors if scarlet sage is added to a cutting garden. Compact selections are good for edging and in containers.

Hardiness Zone:	8a-11
Bloom Season:	Fall, Spring & Summer
Growth Habit:	Height: 1 ft. 0 in 3 ft. 0 in. Width: 0 ft. 8 in 0 ft. 10 in. Rapid growth. Clumping, Erect. Flowers red to scarlet; calyx scarlet, zygomorphic, 2-lipped, persisting in fruit with color fading; corolla scarlet, elongate tubular, to 1.3 inches long, ephemeral, short-lived, upper lobes longer than lower lobes. Inflorescence a terminal verticillate raceme; verticillasters 2-6 flowered.
Soil Preference:	Well-draining
Light Preference:	Full sun to Part shade.



VERBENA

"Peppermint"



DESCRIPTION

The first verbena that's hardy through the hottest day of Summer and can take the cold down to the low teens, and still rebloom in Spring, bringing lasting color to landscapes all season long.

This repeat bloomer bears blooms from early spring to the first frost. Its trailing habit makes it ideal as the spiller in mixed containers or as a colorful groundcover in the landscape. Its blossoms deliver long lasting color and stand up to the heat of summer.

Superior branching: finished product has a full habit with a high bloom count in gallon containers.

Attracts Butterflies, Bees

Resists Deer, Disease and mildew

Hardiness Zone:	8b - 10b. Annual, not intended to overwinter.
Bloom Season:	Spring & Fall
Spacing:	8-12"
Growth Habit:	8–12" high x 18–24" wide. Clusters of small star-shaped flowers on mounding, trailing or upright plants are complemented by green lanced-shaped leaves with finely toothed edges.
Soil Preference:	Can adapt to many soil types with good drainage. Moderately moist.
Light Preference:	Full sun



For More Information Please Visit the NC Extension Gardener Plant Tool Box:

https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/

Still Have Questions?
Contact your Currituck County
Extension Master Gardeners!

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