

Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society

2008 WPT Garden Expo Lecture—Plant Combinations For All Seasons

By Tibi Light of Fine Gardening and Design

1. March—Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), Snowdrops (*Galanthus elwesii*), Species crocus

2. Late April—Star Magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*), *Vinca minor* 'Bowler's Variety', Species tulip (*Tulipa tarda*)

3. Early May—European Pasque Flower (*Anemone pulsatilla*), Cushion Spurge (*Euphorbia epithymoides* 'Polychroma'), Dwarf Bearded Iris (*Iris pumila*)

4. Late May-June—Peony 'Flame' (source: Song Sparrow Nursery), *Allium* 'Gladiator' (source: Brent and Becky's Bulbs), Poppy 'Patty's Plum'

5. Late May-June—*Brunnera macrophylla*, Old-fashioned Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*), Giant Snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum* 'Gravetye Giant')(source: Brent and Becky's Bulbs)

6. Late May-Nov.—*Brunnera macrophylla*, Japanese Painted Fern (*Athyrium nipponicum* 'Ursla's Red'), *Hosta* 'Halcyon'

7. Early June-Nov.—Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla mollis* 'Thriller'), Spiderwort 'Sweet Kate' (*Tradescantia* 'Sweet Kate'), Black Chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris* 'Raven's Wing', source: VanDusen Seed Collector's Store)

8. June-Nov.—*Spirea* 'Magic Carpet', Red Barberry (*Berberis* 'Crimson Pygmy'), Rose 'Red Knock-Out' (also known as 'Red Radazz')—courtesy of Barb Lee of Sunburst Gardening

9. Mid-June—*Lillium* 'Brunello', Maltese Cross (*Lychnis chalcidonica*), *Allium caeruleum/azureum* (source: Brent and Becky's Bulbs), *Sedum* 'Purple Emperor'—courtesy of Morningwood Farm, display gardens

10. Early July—Yarrow (*Achillea* 'Moonshine'), *Coreopsis* (*Coreopsis grandiflora* 'Sun Ray'), Meadow Sage (*Salvia* 'May Night')

11. July-Aug—*Veronica* 'Eveline' (source: Northwind Perennial Farm), Betony-*Stachy's* 'Hummelo', Moor grass (*Molina* 'Moorflamme'), *Allium* 'Summer Beauty'—courtesy of Roy Diblik, planted at Olbrich Botanical Gardens

12. Late July-Aug—Balloon Flower (*Platycodon grandiflorus* 'Fuji Blue'), Daylily (*Hemerocallis* 'Hyperion')—courtesy of Jane Gahlman)

13. Late July-Aug.—Japanese Burnet (*Sanguisorba obtusa*), Bee Balm (*Monarda* 'Raspberry Wine'), *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Golden Showers'

14. Early Aug-Sept.—*Phlox* 'Blue Paradise', *Daphne* 'Carole Maacki', Fairy Candles (*Cimicifuga* 'Hillside Black Beauty')

15. August—Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia* 'Goldstrum'), Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea* 'Magnus'), *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy', Feather reed Grass (*Calamagrostis* 'Karl Foerster')

16. August—Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium* 'Gateway'), Switch Grass (*Panicum* 'Heavy Metal'), Hibiscus 'Lady Baltimore'

17. September—*Vernonia glauca* (source: Northwind Perennial Farm), Switch Grass (*Panicum* 'Northwind'), Tall Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia maxima*), Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea* 'Ruby Star')

18. September—Switch Grass (*Panicum* 'Northwind'), *Boltonia asteroides* 'Snowbank', *Aster laevis* 'Blue Bird'

19. Sept.-Oct.—New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae* 'Lavender Frill'), Monkshood (*Aconitum fischerii*), Japanese anemone (*Anemone hybrid* 'Honorine Jobert')

20. Winter—Crabapple (*Malus* 'Sugar Thyme') and/or Feather reed Grass (*Calamagrostis* 'Karl Foerster'), Mugho Pine (*Mugho* 'Mops'), Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea* 'Winter Flame'—aka 'Winter Beauty', aka 'Midwinter Fire'—or Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)

Sources:

- Brent and Becky's Bulbs (804) 693-3966, www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com
- Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm and Nursery (800) 553-3715, www.songsparrow.com
- Northwind Perennial Farm (262) 248-8229, www.northwindperennialfarm.com
- VanDusen Seed Collectors' Store (604) 878-9274, <http://vandusen.plantexplorers.com>

This list is compiled for gardens in zone 4-5, with medium quality and pH soils. None of these plants require excessive amounts of moisture, dryness, or fussing. And all of them would appreciate simple nurturing and, of course, love!

Tibi Light

Fine Gardening
& Design

phone: 608-233-3171

web: www.tibilightgardens.com

2906 Arbor Drive, Madison, WI 53711

e-mail: tights@chorus.net