

Garden rocks stars (and the rest of the band)

Erin Schanen

Hakonechloa macra (Japanese forest grass): Great grass for shade that can be pushed into part sun here. Size ranges by variety. Appreciates humus-rich, well-drained soil and consistent moisture. Spreads slowly, divides easily. Three common varieties you may find here: 'Aureola', H. 'All Gold' and H. *macra* (solid green, hardy to Z4). Z 5/6-9.

Achemilla mollis (lady's mantle): A classic favorite with charming scalloped leaves that catch dew. Chartreuse baby's breath-type flowers that are great for bouquets and brightening dim spots in the garden. Sun to part shade. Z 3-8

Amsonia (bluestar): Airy texture, forms a large clump (some varieties more than others). Small flowers early but the real show is the golden fall foliage. Part sun to sun. 3' tall and wide (or so). Z 5-8

Geranium macrorrhizum (big root geranium): A total workhorse. Works in almost every situation, shade to sun, moist to dry. Semi-evergreen, fall color. 12" tall, 18-24" wide, spreads (nicely) by rhizomes. Multiple cultivars offer different flower colors. Z 4-8

Hylomecon japonica: Early spring bloomer, perfect yellow flowers on a 8-10" mound of semi feathery foliage. Not to be confused with celandine poppy or greater celandine. If you see it, buy it. Z 5-9

Salvia argentea (silver sage): Biennial. Big, curvy, fuzzy, silver-green leaves. Easy to grow from seed and bulks up quickly. Wants sun and good drainage. May overwinter here if it has excellent drainage. Tall white flower stalks are a favorite of pollinators.

Dahlia 'HS Date': Single orange flowers with dark olive/purple foliage. 30" tall, blooms all summer.

Angelica gigas: Biennial. Architectural plant 4-6', purple flowers attract a mass of pollinators. Best in part sun to part shade.

Zizia aurea (golden Alexander): Yellow umbels on this native host a range of pollinators. Moist soil, full sun to part shade. 3' tall, 2' wide. May reseed. Z 3-8

Rhodochiton atrosanguineus (purple bell vine): 10' tall flowering vine has small leaves and is covered in flowers once it gets going. Annual here, can be overwintered although performance may wane. Can be difficult to grow from seed.

Aralia elata 'Silver Umbrella': Grafted shrub (or small tree) with white variegation on the leaves. Huge panicles bloom white and every wasp and bee will be on it. Well-drained, consistently moist soil. Part sun to part shade. Said to be difficult to grow here. Z 4-9

Ocimum basilicum 'Wild Magic': Annual. Cold tolerant purple-leafed basil with bright pink flowers. Sterile patented variety. Sun. 24" tall and wide.

Curcuma longa (turmeric): Beautiful tropical canna-like leaves are unaffected by Japanese beetles. Full sun, 3-4 feet tall.

Eupatorium perfoliatum 'Polished Brass' (American boneset): White flowers, late August to late September; purple-bronze leaves and stems, 5-7' tall and wide, prefers moist soils, pollinator favorite, full sun to partial shade

Veronicastrum virginicum 'Queen of Diamonds' (culver's root): Pale pink flowers early August to mid-September, sturdy stems don't lean, 5-6' tall, full sun. Z 3-8

Nepeta hybrid 'Cat's Pajamas' (catmint): Front of the border show-off. Indigo flowers along the length of the stem. Full sun, 12-14" tall, 12-18" wide. Z 3-8

Nepeta subsessilis 'Prelude Blue': Mounded foliage with stiff stems (no flopping), mass of blue flowers most of the summer. Good winter interest too. Sun to part sun, 36" tall and wide. Z 5-9 (new color Purple coming this year.)

Calamintha nepeta ssp. nepeta 'Montrose White': Identified by Wisconsin's Mike Yanny, long-blooming, airy cloud of white flowers. Avoid wet winter soil. Full sun to part shade, 12-18" tall, 18-24" wide. Z 4-9 (but unlikely to appreciate the south's humidity)

Pycnanthemum muticum (blunt mountain mint): Silver foliage with small flowers that attract masses of pollinators. Give it room to move a bit. Sun to part shade, 2-3' tall and wide. Z 4-8.

Nicotiana glauca 'Lime Green': Annual. Bright chartreuse flowers make a big statement. Easily started from seed and will reseed. 30-34" tall. Full to part sun. (Perfume Lime Green is about 20" tall.)

Picea pungens 'Globosa' (dwarf blue globe spruce): Blue color all year, densely packed with needles, full to partial sun, 3-5' tall, 4-6' wide, but slow growing. Z 3-9

Hydrangea paniculata 'Limelight': Huge flowers, good winter interest, sun to part sun, 6-10' (or more) tall, 6-8' wide. Try new Limelight Prime for slightly shorter, stronger branches, earlier to turn pink. Z 3-9

Cornus alternifolia (pagoda dogwood): Native large shrub (or multistep tree) with all-year interest, fluffy white flowers, blue-black berries (drupes, technically), fall color, horizontal tiered branching with age, part sun to part shade, 15-20' tall, 20' wide. Z 3-7



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