



## Scheduling for Retail: Ensuring Season-long Interest with Herbaceous Perennials

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### Age Requirements of Common Perennials for Flowering

Genera	Common Name	# of leaves required for Maturity
Echinacea	Coneflower	4
Delphinium	Delphinium	4-5
Astilbe	Astilbe	>6
Lobelia	Cardinal Flower	6-7
Veronica	Speedwell	6-8
Euphorbia	Spurge	unknown, >8
Rudbeckia	Black-eyed Susan	>10
Achillea	Yarrow	>13
Limonium	Statice	unknown, >14
Aquilegia	Columbine	15
Aster alpinus	Alpine Aster	15
Tanacetum	Painted Daisy/Pyrethrum	15
Coreopsis	Tickseed	>16
Heuchera	Coral Bells	16
Lavandula	Lavender	40-50
Kniphofia	Red Hot Poker	2 years presumed

Adapted from Cameron, Yuan, Heins & Carlson, GrowerTalks 1996

### Perennials that Require Vernalization

<b>BENEFICIAL</b>	<p><b>Achillea</b> 10 weeks, <b>Anemone</b> 11-15 weeks, <b>Echinacea</b> 11-14 weeks, <b>Fragaria</b> 6-8 weeks, <b>Kniphofia</b> 6-8 weeks, <b>Monarda</b> 9 weeks, <b>Nepeta</b> 6-9 weeks, <b>Perovskia</b> 6-9 weeks, <b>Phlox (Creeping and Tall)</b> 6-9 weeks, <b>Polemonium</b> 6-9 weeks, <b>Rudbeckia</b> 8-10 weeks, <b>Salvia</b> 8-10 weeks</p>
<b>REQUIRED</b>	<p><b>Allium</b> 6-9 weeks, <b>Amsonia</b> 10-12 weeks, <b>Aruncus</b> 8-10 weeks, <b>Astilbe</b> 10-12 weeks, <b>Baptisia</b> 8-10 weeks, <b>Bergenia</b> 5-8 weeks, <b>Brunnera</b> 6-9 weeks, <b>Delosperma</b> 8-10 weeks, <b>Delphinium</b> 7-10 weeks, <b>Dicentra</b> 9-12 weeks, <b>Euphorbia</b> 8-10 weeks, <b>Geranium</b> 6-9 weeks, <b>Helleborus</b> 4-8 weeks, <b>Hemerocallis</b> 9-12 weeks, <b>Hosta</b> 10-12 weeks, <b>Iris</b> 8-10 weeks, <b>Lavandula</b> 8-10 weeks, <b>Leucanthemum</b> 6-9 weeks, <b>Papaver</b> 6-9 weeks, <b>Pulmonaria</b> 8-10 weeks</p>



### Perennials where Vernalization is not Required for Flowering

- Agastache
- Aralia
- Buddleia
- Carex
- Coreopsis (most varieties)
- Festuca
- Guara
- Hakonechloa
- Heliopsis
- Heucherella
- Hibiscus
- Lagerstroemia
- Sedum
- Sempervivum
- Tiarella
- Viola

### Perennials by Photoperiod Requirement

#### Short Day Required:

- Aster
- Some Euphorbia
- Primula

#### Day Neutral:

- Aquilegia
- Armeria
- Baptisia
- Bergenia
- Dicentra
- Euphorbia
- Gaillardia
- Guara
- Geranium
- Heuchera
- Iberis
- Iris
- Perovskia
- Veronica
- Viola

#### Long Day Required:

- Achillea
- Anemone (facultative)
- Asclepias
- Astilbe (facultative)
- Campanula
- Dianthus (facultative)
- Gypsophila
- Hibiscus
- Lavandula
- Leucanthemum
- Liatris
- Malva
- Monarda
- Nepeta
- Papaver
- Phlox
- Polemonium
- Rudbeckia
- Salvia (facultative)
- Scabiosa (facultative)
- Sedum
- Stokesia (facultative)

### Optimal Temperature Ranges by Genus

#### Cool-loving (55-65°F)

- Amsonia
- Brunnera
- Creeping Phlox
- Dianthus
- Polemonium
- Pulmonaria

#### Intermediate (60-70°F)

- Baptisia
- Bergenia
- Monarda
- Penstemon
- Hybrid & Tall Garden Phlox
- Salvia
- Veronica

#### Warm-Loving (65-75°F)

- Achillea
- Allium
- Echinacea
- Hemerocallis
- Hibiscus
- Kniphofia
- Sedum



### Genera for Succession Planting

#### Good Candidates:

- Achillea
- Agastache
- Amsonia
- Astilbe
- Baptisia
- Coreopsis
- Heliopsis
- Hemerocallis
- Hybrid Phlox
- Tall Garden Phlox
- Kniphofia
- Nepeta
- Penstemon
- Perovskia
- Salvia
- Sedum
- Veronica

#### Can be Challenging to Adjust Bloom Period:

- Creeping Phlox
- Some Echinacea
- Eucomis
- Hibiscus
- Vernonia
- Yucca

### Featured Varieties from Darwin Perennials, Darren Bradshaw

- Achillea New Vintage™
- Coreopsis UpTick™ Gold
- Digitalis Arctic Fox™
- Veronica Skyward™
- Echinacea Double Scoop – Refresh!
- Salvia Blue By You

Check out the **First-Year-Flowering Scheduling Tool**: [www.firstyearfloweringtool.com](http://www.firstyearfloweringtool.com)

### Take-Aways

- There are lots of factors to consider when scheduling perennials
- Consider maturity, vernalization, daylength and temperature requirements
- Keep work-load in mind when you are scheduling—utilize fall plantings!
- Working with the plant’s natural seasonal cycle is beneficial
- Use a tool like a spreadsheet to track performance from year to year
- Adjust based on previous year’s performance
- Grow a diversity of genera; maximize your chances that you’ll have several amazing-looking perennials at any given time