



Salvia sclarea 'Piemont'

"A must for every garden," says Penelope Hobhouse, so if you've yet to grow this robust, architectural and long-blooming cottage garden favorite – this could be your year! Arresting 30" candelabras of 1.5" two-toned lavender and white flowers held in showy violet-purple calyces last for months starting late Spring thru mid-Summer. And those calyces keep the show going till Fall! Large, heart-shaped leaves. To 4' x 3'. Not fussy, but best with added compost and Summer water. Blooms its first year if planted in Spring. Butterflies and bees! **Self-sows!** **Deer resistant.** Sun/Part sun. Avg./Low water. Biennial USDA zones 7-10, annual elsewhere. Cannot ship to WA. #3930 \$7.95 3+ \$7.50



Aster novae-angliae 'Skyscraper' A monster of an Aster, 'Skyscraper' grows quickly to make a super smashin' 5' x 5' statement with tons of 2.5-3" amber-centered periwinkle flowers for several months. A highly reliable perennial with many multi-branching



stems, it's a total Summer-Fall show-off and gets even more bloomy each successive year. Perfect in mid-bed, especially paired with yellow roses. Cut flowers and butterflies galore! **Deer resistant!** Rich soil. Cut back to 6" in Winter and side-dress with compost in Spring for next season awesomeness! Sun. Avg. water. Perennial USDA 4-10. #3192 \$8.95 3+ \$8.50



When I was lucky enough to move to a place that had a backyard, all I wanted to do was start a garden. It was Springtime, and I rushed out to the nearest nursery to fill my garden with beautiful Spring bloomers, which is pretty much all you could find at the nursery back then. I worked so hard cleaning, preparing and planting and then reveled in my success! But, as the end of May rolled around, my charming Spring bloomers faded and the weeds crept in. By mid-June, my garden no longer felt inviting and I started to avoid it. By late-Summer, it seemed too late to do anything about it – choked with weeds, perennials overgrown and starving. I repeated this folly for several years asking myself, "Why am I starting over from scratch every year? I want to Summer garden, too!"

Nowadays, I get to enjoy my Summer garden, whether I'm planting, tending or laying around all day in a lounge chair, reading a good book surrounded by my favorite flowers, looking up now and then to watch and listen to the bees, birds and butterflies that come to visit. *But here's what I had to learn first:*

How important it is to plant Summer, Fall and ever-bloomers to entice me out into my garden. You can plant them in Spring for Summer bloom or even much later for next Summer's pleasure. Think Asters, Agastaches, Zinnias, Marigolds, Rudbeckias, Salvias, Dahlias and Sunflowers. While you're planting or cutting Summer flowers for bouquets, you'll undoubtedly look around and think "I ought to..."

☞ **Pull weeds!** Yes, every weed you pull prevents legions! And once you get down on your knees and start pulling out a few, it's somehow satisfying and hard to stop! Before you know it, you've weeded a whole area. And while you're weeding, you'll notice...

☞ **Plants or shrubs that need to be deadheaded, cut back, or pruned.** So you do a little of that, too. And, again, it's surprisingly pleasurable. Now, time to sweep the clippings away, but what have we here? Why, compacted soil – a natural occurrence over time and from stepping in the garden. Not good, as most plants flourish best when their roots are allowed air and easy access to water. So you...

☞ **Turn over the soil where it's compacted,** or use your shovel to cut a few slices into it. This is more helpful than you would think for healthy plants and while you're at it you might as well...

☞ **Feed some hungry shrubs and perennials** that look a bit yellow or stunted. Side-dress with good quality compost – it's amazing how much and how fast your plants will respond! And you're improving the health of your soil – **the most important thing** you can do for your garden!

So, my friends, don't forget to add Summer bloomers when getting your Spring garden going. You'll be enticed and the rewards are many!

Visit our website for videos and more **important gardening tips on my "How to Have a Fabby Garden" page!**

Annie



NEW!

Inula magnifica "Elecampane" Boring garden? Craving drama? Just the leaves alone here, up to 18" long, emerald green and spade shaped, create a striking and luxurious mounded display in the garden. **Tough, burly, easy to grow and maintain,** this bad boy can reach 6' x 6' – so what we have here is an impressive focal plant extraordinaire! Summer-blooming, the candelabra-like stems burst into numerous spidery-rayed, big-eyed, sun-shiny daisies 3-4" across! Give him space and average to rich loamy soil. Reliable and long-lived, you get lots of bees, butterflies, birds and cut flowers. Deciduous. Clay-ish tolerant. Medicinal. **Deer resistant** say some folks. Sun/Part sun. Avg. water/Moist. Perennial USDA zones 3b-10a. Available in March. #4897 \$7.95 3+ \$7.50

☞ **100s more Summer Bloomers Online!** ☞



NEW!

Gaillardia aristata 'Amber Wheels'

I prefer my "Blanket Flowers" not so squatty or "roundy-moundy" as someone recently described the more modern varieties to me. Long, upright stems, tallest in rich loamy soil, are super for cut flower bouquets. Frilly golden blooms boasting a prominent red button "eye" are larger than usual, to 3.5" across! **Tougher and longer-lived** than the modern varieties, the show gets more impressive in year 2 and is well worth the wait. Blooms Summer-Fall. Bees and butterflies! Drought tolerant once established. **Deer resistant.** To 2-3' tall. Deciduous. Sun. Avg./Low water. Perennial USDA zones 4-10. #4887 \$7.95 3+ \$7.50



NEW!

Rudbeckia hirta 'Cherry Brandy'

Staff pick! A favorite here at the nursery, big ruby to raspberry 2-4" "Black-Eyed-Daisies" abound on upright stems early Summer to Fall with deadheading. EASY and always showy in the garden or container (10+ gal.) with so little effort! Lots of pretty cut flowers and much loved by bees, butterflies and seed-lovin' birds. Abides clay-ish soil but SO much better in rich loam. Deer resistant. **Self-sows!** To 2' x 16". Sun/Part sun. Avg./Low water. Short-lived perennial USDA zones 5-10, annual elsewhere. Available in April. #4648 \$8.95 3+ \$8.50