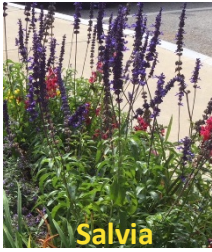


# CHOOSING ANNUALS FOR SUMMER COLOR



Annuals are a must in any Rockport garden since they provide color throughout the growing season. Each year exciting new cultivars are available. Prime time to shop for annuals is from mid-May to mid-June.

## QUICK TIPS:

Choose 3 or 4 annuals that work well together including at least one foliage annual. Choose a pleasing color combination: perhaps red-orange-yellow or pink-purple-blue. Fertilize when planting. Miracle Gro suggests fertilizing every few weeks. I don't. Instead I pinch many annuals by a third when I plant them to make them fuller: zinnias, ageratum, begonias for example.



My favorites don't require much deadheading, are relatively disease and pest-free and

**Coleus** - foliage annual in lots of interesting color combinations deadhead flower blossoms to keep from getting leggy some coleus do best in shade, others in sun (READ LABEL)



**Lantana** - drought tolerant, doesn't need fertilized or deadheaded, spreads beautifully

**Cleome** - good in the back of an annual bed, beware of the very small thorns on their sticky stems

**Alyssum** - spreads nicely, no deadheading, good at front of border

**Dusty Miller** - new varieties are especially attractive and lacy

**Ageratum** - good cutting flower, try Dondo Blue for a true blue



**Nasturtium** - plant from seed directly in the garden, great in salads profuse grower in even poor soil

**Zinnia** - Profusion series is heat and drought tolerant and powdery mildew resistant, good cutting flower

**Million Bells** or supertunias - spread nicely and don't require deadheading unlike petunias

**Salvia** - Midnight Blue or Coral Nymph are wonderful, there are both perennial and annual salvias

## Why not be BOLD?

**Amaranthus** - also known as love-lies-bleeding or tassel flower. Who can pass up a plant with a name like that? This one may be difficult to find at your local nursery but is easy to grow from seed.



**Fiber Optic Grass** - looks like those fiber optic lamps from the 60s. Nostalgia anyone?