

Cold Tolerant Annuals

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Comments
Cold Tolerant Seeds: Sow directly in the garden in early spring, seedlings also cold tolerant			
<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	pot marigold	12-24"	Daisy-like flowers are cream to orange; very cold tolerant.
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	bachelor's button	1-3'	Blue, pink, white flowers; drought tolerant; self-seeds.
<i>Consolida</i> spp.	larkspur	1-4'	Blue, pink and white flowers; looks like delphinium.
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy	6-8"	Gold and yellow flrs; blooms all summer.
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	sunflower	2-10'	Giant flowers; blooms all summer.
<i>Lathyrus odoratus</i>	sweet pea	2-6'	Climbing vine or trailing groundcover; dwarf and bush forms; may self-seed.
<i>Lavatera trimestris</i>	rose mallow/tree mallow	2-6'	Bushy plants with cup-shaped pink flowers resembling hollyhocks; summer to fall.
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	sweet alyssum	4-12"	Quintessential edging plant; several colors; blooms from spring to heavy frost.
<i>Moluccella laevis</i>	bells of Ireland	2-3'	Green bell-like calyxes surround tiny fragrant white flowers; blooms all summer.
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	forget-me-not	6-10"	Dainty blue, white, or pink flowers.
<i>Reseda odorata</i>	mignonette	6-18"	Very fragrant small white flowers are great for cutting from summer to mid-fall.
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	black-eyed Susan	8-36"	Daisy flowers bloom in yellows, oranges, reds, browns; mid-summer to early fall.
Cold Tolerant Seedlings: May be planted in garden before frost-free date			
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	snapdragon	6"-4'	Tall, short, dwarf, and trailing forms; range of colors.
<i>Brassica oleracea</i>	ornamental kale/cabbage	8-24"	White, lavender, and green foliage; tolerates 20°F.
<i>Centaurea cineraria</i>	dusty miller	8-14"	Grown for its silvery foliage; also looks beautiful in the winter when frozen.
<i>Cordyline</i> spp.	dracaena/spike	1-2'	Indispensable for container gardens; spiky foliage is also effective in beds.
<i>Dianthus chinensis</i>	pinks	12-18"	White, pink, red, and bi-color flowers bloom atop grassy foliage; summer to early fall.
<i>Matthiola incana</i>	stock	12-30"	Spicy fragrant, grey foliage; many flower colors.
<i>Nierembergia hippomanica</i>	cupflower	6-8"	Bushy mounds covered with tiny white or pale blue flowers; summer to early fall.
<i>Osteospermum</i> spp.	cape daisy	12-18"	Bright daisy flowers w. dark centers; best in cool weather.
<i>Phlox drummondii</i>	phlox	6-18"	Many colors; excellent cut flower; may overwinter.
<i>Viola</i> spp.	pansy/violet/viola/Johnny jump-up	3-12"	Very hardy; can be planted in fall with a mulch and may survive the winter.

“Cold tolerance” here is defined as seeds that can be planted in the garden and will grow in cold soil and survive early spring frost, and/or young bedding plants that can survive frost in the spring and early autumn. Minnesota growing conditions call for cool temperatures at almost any time of the year. These annuals will tolerate cool temperatures and even grow well after a light frost. Most are hardy to the mid-20s F.



Showy pansies flower in early spring and, when mulched, can even be planted the previous fall.



Sweet peas are cold tolerant, actually preferring cool conditions, fragrant, a good cut flower and can self-sow.

Compiled by Sue Schiess, Hennepin County Master Gardener. Sue answers questions on the Yard and Garden Line at the Arboretum and at Ask a Master Gardener booths at local garden centers.