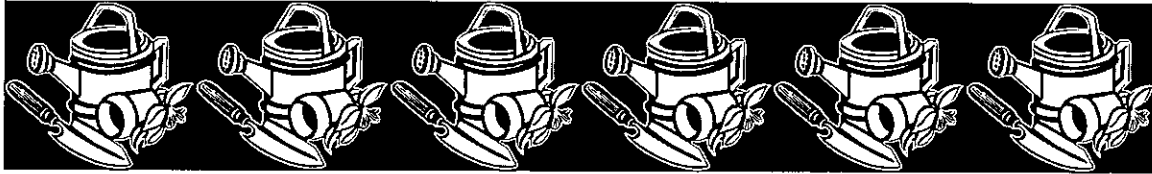


Wenke Wisdom



Late Bloomers – Stretching Summer...

A big mistake some gardeners make, especially beginners, is that they go to the garden center in the spring and then they never go back. It's good to go back and find late bloomers. A garden that looks good all summer has something blooming all summer. Garden centers are full of hearty annuals – **sunflowers, zinnias, impatiens, cosmos, petunias, snapdragons, gloriosa daisy and blue salvia** – that are fresh picks, not leftovers from the spring stock. Annuals are always a quick garden fix. And, don't forget about pansies, ornamental cabbage & kale. Alyssum, when cut back and fertilized will bloom until frost. Perennials get the doldrums but annuals just "keep on doing their thing."

Perennials that can be planted now and will continue to bloom late into fall include **Coreopsis (Tickseed), Rudbeckia (Black-Eyed-Susan), Echinacea purpurea (Purple Coneflowers), Caryopteris (Bluebeard), Anise Hyssop, Hardy Ageratum, Eupatorium (Chocolate Joe Pye), Heliopsis (False Sunflower), Hardy Hibiscus, Anemone, Hardy Mums and Asters, and Ornamental Grasses,**

If you're not a passionate gardener and prefer not to dig any more this season, pick up some pretty annual containers. This way you get a second wave of color in your yard without much effort.