

My Top 10 perennials  
(chosen for long bloom time, ease of care and special features):

1.



**Rozanne geranium** – in my part-sun zone 6 garden bed, this geranium bloomed from late May (when I bought it) until November; its violet-blue petals positively glow.

2.



**Corydalis** – in a very shady spot, the yellow corydalis lutea bloomed from April to November.

3.



**Coneflowers** – Love ‘em all, but my latest acquisition, Raspberry Truffle (left) is double-flowered with coral pink petals around a chocolate cone. The heaviest bloomer of the coneflowers, it kept popping out flowers past the first frosts. If you prefer a classic purple coneflower, try “Magnus” which I also planted next to....

4.



**Black-eyed Susans (Goldsturm)** – a superstar in those dog days of summer and then into the fall, it fills your garden with gold (seen left planted with Magnus purple coneflower).

5.



**'Butterfly Blue' Scabiosa** – (aka pincushion flower) blooms from mid-spring to late fall makes it another of the longest-blooming perennials you can find. Bonus: butterflies love it!

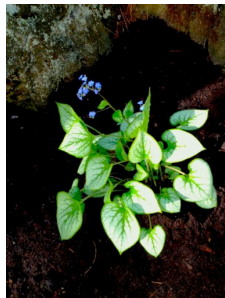
6.



**Campanulas (aka bellflowers)** – Too hard to pick a favourite....maybe a 3-way tie between “Sarastro”, “Carpathian Blue Clips” (rival for longest bloomer in the garden) and “Blue Waterfall Serbian “Camgood”. I’ll be looking to buy “Summertime Blues”, “Hoffman Blue” & “Bernice” this year....I may also try to edge the hostas in the woodland as an option to the “Phlox Stolon” in the picture below.



7.



**Brunnera “Jack Frost”** – a stunner in the shade – blue-forget-me-not-like flowers in spring, but it’s the season long foliage that shines in the shade.

8.



**Daisies** – I love my “freak” daisy both for its name & its ruffled petals.



9.

**Foxgloves** – I LOVE my foxgloves!! They rebloomed three times last summer after sheering them back and this picture was taken after Tropical Storm Arthur – they weathered that storm with stoic dignity.



10.

**Russian Sage** tied with **lavender** – although I'm a sucker for lavender, the truth is Russian sage is way tougher. I have both in my garden. The picture left isn't from my garden, but I'll be sure to snap some shots of mine next summer.

Almost made the list:

There's no fragrance to beat a bed of **lily-of-the-valley**, however, they're invasive and nearly impossible to stop – I inherited them in a large bed, but if I'd still recommend planting them in a raised bed or somewhere removed from other beds. The other one I love, but is too short-lived is the **bleeding heart** – there is however a new cultivar called **Amore Rose** that is supposed to bloom all summer – I'll be looking for it this year and report later. And finally, though a shorter bloom, I could never consider a flower garden without **delphiniums**.

