

Flower Garden Sampler - "Central Valley Style"



The annual and perennial flowers listed below were chosen by Tulare/Kings Master Gardeners because they grow well in Central Valley gardens. These plants tolerate winter and summer climate conditions special to this region and are available from local nurseries. We recommend building a base of perennial plants in your garden and using annuals for "pretty spots of color". This list will help gardeners new to CA's Central Valley know what to plant. Just take this sampler along with you to the nursery.

| Common Name | Botanical Name* | Height | Bloom Color | Bloom Season | Light | Water | Notes | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------|-------|---|--|--|--|
| Ageratum, Floss Flower | Ageratum houstonianum | 6-12 in | Blue, Rose | Spring - Summer | 0 | 4 | Heat tolerant | | | |
| Alyssum, Sweet Alyssum | Lobularia maritima | 6-12 in | White, Rose, Purple | Spring - Fall | 0 | ٢ | Re-seeds | | | |
| Angelonia, Summer Snapdragon | Angelonia angustifolia hybrid | 18-24 in | White, Pink, Purple | Summer | 🔅 to 🔅 | ٢ | Deer resistant, Heat tolerant | | | |
| Calendula, Pot Marigold | Calendula officinalis | 12-36 in | Yellow, Orange | Winter - Spring | Ô | 4 | Bright winter color | | | |
| Columbine (short lived perennial) | Aquilegia spp. | 10-12 in | Many | Spring | 🔇 to 🔇 | 3 | Attracts hummingbirds | | | |
| Cosmos | Cosmos bipinnatus | 12-24 in | Pink, Purple, White | Summer | 0 | 4 | Re-seeds, bee pollen source | | | |
| Foxglove (biennial) | Digitalis purpurea | 12-60 in | Pink, Purple, White | Spring | 🚫 to 🔇 | 3 | Re-seeds; toxic | | | |
| Iceland Poppy | Papaver nudicaule | 4-12 in | Many | Winter - Spring | 0 | 3 | Blooms through winter | | | |
| Impatiens, Busy Lizzie | Impatiens walleriana | 8-12 in | Many | Summer | 0 | | Long summer bloom | | | |
| Lobelia | Lobelia erinus | 4-12 in | Blue, Purple, White | Spring - Early Summer | ¢ | 4 | Dries out in extreme heat | | | |
| Love-in-a-mist | Nigella damascena | 12-18 in | Blue, White, Rose | Spring | Ŷ | | Dries up in summer | | | |
| Marigold | Tagetes species | 6-12 in | Orange, Yellow | Summer | 0 | 4 | Prone to mites | | | |
| Nemesia | Nemesia spp. | 12 in | Many | Fall - Spring | | | | | | |
| Nicotiana, Flowering Tobacco | Nicotiana alata | 12-24 in | White, Green | Summer | * | 4 | Some species very fragrant | | | |
| Pansy & Johnny-jump-up | Viola spp. | 3-8 in | Many | Fall-Winter-Spring | 0 | 4 | Great for winter blooms | | | |
| Petunia | Petunia x hybrida | 6-15 in | Many | Spring - Summer | 💙 to 🔇 | 4 | Prone to worms | | | |
| Poppy (Alpine, Oriental, Shirley) | Papaver spp. | 24 in | Many pastels | Spring | 0 | 3 | Re-seeds | | | |
| Poppy (California) | Eschscholzia californica | 8-24 in | Orange | Spring - Summer | 0 | ٢ | Re-seeds | | | |
| Portulaca, Rose Moss | Portulaca grandiflora | to 8 in | Many | Summer | 0 | ٢ | Plant after frost | | | |
| Primrose | Primula spp. | 6-12 in | Many | Winter - Spring | 🔇 to 🔇 | 4 | Compact size for borders | | | |
| Snapdragon | Antirrhinum majus | 6-24 in | Many | Fall - Spring | 0 | 3 | Varying sizes; prone to rust | | | |
| Statice | Limonium sinuatum | 24 in | Many | Summer - Frost | 0 | ٢ | Good cut and dried flower | | | |
| Sweet Pea (climbing vine) | Lathyrus odoratus | 24-120 in | Many | Spring | 0 | 3 | Easily grown from seed; dwarf bushes available | | | |
| Sweet William | Dianthus barbatus | 6-12 in | White, Pink, Maroon | Spring - Fall | 0 | 4 | Some species are perennials | | | |
| Verbena | Verbena x hybrida or V. peruviana | 6-12 in | Many | Summer | 0 | 3 | Perennial grown as an annua | | | |
| Vinca, Madagascar periwinkle | Catharanthus roseus | 4-12 in | White, Blue, Purple | Summer | 💙 to 💙 | 3 | Heat tolerant | | | |
| Zinnia | Zinnia angustifolia | 6-48 in | Many | Summer | 0 | 4 | Heat tolerant; bee pollen source | | | |
| Plant time = cool se | Plant time = cool season - best to plant in early fall. Water to establish. Provide water if rainfall is insufficient. | | | | | | | | | |
| Plant time = warm s | Plant time = warm season - best to plant in early spring. Water regularly in summer. | | | | | | | | | |
| Plant time = early fa | ade 💰 | Medium | | | | | | | | |

| PERENNIALS | These plants flower once or twice a year and live for several years. Some die back in winter and push new growth in spring. Be careful with spacing perennials; they will be with you for years and sometimes do not reach their full size in the first year. Even the most drought tolerant plants require careful watering their first year and sometimes longer in order to establish roots. This is especially true for plants placed in the ground in spring. Fall planting is highly recommended and usually best as it allows plants more time to establish roots before experiencing the stress of a hot summer. | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| Common Name | Botanical Name* | Height | Bloom Color | Bloom Season | Light | Water | Notes | | | |
| African daisy | Arctotis spp. | 12-18 in | Many | Spring - Summer | ¢ | 3 | Blooms best first summer | | | |
| Begonia, wax begonia | Begonia semperflorens | 6-12 in | White, Pink, Red | Spring - Fall | 💓 to 💭 | 5 | Heavy frost will kill plant | | | |
| Bergenia | Bergenia crassifolia | 8-10 in | Pink | Winter - Spring | | ٢ | Attractive large leaves | | | |
| Black-eyed Susan | Rudbeckia hirta | 12-36 in | Yellow, Orange | Spring - Fall | O | 0 | Heat tolerant, large flowers | | | |
| Blue lily turf | Liriope muscari | 10-18 in | White, Lavender | Spring | 🐡 to 🔅 | 5 | Grasslike foliage; runners | | | |
| Ca fuschia | Epilobium or Zauschneria canum | 36 in | Red, Salmon | Summer | | 0 | Spreads gradually | | | |
| Candytuft | Iberis umbellata | 6-12 in | White | Spring | Ŵ | | Best planted in Fall | | | |
| Coneflower | Echinacea spp. | 24 in | Pink, White, Purple | Summer | | | Pollen source for bees | | | |
| Coral Bells | Heuchera spp. | 6-12 in | Pink, White, Red | Spring | | 3 | Interesting foliage | | | |
| Coreopsis | Coreopsis grandiflora | 24 in | Yellow | Spring - Summer | | S | Spreads by self sowing | | | |
| Creeping or Snow daisy | Chrysanthemum paludosum | 8-12 in | White | Fall to Late Spring | Ŷ | | Re-seeds | | | |
| Cyclamen | Cyclamen persicum | 3-6 in | Pink, White, Red | Winter - Spring | Ô | 5 | Heart-shaped leaves, unusual flowers | | | |
| Daylily | Hemerocallis hybrids | 24 in | Many | Spring - Summer | | 5 | Long summer bloom | | | |
| Gaillardia, Blanket flower | Gaillardia grandiflora | 24-36 in | Yellow, Red, Orange | Spring - Summer | 0 | 7 | Daisylike flowers | | | |
| Gaura, Wand flower | Gaura linheimeri | 24-36 in | Pink, White | Spring - Fall | Ŵ | 5 | Needs space for true form | | | |
| Gazania | Gazania spp. | 6-12 in | Yellow, Orange, Pink | Year round | | 0 | Deadhead to repeat bloom | | | |
| Geranium | Pelargonium spp. | 18-36 in | Many | Spring - Summer | | S | Heat tolerant | | | |
| Geum | Geum chiloense | 24 in | Yellow, Red, Orange | Spring - Fall | | 5 | Deadhead to repeat bloom | | | |
| Gladiola | Gladiolus spp. | 36 in | Many | Spring - Summer | | S | Plant corms Jan - March | | | |
| Hellebore, Lenten rose | Helleborus x hybridus | 12-24 in | White, Maroon, Pink | Early Spring | | 4 | Flowers very early in spring | | | |
| Japanese anemone | Anemone japonica | 12-36 in | White, Pink | Fall | | 4 | Spreads by runners | | | |
| Lavender | Lavandula spp. | 24-36 in | Lavender | Spring - Summer | Ø | ٢ | Fragrant; many varieties | | | |
| Lily of the Valley | Agapanthus orientalis | 12-36 in | Purple, White | Summer | 🔅 to 🔅 | ۵ 🖉 | Divide clumps in Fall | | | |
| Penstemon | Penstemon spp. | 12-48 in | Red, Purple, Pink | Spring - Summer | | ٢ | Margarita BOP=UC All-Star | | | |
| Peruvian lily | Alstromeria hybrids | 24 in | Many | Spring - Summer | | S | Pull old flower shoots to stimulate more blooms | | | |
| Pincushion Flower | Scabiosa columbaria | 6-24 in | Pink, Blue, White | Spring - Summer | | | Slowly spreads by runners | | | |
| Ranunculus | Ranunculus asiaticus | 12 in | Many | Spring | | <u> </u> | Plant bulbs in Fall | | | |
| Salvia | Salvia spp. | to 48 in | Pink, Red, Purple | Spring - Summer | | ٢ | Many varieties and colors | | | |
| Santa Barbara daisy | Erigeron karvinskianus | 12-24 in | White | Spring - Fall | | ٢ | Fine-petaled, daisylike | | | |
| Shasta daisy | Leucanthemum x superbum | 24 in | White | Summer - Fall | | ٢ | Deadhead for longer bloom | | | |
| Statice, Sea lavendar | Limonium perezii | 24 in | Purple | Spring - Summer | 🔅 to | ٢ | Good dried flower | | | |
| Yarrow | Achillea spp. | 4-24 in | Various | Spring - Fall | 🎇 to | 0 | Fern-like foliage | | | |
| For pest management i | Full Sun | | | Low, drought tolerant | | | | | | |
| Notes on the UC | Afternoon Shade | | _ 🔮 _ | Medium | | | | | | |

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Shade

revised Dec 2011- P. Wallace, M. LeStrange and MG Flower Focus Group

High