

MESSENGER-INQUIRER



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HORTICULTURE EDUCATION
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Extend the Season of Blossoms into the Fall Garden
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Consider late-blooming plants to give the landscape a fresh look and extend the season of color with flowers in the landscape into fall. Celosia adds a fall color to the landscape.

Perennials, including asters and Japanese anemone, tolerate cooler weather while chrysanthemums and pansies provide color through a light frost.

Celosia (*Celosia*) is an annual with upright, spike-shaped flowers. It tolerates the heat of August and September and may last until frost. Light frost in this area usually arrives in late October. Flower colors include orange, red, and yellow. The flower plumes may reach up to 13 inches long. Plants with a dark red leaf pigment instead of green add another color dimension to the fall garden. Celosia prefers to grow in full sun and well-drained soil. Celosia for late-season planting is usually available locally.

Frikart's aster (*Aster x frikartii*) is a perennial that blooms in late summer to fall. Butterflies love this plant's 2 to 3-inch flowers. The flower color includes lavender to lavender-blue with a yellow center. Frikart's aster prefers well-drained soil and full sun. The plant height

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ranges from 2 to 3 feet. The taller cultivars may require staking to prevent them from falling over. Large groupings of Frikart's aster make a visual impact in the garden.

Another perennial is Japanese anemone (*Anemone x hybrida*). It prefers well-drained soil and tolerates partial shade. The foliage forms a low growing mound, which spreads and may reach about 12 inches in height depending on the cultivar. Tall flower stems allow the blossoms to gracefully tower over the foliage and give a light, airy feeling to the landscape. During flowering, the height of the flower stems may range from 2 to 4 feet, depending on the cultivar. Several blossoms appear per stem. Flower colors include white, pink, and rose. 'Honorine Jobert' has single white flowers that are 2 to 3-inches across. This cultivar reaches 3 to 4 feet in height during flowering. The plant may be available only in the spring locally but remember to add it when it is available.

Chrysanthemums bring a variety of colors and flower types to the landscape. Numerous colors are available from yellow, white, orange-peach, maroon-red, bright orange, rose-pink, coral, purple, pink, lavender, bronze, and red. Depending on the cultivar, chrysanthemums bloom from August to November.

Two flower forms of chrysanthemum are commonly available. One form is called single or daisy like, which has a single or double row of petals surrounding a central eye. The second is called decorative, which appears to be made up of all petals and does not have a distinctive eye. Sometimes you will see flowers with petals that look like tubes or petals that look like little spoons.

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Plant chrysanthemums in a well-drained, sunny location. The roots quickly rot, especially in the winter, if the soil stays wet. In addition, some chrysanthemum cultivars are hardier than others. However, they are certainly worth growing for the fall color even though they may not return next year. Chrysanthemums tolerate light frost.

Pansies make a colorful show in the garden. They are available in a wide variety of colors including red, orange, yellow, purple, white, blue, violet-blue, brick red, and rosy-purple. The flowers may have all the same color or may have a different colored blotch in the center of the bloom. Flower size ranges from 1.5 to 3 inches across, depending on the cultivar.

Pansies perform best under cool temperatures. An advantage of fall-planted pansies is they often overwinter and bloom again in late winter or early spring. Pansies planted in the fall are larger and stronger than those planted in the spring. As the heat of summer increases, many pansies begin to look scraggly and die.

Pansies perform best in full sun. They should be planted by the end of September to give them time to establish a good root system before the soil temperature decreases. Pansies can be planted in between summer annuals so that when they fade and are removed, the pansies are ready to make a show. A nice show is made when 8 or more plants are grouped together. Space pansies 8 to 12 inches apart in the group. Try pansies in containers to bring color to the patio, deck, window box, or porch for the fall.

A landscaping idea with the plants in this article is to arrange them in groups of the same type. Groupings of 3 to 5 of the same plant makes a bigger impact of color in the landscape than single plants spread throughout the garden.

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For more information about plants for fall color, contact the Daviess County Cooperative Extension Service at 270-685-8480 or annette.heisdorffer@uky.edu.

Annette's Tip:

To help control fruit flies in the kitchen, all potential breeding areas, including ripening fruits or vegetables, must be located, cleaned, and/or eliminated. Then, construct a trap by placing a funnel, rolled from a sheet of paper, into a jar baited with a few ounces of cider vinegar and a drop of detergent or a few slices of banana.

Upcoming Event:

“Saving Our Pollinators with Native Plants” will be presented by Extension Master Gardener Regenia Sims on September 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the Native Plant Garden in the Western Kentucky Botanical Garden. Join us to learn about Kentucky native plants for pollinators and see how the garden has matured over time.

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