

# Melinda's Choice®

SELECT PLANTS

I've teamed up with *Ebert's Greenhouse Village* to select easy care plants for your garden. **Melinda's Choice®** plants are suited to Wisconsin and provide added beauty with a long season of bloom, the birds and butterflies they attract or multi-seasonal interest. Check the grower's tag to make sure the plants you select will thrive in the sunlight, soil and available space in your garden. Enjoy your new plants and the beauty they provide.

Melinda

## 2018 PERENNIALS



**Barrenwort, Red (*Epimedium x rubrum*)** - Use it as a groundcover for dry shade or combine it with other shade tolerant plants in gardens and borders. Just make sure it receives sufficient moisture during establishment. The 8-12" tall plants are topped with red flowers in April/May. The delicate heart-shaped foliage emerges with a red tinge, turns green for the summer and reddens up in fall. It is somewhat evergreen depending on the severity of our winter. Plus rabbits & deer tend to leave it be.



**Bee Balm (*Monarda Balmy™ Rose*)** - This compact bee balm has vibrant rose colored flowers June through August and is resistant to powdery mildew. It grows 10-12" tall making it perfect for the front of a garden or mixed border where you can easily see the visiting bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Grow in moist soil for best results. This is another one deer and rabbits tend to leave be.



**Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)** - Selected as the 2017 Perennial Plant of the Year for its versatility, bright orange flowers and importance to monarch butterflies. This native plant grows 12-30" tall and is covered with yellow/orange flowers in July and August. Include it in natural plantings, butterfly and perennial gardens. Mark its location in the garden as the plants are late to emerge in spring. It is drought tolerant once established and deer tend to leave it be.



**Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia 'Little Goldstar'*)** - A compact variety that tends to be more resistant to leaf spot disease than Goldsturm. The bright yellow flowers with black centers top 14 to 16" tall plants from July through September. Its short stature makes it suitable for containers. Include them in natural plantings, as well as bird, bee, butterfly and perennial gardens. Grow them in moist, well-drained soil for best results, although they are drought tolerant once established. Another deer tolerant plant.



**Coneflower (*Echinacea 'Cheyenne Spirit'*)** - The stunning blooms that appear the first year on this plant helped it win the title as an All America Selections Winner in 2013. Grow the 22-30" tall plant in natural areas as well as butterfly, bird and perennial gardens. The mix of red, orange, magenta, yellow and white flowers appear July to August. Grow it in moist well-drained soil although it is drought tolerant once established. You'll appreciate the hardiness, diversity of flower color and deer resistance this plant provides.





**Coneflower (*Echinacea Sombrero Series*)** - Consider the Sombrero series when looking for unique bold flower colors on hardy coneflower plants. The 20-24" tall plants have red, orange, burgundy, yellow or white flowers in July through August. Like other coneflowers they attract butterflies and birds making them great additions to perennial gardens, natural plantings and pollinator gardens. Grow in moist well-drained soil for best results. They will, however, tolerate drought once established and deer tend to leave them be.



**Japanese Forest Grass (*Hakonechloa 'Aureola'*)** - Here's an excellent grass for those shady areas in the landscape. The 1-2' tall mound of golden striped bamboo-like foliage combines nicely with hostas, ferns and other shade tolerant plants. Grow in moist soil with adequate drainage. Soil moisture is critical the first year or two as the plants become established. Japanese forest grass will scorch if grown in full sun, dry locations and have less variegation in heavy shade. This ornamental grass is tolerant of black walnut toxicity and deer.



**Mammoth™ Mums (*Dendranthema/Chrysanthemum*)** - Set the fall garden ablaze with this hardy mum. The large, 20-36" tall, plant makes a nice addition to containers as well as fall and perennial gardens, and mixed borders. The red, yellow, or lavender flowers add fresh new color to the landscape in August through October. Grow in moist well-drained soil for best results. You'll enjoy the low maintenance outstanding performance of this hardy mum. Best of all, there's no pinching, deadheading or winter protection needed and the deer tend to leave it be.



**Phlox (*Phlox 'Pixie Miracle Grace'*)** - Try this compact mildew resistant phlox in pollinator, fragrant and perennial gardens. The 15-20" tall plants are covered with fragrant lavender-purple flowers w/white eyes from July through September. You, the butterflies and hummingbirds will enjoy the show. Grow in moist soil with adequate drainage for best results.



**Sedum 'Mr. Goodbud'** - You'll enjoy the season long beauty this sedum provides. The 14-16" tall upright plant has purple stems and smoky green foliage. The purple-pink flowers appear in August and attract butterflies to the garden. Grow in perennial gardens, mixed borders and butterfly gardens with well-drained soil. Sedums are drought tolerant once established and rabbits and deer tend to leave them be.



**Siberian Bugloss (*Brunnera 'Alexander's Great'*)** - Include this in shade gardens or use it as a groundcover. The 15" tall plant works well in woodland, natural or perennial shade gardens. The blue forget-me-not-like flowers appear in April/May while the giant leaves of this variety with their silver flecking continue to brighten the garden all season long. Grow it in moist well-drained soil. Plus the rabbits tend to leave it be.





**Turtlehead (*Chelone* 'Tiny Tortuga')** - Brighten the late summer garden with this versatile perennial. It grows 10-15" tall and makes a nice addition to container, shade, rain, bee, butterfly, and perennial gardens. The petite hot pink flowers light up the garden in August through September. Grow it in sun or shade and even wet soil. Deer tend to pass it by.



## 2018 TREES & SHRUBS



**Arborvitae, Technito (*Thuja occidentalis* 'Technito')** - This compact version of Techny is slow growing and shorter than its parent. Its mature size is only 8-10' tall. The pyramidal evergreen has dense dark green foliage throughout the year. Grow it in moist well-drained soil and avoid winter wind swept locations. Be aware that deer love arborvitae.



**Buckeye, Bottlebrush (*Aesculus parviflora*)** - Enjoy the spikes of white flowers in June/ July and shade tolerance of this spreading shrub. Give the plant room to reach its mature size of 8-12' tall and 8-15' wide. Use it in mixed borders, woodland edges, shade gardens, or for erosion control. Grow it in moist well-drained soil for best results, but it will tolerate wet soils. Rabbits tend to leave it be and although deer may take a bite they usually move on to other plants.



**Chokeberry, Brilliant Red (*Aronia arbutifolia* 'Brilliantissima')** -Enjoy the year round beauty this shrub provides. Red chokeberry has white flowers in spring, glossy green leaves that turn a brilliant red in fall and red fruit that persists into winter. Include this 6-8' tall shrub in mixed borders, shade and rain gardens. Grow in moist soil for best results.



**Fothergilla (*Fothergilla* 'Blue Shadow')** - Add some multi-season interest and hummingbird appeal to the landscape. The fragrant bottlebrush flowers appear before the blue-green foliage emerges. In fall the leaves on this 3-4' tall plant turn yellow-orange-red in fall. Grow in moist soil with good drainage for best results. It will tolerate clay soil and shade.





**Hemlock Gentsch White (*Tsuga canadensis* 'Gentsch White')** - Add year round greenery to those shady spots in the landscape with this dwarf hemlock. It grows 3-4' tall by 10 years of age. Include it in woodland and shade gardens. The silver-white branch tips brighten the shade and delicate texture combines nicely with other shade tolerant plants. Plant hemlocks in sheltered locations protected from winter wind and sun with moist well drained soil. This plant tolerates black walnut toxicity and deer.



**Hornbeam/Musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*)** - This beautiful native tree tolerates shade and provides year round beauty in the landscape. It eventually reaches 20-30' in height, has attractive smooth blue-gray bark, interesting fruit bracts and outstanding yellow-orange or red fall color. Use it as a specimen in the landscape or include it in woodland, natural and shade gardens. Grow in moist soil although it will tolerate slightly dry soil in shaded locations.



**Pine Vanderwolf (*Pinus flexilis* 'Vanderwolf')** - This upright pyramidal pine reaches 20-30' in height when mature. Use it for screening or include it in tree, shrub and mixed borders. The twisted blue-green needles add interesting texture to the landscape. Grow it in moist well-drained soil. It is drought tolerant once established and the deer tend to leave it be.



**Russian Cypress (*Microbiota decussata*)** - It's an evergreen groundcover that has foliage like an arborvitae with the growth habit of a low growing juniper. Use this 12" tall wide spreading evergreen as a groundcover or in mixed borders and rock gardens. The evergreen needles turn bronze for the winter and back to green when spring arrives. Grow this hardy evergreen in moist well-drained soil.

