

**Herbaceous Perennials II &  
Water Garden and Wetland Plants  
HORT 308 Spring 2012 Plant List 11**



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**Assigned Readings  
for Plant List 11**

Read the pages in your textbook associated with the family descriptions and individual taxa covered on Plant List 11 that was distributed in lab. These plant lists are also available on the course website.

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/syllabi/308/home/frameset.htm>

**Oenothera speciosa  
Evening Primrose**

- Summer (north) or spring (south) blooming herbaceous perennial useful USDA z. 6 (S) - 9
- Pink cup-shaped flowers, long bloom season
- One of our best wildflowers, which has been partially tamed for the perennial border
- Aggressive, trips problems, loose form
- Several other *Oenothera* are native to Texas & useful in regional landscapes



**Oenothera speciosa**



**Evening Primrose**



Fantastic wildflower, provides major show as Bluebonnets decline until *Coreopsis* & others kick in bloom

**Penstemon spp. Penstemons**



- Also known as Wild Foxgloves or Beard-Tongues
- Variable group of z. 3 - 10 herbaceous perennials or small subshrubs
- Mostly upright growers
- Showy racemes or panicles of bilabiate foxglove-like flowers
- Mostly in white to red to purple range
- Many species are well suited to arid / semi-arid regions
- Full sun to partial shade & well drained soils
- Mixed perennial borders; accents; cut flower gardens; southwestern xeric gardens; containers



**Ratibida columnifera  
Mexican Hat**



- Herbaceous perennial (USDA z. 7 - 9) or self-seeding annual
- Upright oval mound to vase-shaped, fine textured foliage, 18" - 3' tall
  - Flowers with elongated disk, recurved rays
  - Yellow, orange, red, bronze, solid or bicolor
  - Rocket to Mexican hat appearance
- Native wildflower tolerant of numerous soil types
  - Survives drought but declines with summer drought stress; heat and alkaline soil tolerant; full sun
- Naturalizing, transition landscapes, perennial border, cut flowers



***Rudbeckia hirta* var. *pulcherrima***  
**Black-Eyed Susan**



- A short-lived herbaceous perennial, USDA zones 5 (4) - 9, often grown as an annual
- Winter or early season rosettes becoming mounds of stiffly erect stems terminating in daisy-like flowers
- Typically yellow ray flowers surrounding dark brown disk flowers; newer selections & hybrids may have yellow disks

***Rudbeckia hirta* var. *pulcherrima***  
**Black-Eyed Susan**



- Gets powdery mildew in heat & humidity
- Most any moderately well drained soil; full sun to part shade; irrigation and deadheading will prolong bloom
- Texas native; perennial & annual borders; massing; naturalizing, wildflower mixes, cut flowers

***Ruellia brittoniana***  
**Mexican Petunia**



- Dark green foliage, herbaceous perennial spreading by rhizomes or seeds
- Small petunia-like flowers, spring to frost, purple, blue-purple, white, or pink
- Habits vary from 3' (4') tall to 6" or 8" dwarfs
- Extremely easy to grow, actually becomes weedy in the garden, few pest or disease problems

***Salvia* spp.**  
**Sages**



- Important group of native or introduced herbaceous annuals and perennials
- Variable cold hardiness and site requirements ranging from z. 4 - 11  
 - 1 or more *Salvia* adapted to most sites

***Salvia* spp.**  
**Sages**



- Mostly grown for attractive terminal or axillary spikes or panicles of flowers
  - Nearly all frequented by butterflies and hummingbirds
- Bedding, massing, edging, borders, naturalizing, containers, kitchen gardens

***Solidago* spp.**  
**Goldenrods**



- Wide ranging U.S. native species from USDA z. 3 - 9; most any sunny spot
- Stiffly upright plants topped with showy bright yellow to golden panicles of small composite flowers
- Very reliable late summer to fall bloomer
- Aggressive spread by seed & rhizomes
- Naturalizing; late season accent; perennial borders; wildflower mixes; cut flowers; most common *S. canadensis*
- Unjustly blamed for late summer allergies that are the result of Ragweed pollen




### *Stachys byzantina* Lamb's Ear





- A popular semi-evergreen herbaceous perennial, USDA zones 5 (4b) – 8 (9a)
- Slowly spreading rosettes of large thick floppy leaves covered in soft white hairs
- Silver-green to silver-gray color
- Avoid poorly drained soils and high humidity; use drip irrigation
- Full sun to afternoon shade; tolerates low fertility soils
- Classic for tactile (touch & feel) gardens
- Cottage or children's gardens; mixed perennial beds; small scale groundcover; silver accent



### *Tagetes lemmonii* Copper Canyon Daisy

- Semi-evergreen subshrub native to the SW USA effective in z. 7 – 9 (10)
  - Loose open to sprawling form
  - Soft-textured strongly aromatic foliage, some say +, some say –
- Profusion of single yellow to yellow-orange daisy-like flowers; peak bloom is in late summer to fall, sporadically in spring to mid-summer
- Full sun is best; benefits from annual pruning; avoid poorly drained sites and high humidity
- Southwestern style gardens; low irrigation plantings; naturalizing; parking lot islands & other tough dry spots


### *Tagetes lucida* Mexican Mint Marigold



- Erect herbaceous perennial, 2' to 3' tall, with anise-scented foliage
- Perennial in USDA zones 8 – 10, annual elsewhere
- Valued for late summer to fall mass bloom of small single flowers
- Requires full sun and well drained soils; soil pH adaptable
- Heat and drought tolerant
- Xeriscapes; mixed perennial borders; cut flower gardens; fall accent; butterfly gardens





### *Bog / Water Garden Plants*

- Valued for their ability to tolerate water logged soils, periodic flooding, and/or standing water
- Floating versus emergent water plants
- Anchored versus free floating plants
- Required for a healthy ecosystem in water features
- Nothing has the universal human appeal of water features, except perhaps trees








### *Water Gardens Can Also Add Motion And Sound To Garden Settings*





### *Canna* × *generalis* Canna

- Herbaceous perennial, USDA z. 8 (7) - 11, or summer tuber
- Large coarse textured tropical foliage from tuberous rhizomes
  - Pseudo-stems, 2' - 9', resemble small banana plant
- Attractive orchid-like or gladiolus-like flowers
  - Spikes, red, orange, yellow, pink, white, solid or bicolors, flushes spring to frost
  - Attracts hummingbirds

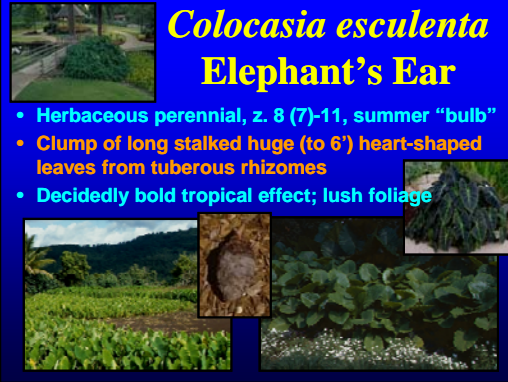
***Canna × generalis***  
**Canna**

- Wide site adaptability, dry soils to standing water; pH adaptable
- Problems: leaf-rolling caterpillars and grasshoppers
- Formal beds, backgrounds, bogs, water gardens, containers, tropical accent




***Colocasia esculenta***  
**Elephant's Ear**

- Herbaceous perennial, z. 8 (7)-11, summer "bulb"
- Clump of long stalked huge (to 6') heart-shaped leaves from tuberous rhizomes
- Decidedly bold tropical effect; lush foliage



***Colocasia esculenta***  
**Elephant's Ear**

- Can take sun only if lots of water is available
  - On moist well drained to boggy sites it can be invasive; problem along waterways
- Source of taro and poi, *Caution it must be properly prepared to be edible*



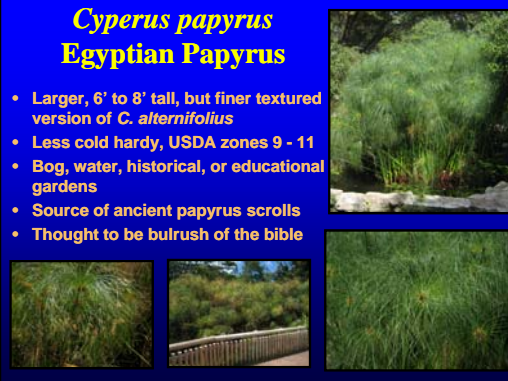
***Cyperus alternifolius***  
**Umbrella Sedge**

- Herbaceous perennial, USDA z. 9(8)-11
- Pleasingly coarse textured rounded mound of 3' to 6' tall flower stalks topped with whorl of strap-like dark green leaf-like bracts
- Equally at home in water/bog gardens, perennial border, tropical accent, or as summer annual; cut arrangements




***Cyperus papyrus***  
**Egyptian Papyrus**


- Larger, 6' to 8' tall, but finer textured version of *C. alternifolius*
- Less cold hardy, USDA zones 9 - 11
- Bog, water, historical, or educational gardens
- Source of ancient papyrus scrolls
- Thought to be bulrush of the bible



***Eichhornia crassipes***  
**Water Hyacinth**




- Raft-forming floating herbaceous perennial water plant
- Beautiful orchid-like flowers and handsome foliage
- **Restricted plant** in most warm climate regions due to invasiveness of still or slow moving water
  - Can clog waterways in warm climates
  - Limited cold hardiness, z. 8b (8a) - 11, suppresses its invasive tendencies in colder climates were it is used as a summer annual
  - Good example of the need for regional specificity in invasive species categorization / legislation











***Equisetum hyemale*  
Horsetail**

- Upright herbaceous perennial, 2' - 4' (9') in USDA zones 7 - 11
- Stiff unbranched segmented green stems, strong vertical element
- Distinct prehistoric / exotic appearance
- Tolerates standing water or dry sites
- Very aggressive, restrain rhizomes
- Useful as accent in florist's arrangements, pot accents, bogs, water gardens

***Iris pseudacorus*  
Yellow Flag**

- Similar to Louisiana Iris, but larger, 3' to 4'+, and even more vigorous
- Surprisingly cold hardy (USDA z. 4 - 9), very heat tolerant, salt and poor drainage tolerant
- Soil adaptable, can become mildly weedy; adds vertical form
- Good in bog or water features
- Gorgeous yellow flowers in spring, but only a single flush of bloom per year

***Nymphaea spp.*  
Water Lilies**

- Classic floating water plants, dark glossy green or variegated circular leaves
- Gorgeous 2" to 8" diameter floating to slightly emergent white, blue, yellow, pink, red or bicolor flowers, spring to frost
- Strong horizontal element in water features








***Nymphaea spp.*  
Water Lilies**






- Flowers highly fragrant, some bloom at night
- Limited cold hardiness for many of the more colorful cultivars; one or more species is hardy in z. 4 - 11
- Use in 1' to 3' of water, can be weedy, needs thinning





***Nelumbo spp.*  
Water Lotus**

- Can be thought of as a larger coarser version of water lilies
- Circular leaves 1' to 2' across, emergent from surface to several feet above the surface; some species USDA z. 6 - 11
- Large 6" - 10" diameter yellow flowers, spring / summer, seed pods used in floristry
- Can become a noxious weed
- Sacred symbol in some eastern religions

***Marsilea macropoda*  
Water Clover**

- Evergreen to semi-evergreen herbaceous perennial, USDA zones 8 - 10, fern relative
- Handsome four-leaved clover-like foliage is a rich dark green color
- Effective large scale groundcover for wet soils or even shallow water / boggy areas
- Full sun to moderate shade; pH adaptable; performs well in the Hill Country
- Rejuvenation prune if plants become rag-tag
- Tends to overwhelm smaller species in mixed plantings







- A **restricted** plant in Texas and much of Southeastern U.S.
- Floating evergreen perennial, z. 9 (8) - 11, formerly used in the Southern U.S. for its unique foliage & form in water gardens
- Sometimes still grown in northern regions where cold limits its invasive tendencies; there used as summer accents in pools, water features, and high light interiorscape pools
- Despite its common name of Water Lettuce, ingestion is reportedly **poisonous**; do not plant in restricted regions

***Pistia stratiotes***  
**Water Lettuce**





***Pontederia cordata*** **Pickerel Weed**

- Eastern USA native herbaceous perennial; erect, emergent 1' - 3' (4') above water
- Coarse arrow-shaped leaves
- Showy 6" to 8" terminal spikes of tiny purplish blue or white flowers
- Can be very weedy; spreads by rhizomes; difficult to eradicate
- Heat and wet soil OK, but not drought
- Naturalizing; bog and water gardens where containment is possible; water pots / barrels; butterfly gardens







- Herbaceous perennial in USDA z. 7 (67) - 11, bog / water garden plant
- Creates dense impenetrable mass of unbranched cane-like stems to 8' tall; containment is an issue
- Vertical sword-like leaves to 7' long
- Aggressive, tolerates drought or standing water; strong vertical form

***Typha angustifolia***  
**Narrowleaf Cattail**




***Typha angustifolia***  
**Narrowleaf Cattail**

Other species are hardy from USDA z. 3 to 11

- Bottle-brush flowers forming fuzzy stiff fruit
  - Resemble brown corn dogs
  - Effective summer/fall
  - Fruit can be used in dried arrangements if treated to prevent seed dispersal

*T. latifolia*

*'Variegata'*




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