

# Best of the ZOO

## Annuals

### Top Picks

Annuals are a popular, wonderful, and adaptable way to bring color and texture to the garden. For many annuals that contribute bloom, they also attract and support pollinating insects such as butterflies, honeybees, and other beneficial insects.

This brochure is designed to help you identify beautiful, sustainable, strong-growing annuals for your garden. All the suggested plants emerged as consistently high performers over a decade of trialing at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Our trialing program is generously supported by breeding companies, growers, and others throughout the green industry. Rating of the plants is completed with the help of the Cincinnati Flower Growers Association, OSU Hamilton County Extension, Master Gardeners, and Zoo staff & volunteers.

To succeed with annuals, till or cultivate your soil deeply, adding enough compost or pine fines to create a rich soil. Know your site's conditions. Is it wet, dry, sunny, or shady? Then choose the appropriate plants. Once planted, be sure to mulch, water as needed, and consider the occasional boost of a quality fertilizer.

The Best of the Zoo series of brochures are products of our Plant Trials. It is our hope that they raise the level of Horticulture in the region, which improves the quality of life for the entire community. You can find our other brochures at: <http://cincinnati-zoo.org/plants/>



*Impatiens Bounce® White*



*Dahlia 'Mystic Illusion'*



*Sweet Potato 'Marguerite'*



*Ipomoea Solar Power Black™*



*Lantana Little Lucky™ Pot of Gold*



*Begonia Whopper® Series Red with Bronze Leaf*



*Zinnia Double Zahara™ Fire*



*Impatiens SunPatens® Series, Compact Electric Orange*



*Petunia Supertunia® Vista Bubblegum*

This brochure was produced and paid for by the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Many of these recommended annuals can be found at the following independent local garden centers.

- Adopt-A-Plant
- AJ Rahn Greenhouses
- Baeten's Nursery and Greenhouse
- Berns Garden Center
- Blooms and Berries Farm Market
- Brown's Family Farm Market
- Burger Farm and Garden
- Bzak Garden Center
- Casey's Outdoor Design
- Cyndi's Coffee and Garden Shop
- Delhi Garden Center
- Denny McKeown's Bloomin Garden Centre
- Ever's Country Gardens
- Ft. Thomas Florist and Greenhouses
- Greenfield Plant Farm
- H.J. Benken Garden Center
- Holscher Hackman Garden Center
- Jackson Florist
- Joe Cappel's Lawn and Landscape
- Knollwood Garden Center
- Lakeview Garden Center and Landscaping
- McCabe Greenhouse and Floral
- Meadow View Growers
- Natorp's Nursery Outlet
- Patterson's Nursery
- Pipkin's Market
- Robben Florist and Garden Center
- Sharon Nursery
- The Flower Bed
- West Hills Greenhouse
- White Oak Garden Center

If you would like to support our efforts on this program or have any questions regarding the "Zoo's Best" program please contact us at 513-475-6106 [www.cincinnati-zoo.org](http://www.cincinnati-zoo.org)



FSC Logo

## Annuals



Pipeline swallowtail on Zinnia Zahara 'Fire'

# Best of the ZOO

Experience the Botanical Side of the Zoo.



# Best of the ZOO

## Annuals

### Annuals Full Sun (under 15")

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Angelonia Serena® Purple                        | Plectranthus 'Nicoletta'                               |
| Angelonia Serena® White                         | Plectranthus 'Nicodemus'                               |
| Bidens Goldilocks Rocks®                        | Plectranthus 'Silver Crest'                            |
| Chrysocephalum 'Silver Fox'                     | Plectranthus 'Silver Shield' <b>HF</b>                 |
| Dahlia 'XXL Chiapas'                            | Scaevola 'Brilliant'                                   |
| Dahlia 'XXL Durango' <b>PP</b>                  | Scaevola New Wonder® <b>PP</b>                         |
| Dichondra Silver Falls™                         | Sedum 'Lemon Coral'                                    |
| Euphorbia Diamond Frost®                        | Sweet Potato 'FloraMia Rosso'                          |
| Evolvulus Blue My Mind™ <b>PP</b>               | Sweet Potato 'Marguerite' <b>HF</b>                    |
| Helychrysum 'Licorice'                          | Sweet Potato 'Sweet Caroline Sweetheart Red' <b>HF</b> |
| Impatiens Bounce® White                         | Sweet Potato 'Black Heart'                             |
| Lantana 'New Gold' <b>PP, HF</b>                | Sweet Potato Illusion® Garnet Lace <b>HF</b>           |
| Lantana Little Lucky™ Pot of Gold <b>PP</b>     | Sweet Potato Solar Power™ Black                        |
| Lobularia Frosty Knight® <b>PP</b>              | Sweet Potato 'Sweet Caroline Sweetheart Purple'        |
| Marigold 'Aurora Yellow'                        | Verbena Superbena® Royale Chambray <b>PP</b>           |
| Pelargonium Caliente® Orange                    | Vinca 'Mediterranean XP Strawberry'                    |
| Pelargonium Calliope® Lavender Rose             | Vinca Titan® Series <b>HF</b>                          |
| Pentas 'Northern Lights Lavender' <b>PP</b>     | Vinca Valiant™ Punch <b>PP</b>                         |
| Pepper 'Black Pearl' <b>PP</b>                  | Zinnia 'Star Gold' <b>PP, HF</b>                       |
| Petunia Supertunia® Vista Bubblegum <b>HF</b>   | Zinnia Double Zahara™ Yellow <b>PP, HF</b>             |
| Petunia Supertunia® Vista Silverberry <b>HF</b> | Zinnia Double Zahara™ Fire, <b>PP, HF</b>              |
| Petunia Tidal Wave® Silver                      |  |

### Annuals Full Sun (15"-30")

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Alternanthera 'Purple Knight'          | Dahlia Dahlightful® Sultry Scarlet <b>PP</b> |
| Angelonia Angelface® Blue              | Lantana Landmark™ Citrus <b>PP</b>           |
| Angelonia Applique™ Pink               | Lantana Landmark™ Gold <b>PP</b>             |
| Angelonia Archangel™ Dark Rose         | Lantana Landmark™ Sunrise Rose <b>PP</b>     |
| Angelonia Archangel™ Raspberry         | Lantana Lucky™ Yellow <b>PP, HF</b>          |
| Coleus 'Alabama Sunset'                | Lantana Luscious® Citrus Blend <b>PP, HF</b> |
| Coleus 'Dark Star'                     | Lantana Luscious® Marmalade <b>PP</b>        |
| Coleus 'Pineapple'                     | Melinis 'Pink Champagne'                     |
| Coleus 'Sedona'                        | Pennisetum 'Fireworks'                       |
| Dahlia 'Mystic Illusion' <b>PP, HF</b> | Pennisetum 'Sky Rocket'                      |
| Gomphrena 'Fireworks' <b>PP</b>        | Verbena bonariensis <b>PP</b>                |

### Annuals Full Sun (Over 30")

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Canna 'Bengal Tiger'                   | Pennisetum 'Black Stockings'   |
| Canna Cannova® Mango                   | Pennisetum 'Rubrum' <b>HF</b>  |
| Canna Cannova® Orange Shades <b>PP</b> | Pennisetum Vertigo® <b>HF</b>  |
| Hibiscus 'Mahogany Splendor'           | Zinnia 'Uproar Rose' <b>PP</b> |

### Annuals Part Shade/Shade (under 15")

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Begonia 'Gryphon'                    | Coleus Kong® Scarlet                     |
| Begonia 'Nightlife Deep Rose'        | Hypoestes Splash 'Select White'          |
| Begonia Dragonwing® Series <b>HF</b> | Impatiens Celebration Series             |
| Begonia Megawatt™ Pink Bronze Leaf   | Impatiens Celebrette Hot Pink            |
| Begonia Megawatt™ Red Green Leaf     | Torenia Catalina® Gilded Grape <b>PP</b> |
| Coleus Kong® Rose                    | Torenia Summer Wave® Blue <b>PP</b>      |

### Annuals Part Shade/Shade (15"-30")

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Begonia Big™ Series               | Coleus Signature™ Gnash Rambler          |
| Begonia Whopper® Series <b>HF</b> | Coleus Splish Splash®                    |
| Coleus 'Alabama Sunset'           | Coleus 'Trusty Rusty'                    |
| Coleus 'Apple Brandy'             | Colocasia 'Black Coral'                  |
| Coleus 'Dark Star' <b>HF</b>      | Cyperus 'Baby Tut' <b>HF</b>             |
| Coleus 'Dipt n Wine' <b>HF</b>    | Impatiens Bounce® White                  |
| Coleus 'Electric Lime'            | Impatiens SunPatience® Series            |
| Coleus 'Kingswood Torch'          | Impatiens SunStanding Series             |
| Coleus 'Life Lime' <b>HF</b>      | Iresine 'Blazin' Rose'                   |
| Coleus 'Pineapple'                | Pennisetum 'Jade Princess'               |
| Coleus 'Premium Sun Crimson'      | Salvia 'Golden Delicious' <b>PP</b>      |
| Coleus 'Redhead' <b>HF</b>        | Salvia 'Mystic Spires' <b>PP</b>         |
| Coleus 'Sedona' <b>HF</b>         | Strobilanthes dyerianus (Persian Shield) |
| Coleus 'Sky Fire'                 |  |

### Annuals Part Shade/Shade (Over 30")

|                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Colocasia 'Blue Hawaii' | Colocasia 'Diamond Head'   |
| Colocasia 'Coffee Cups' | Colocasia 'Red-Eyed Gecko' |

**KEY**    **HF**= Hall of Fame    **PP**= Polinator Plant



Vinca Titan® Icy Pink



Verbena Superbena® Royale Chambray



Pennisetum 'Jade Princess' (Millet)



Lantana New Gold



Dahlia XXL Chiapas



Begonia Dragon Wing® Red



Coleus Readhead



Coleus Trusty Rusty