

# Green Thumb



APRIL 2026

Special supplement to  
The Progressor-Times  
and The Mohawk Leader

## Green Thumb Gardening

## & Home Improvement Guide



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## Perennials to consider this year



Gardening is a rewarding hobby that provides a great reason to get outdoors. Getting one's hands dirty in the garden often pays off with a colorful, awe-inspiring finished product.

Perennials are plants that live multiple years. Even though perennials may die back above ground each winter, their roots remain alive, which is why the colorful blooms typically return anew once warm weather makes a comeback. Gardeners who want to

capitalize on the hardiness of perennials can consider these plants for their gardens this season.

- Coreopsis: Coreopsis are perennials that thrive in a wide range of conditions, including various types of soil. So gardeners who find their soil is predominantly clay as well as those with sandy soil may be able to successfully plant coreopsis on their properties. Better Homes & Gardens (BHG) notes coreopsis are native to the United States and produce

colorful blooms that can withstand hot and dry weather throughout the summer.

- Russian sage: Russian sage produce purplish-blue flowers that BHG notes retain their color for weeks. Russian sage can be planted in a variety of the hardiness zones defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and many gardening experts recommend them to gardeners whose local climates tend to be especially hot and dry.
- Hellebore: BHG notes hellebore are ideal for gardeners who want some color in the early days of spring. Hellebore have an early flowering season, so their blooms, which can be pink, white, purple, yellow, green, rose or purple, can be a welcome sign in spring.
- Baptisia: Gardening experts note these purple-blooming perennials thrive in

sun. Gardeners who want perennials with particularly long life expectancies can consider baptisia, as experts note they can live for many decades. Baptisia are drought-tolerant and they can grow in soil that may not be considered great for other plants.

- Coneflower: The unique look of coneflowers has generated many enthusiasts of these perennials that bloom from early summer to fall. Coneflowers are highly adaptable, making them capable of growing in various zones and soil types. Once established, coneflowers are considered very drought-tolerant.

Perennials can add aesthetic appeal to landscapes year after year. Gardeners are urged to speak to experts at local gardening centers to identify the perfect plants for their gardens.

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