

Perennials

Many plantings in the Botanic Garden include herbs staying in a single habitat for several seasons. Native and introduced species and ornamental cultivars are represented. They develop slowly and only after their full development is achieved, can we see a seasonal blooming of these plants. Many of the perennials are attractive decorative species. They can carry important medicinal properties. Many of them are aromatic, spicy, or otherwise useful plants. They are often important species for beekeeping and are important for their ecological benefits to wildlife. Perennials are grown in the BG in several separate beds, mainly in the Ecological Educational Area.

Common perennials growing on the area:

Aquilegia

This perennial of attractive appearance may occur in a plenty of colour mutations. Compared to their botanical predecessors, ornamental hybrids are characterised by much larger blossoms. Aquilegias are relatively short-lived perennials. They usually live for several years. However, they regenerate well spontaneously with their own seedlings. Therefore, the colour range of blossoms in the stand can change over the years. When cultivating them, the greatest risks appear in the initial development of seedlings, and aquilegias do not like the limited space for their roots when grown in a pot. If they settle in their permanent place in the open soil, they can stay there for a long time and dead individuals are easily replaced by new naturally occurring seedlings. There are different species and hybrids from white, yellow, red, to purple and blue. The blossoms are often two-coloured, with conspicuous spurs. Simple and polypetalous, low and high more than a metre. It blossoms at the turn of spring and summer.

***Lamprocapnos spectabilis* (syn. *Dicentra spectabilis*)**

Bleeding Heart

A perennial native to East Asia, especially Northeast China and Korea. It grows in sparse deciduous forests at higher altitudes. As an attractive ornamental plant, it is currently grown in a temperate climate zone around the world. It reproduces well both from seed and vegetatively by dividing the fleshy roots. It wakes up to the new season in April and after blossoming in early summer, after a short period of vegetation, it is laid to rest at the end of August.

Bleeding Heart should be placed mostly in half shade in the garden. It can also grow in a sunny place in moist soil. The root of the plant is relatively fragile and it is not recommended to loosen or otherwise cultivate the soil in its immediate vicinity. At the beginning of winter, it is suitable to cover and slightly protect it against cold and drying. A small layer of fallen leaf will also serve the purpose.

It is characterised by heart-shaped flowers that hang on the side stems like a necklace. There are several varieties, white, pink and those with a gold leaf are popular. It blooms in spring.

Echinacea purpurea

Purple Coneflower

Perennial herb native to North America – Canada and the USA. At the time of blooming, it reaches a height of approximately 120 cm. The plant flowers by pink blossoms from late spring and blooming continues throughout the summer. There are a number of ornamental cultivars with flowers in different shades of pink, but there are also white, yellow, orange, full-blown or green-blossomed varieties. That big perennial is usually very hardy and unusual to suffer from diseases. It resists competition with other types of herbs of comparable height very well. It reliably fulfils its mission for several years. It is easily propagated both by dividing tufts and seeds. It is one of the valuable beekeeping plants providing pollen and nectar to insects. The product of this herb is credited with the ability to trigger the human immune system. The root of a 3-year-old plant is considered its most effective part. Dry blossoms are a nice decoration in the garden.

Helenium autumnale

Helenium

This tall and resistant perennial blooms in the second half of summer and in autumn. The most common are the varieties with yellow flowers. Some cultivars have a brick-red colour, rusty to dark burgundy. Individuals cultivated by sowing seeds from red-blooming plants tend to return to yellow tones in increasing proportions in future generations. Colour-accurate offspring are obtained only by vegetative propagation, e.g. by simple division of lush clumps. Some varieties are lower, others reach human height.

Helenium is an extremely hardy and undemanding perennial that attracts attention by its appearance in the flowerbed, but it is also very useful for cutting flowers into a vase.

Hemerocallis

Daylily

Daylilies are among the perennials that have received generous attention from growers, and the result is in a large assortment of lushly growing and abundantly blooming varieties. In recent years, new and beautifully blooming innovations have been appearing. In addition, polyploid hybrids are characterised by exceptional properties, such as excellent health, broad and deeply coloured leaves with a long vegetative season, resistance to competition even on less fertile soils and, above all, large, colourful and attractive blossoms. Daylilies are mainly flowerbed perennials. So far, they have not been used for cutting into a vase, because the lifespan of an individual blossom is limited to a little longer than 24 hours. But progress has already been made even here, and new hybrids offer this use. Remontant varieties are also appearing. The interesting thing is that the blossoms are edible and tasty. They are grown in a separate flowerbed in the Botanical Garden.

Phlox paniculata

Green Lion

Green Lions are very hardy and fragrant perennials with long woody stems and lanceolate leaves. Their cultivation is not demanding, they are suitable for traditional garden soil and bloom profusely even without fertilisation. They grow well in full sun or partial shade. They are long-lived perennials and are highly frost-resistant, up to -34° C. They combine well with daisies, rudbeckia, echinacea,

leggings, daylilies or mallards. There are different colour varieties, often white, pink, or violet. Two-coloured or full-blossomed ones are also nice.