

# *in* BLOOM

SEASONAL SPOTLIGHT: AUTUMN

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# DAHLIA

ELEGANCE AND DIGNITY

Dahlia is a genus of bushy, tuberous, perennial plants native to Mexico, Central America, and Colombia. Related species include the sunflower, daisy, chrysanthemum, and zinnia. There are 42 species of dahlia, with hybrids commonly grown as garden plants. Flower forms are variable, with one head per stem, which can be as small as 2" in diameter or up to 1 ft known as a "dinner plate" dahlia.

Dahlias bloom from late summer through autumn and hit their stride as most perennials are starting to fade. They are best suited for climates that do not experience frost and need a minimum of 6 hours of sunlight per day. Loose, fertile, well drained soil is best. Dahlias can grow from 1 to 6 feet tall.



# ZINNIA

LASTING AFFECTION

Zinnia is a genus of plants of the sunflower tribe within the daisy family. They are native to scrub and dry grassland in an area stretching from the Southwestern United States to South America, but grow primarily in Mexico. They are notable for their solitary long-stemmed flowers that resemble dahlias and come in a variety of bright colors.

Annual plants, Zinnias bloom from summer to autumn and have the ability to attract hummingbirds. They prefer full sun and grow best in fertile, humus-rich, and well-drained soil. Zinnias range in height from 4 to 40 in.

DEVOTION AND GRATITUDE

# CAMELLIA

Camellia is a genus of flowering plants in the family Theaceae. They are found in eastern and southern Asia, from the Himalayas east to Japan and Indonesia. Camellias are also very popular in the southern United States. There are 100–300 described species and over 3,000 hybrids.

Their blooms range in color from white or pink to deep red. Some can look as simple as a wild rose, others as full blown as a peony, set against glossy dark green leaves.

The flowering season for the Sasanqua variety (pictured here) usually begins in October and lasts through December or January. They grow and bloom better in partial shade with most flowers reaching 3 to 4 inches in width.



# HEATHER

ADMIRATION AND GOOD LUCK

*Calluna vulgaris* (known commonly as heather) is the sole species in the genus *Calluna* in the flowering plant family *Ericaceae*. Heather is native to Ireland, Scotland, Scandinavia, Russia, and parts of northern North America.

Different varieties of Heather flowers bloom from late July to November, and come in colors ranging from white to pink, purple and reds. They prefer full sun, and well-drained, acidic soil, and need protection from cold winter winds. They are a low-growing perennial shrub growing 7.9 to 19.7 in tall.

Heather is said to have medicinal properties and is thought to be good for inflammation of the urinary passages, prostate problems, bladder ailments and kidney stones.

# CONEFLOWER

STRENGTH AND HEALING

*Echinacea* is a genus, or group of herbaceous flowering plants in the daisy family. The *Echinacea* genus has nine species, which are commonly called coneflowers. They are found only in eastern and central North America, where they grow in moist to dry prairies and open wooded areas.

Coneflowers bloom from late summer to early autumn. They are considered easy flowers to grow and prefer full sun, fertile rich or sandy, well-drained soil. These drought-tolerant perennial plants can grow between 2 to 4 ft tall.

Coneflowers are a mild natural antibiotic, and are thought to boost the immune system.



# BLACKEYED SUSAN

ENCOURAGEMENT AND MOTIVATION

*Rudbeckia hirta*, commonly called Blackeyed Susan, is a North American flowering plant in the sunflower family. They are native to eastern and central North America, and naturalized in the western part of the continent as well as in Canada and China.

Blackeyed Susans are an upright annual (sometimes biennial or perennial) plant that blooms from summer to early autumn. They are extremely hardy plants and very tolerant of different conditions. They can grow up to 3 feet tall, and have leaves that measure up to 6 inches in length.

Blackeyed Susans have been used by Native Americans as a medicinal herb believed to be a remedy for colds, flu, infection, and swelling.

# CHRYSAANTHEMUM

HOPE AND EXCITEMENT

Chrysanthemums, often called mums or chrysanth, are a genus of about 30 species of perennial flowering plants in the family Asteraceae, native to Asia and northeastern Europe.

Chrysanthemums are hardy annuals, blooming from September to November. They produce a blanket of flowers in a range of colors, varying in appearance from daisy-like, decorative, pompons or even button blossoms. They like well-drained, rich soil, and full sun. Chrysanthemums can grow from 2 to 3 feet tall.

Chrysanthemums have been used as a natural source of insecticide.



# GERANIUM

GENTILITY AND DETERMINATION

Geranium is a genus of 422 species of flowering annual, biennial, and perennial plants that are commonly known as the cranesbills. It is found throughout the temperate regions of the world and the mountains of the tropics, but mostly in the eastern part of the Mediterranean region.

Spring, early summer and autumn are the main blooming periods for Geraniums. They will grow in any soil as long as it is not waterlogged, and can tolerate full sun to partial shade. The flowers have five petals and are coloured white, pink, purple or blue, often with distinctive veining. Geraniums can grow from 6 in to 3 ft tall.

