

# APPROVED PLANT LIST

## Midtown Alliance Tree Well Adoption Program



Midtown Alliance launched the Tree Well Adoption program with the primary goal of enriching the experience of Midtown's workers and residents while encouraging sustainability through the use of low-water, urban tolerant plant species. This list of plants was created to aid individuals and organizations in selecting plant material to plant in their adopted tree wells. This plant list is intended to encourage individual character in the tree wells, rather than restrict creativity in the selection of plants.

The plants on the approved list were selected based on the following criteria:

- **Perennial.** All plants listed are perennial, meaning they last for two or more growing seasons. Once established, these plants will require less water to maintain than annuals.
- **Heat tolerant.** Plants in tree wells are exposed to high temperatures caused by vehicles and heat reflected from surrounding buildings, asphalt, and other urban surfaces. They must also be tolerant to high daytime temperatures, typical of Atlanta's summer months, and cold hardy in the winter months. Atlanta is located in USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 7b/8a.
- **Water wise.** Urban tree wells are surrounded by impervious surfaces and thus, are highly susceptible to periods of drought. Suitable plants must be able to survive periods of low rainfall.
- **Pollution tolerant.** Vehicle exhaust may leave deposits and pollutants on plant foliage, which can kill sensitive plants.
- **Encourage wildlife.** Flowering plants attract insects such as butterflies while others provide food sources for birds and other wildlife.
- **Grown locally.** Many of the plants listed are native to the Atlanta area, and all can be found at local nurseries. Plants grown outside of the Southeastern United States are not as adapted to our local climate and therefore may require more water and maintenance. Non-local plants also require more fuel to transport to the planting site.

Before you begin your plant selection, please take a moment to consider the following:

- *How much sun light does each tree well receive?* This may be affected by the reflection of light off of surrounding buildings or shade from the existing tree in the tree well. Choosing plants that are suited to the unique light exposure of your tree wells will help your plants thrive.
- *How will the plants look together?* Taller plants may block views of other plants. Aim to use a variety of textures, sizes, and colors to create dynamic compositions.
- *How will the plants look year-round?* Most plants vary in appearance and aesthetic character at different times of the year. Some have flowers that bloom in the spring while others may produce berries in the winter. Include a variety of plants so that your tree wells are visually-appealing during all seasons.

## Full Sun



**Aster spp. (*Aster species*)**, suggested cultivars include: **Heath Aster (*Aster ericoides*)**, **Wild Blue Aster (*Aster grandiflorus*)**, **Smooth Aster (*Aster laevis*)**, **New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae* 'Purple Dome')**, **Jane's Aster (*Aster oblongifolius* 'Jane Bath')**, **Rachel's Aster (*Aster oblongifolius* 'Rachel Jackson')**, **Tatarian Aster (*Aster tataricus*)**

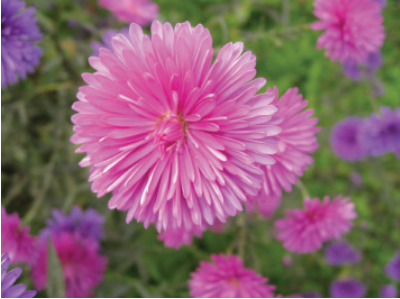
Flowering perennial. Cone-shaped panicles of blue, yellow-centered Asters are produced over a long period beginning in late-summer and extending into the fall above clumping plants with maroon stems.

**Height:** 3 to 3.5 feet

**Spread:** 3 to 3.5 feet

**Sun:** Full sun

**Bloom:** August to October- blue, pink with a yellow center



**Shasta Daisy (*Chrysanthemum superbum*)** - This clump-forming perennial flower appears in late spring and continues on for several months if faithfully deadheaded. Its long blooming period makes this cultivar especially attractive, along with its drought-tolerance. Flowers exhibit the classic "daisy pattern," with white petals radiating from a central yellow disk.

**Height:** 2 to 3 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Sun:** Full sun

**Bloom:** June to September- white, yellow



**Coreopsis (*Coreopsis Verticillata* 'Moonbeam')** - Freely produced soft yellow flowers are a charming addition to your tree well. Flowers appear singly on short stalks continuously blooming from early summer right into fall. The dainty, finely-cut foliage adds texture and an interesting contrast to surrounding perennials. They spread slowly but surely and can be used in a naturalized planting on a sunny bank.

**Height:** 18 to 24 inches

**Spread:** 18 to 24 inches

**Sun:** Full sun

**Bloom:** June to August- yellow shades



**Cheddar Pinks (*Dianthus* 'Bath's Pink')** - A stunning, wide-spreading ground cover with grassy, blue-green foliage and numerous pink flowers. To keep its blooms going, be sure to deadhead. Blooms in late spring with some intermittent repeat bloom in summer.

**Height:** 9 to 12 inches

**Spread:** 6 to 12 inches

**Sun:** Full sun

**Bloom:** May to July- pink



**Red Hot Poker (*Echo uvaria* 'Echo Rojo')** - Spikes of deep orange to red blooms dot this plant beginning with summer and continue all season. This ultra free-flowering selection is a hummingbird and butterfly magnet. The individual tubular flowers are filled with sweet nectar that hummingbirds find irresistible.

**Height:** 3 to 4 feet

**Spread:** 18 to 24 inches

**Sun:** Full sun

**Bloom:** Early to late summer- red, orange



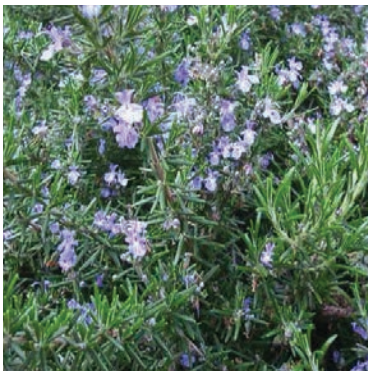
**Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia* 'Filigran')** - Dense, slender, upright branches form a narrow upright clump of greyish leaves that are finely cut and fragrant. Spikes of rich violet-blue flowers appear in high summer, continuing into late fall. An extremely versatile garden plant that loves hot, sunny sites.

**Height:** 3.5 to 6 feet

**Spread:** 2 to 3 feet

**Sun:** Full sun

**Bloom:** June to October- deep blue



**Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)** - A hardy, fast-growing evergreen shrub with attractive flowers and fragrance. Dark green leaves, to 2 inches long, are rich in aromatic oils and commonly used as a culinary herb. This plant is loved for its strong pinelike flavor and fragrance. Species is upright, but other cultivars with prostrate habit or pink or white habit are suitable.

**Height:** 3.5 to 6 feet

**Spread:** 2 to 4 feet

**Sun:** Full sun

**Bloom:** January to April- blue, pink, or white



**Purple Sage (*Salvia officinalis* 'Purpurescens')** - Grayish-green, wooly leaves edged in purplish-red. Once established, this hardy perennial is fairly drought-resistant. Thrives in almost any well-drained soil. Avoid overwatering.

**Height:** 12 to 24 inches

**Spread:** 24 to 36 inches

**Sun:** Full sun

**Bloom:** Summer- mauve, rose-purple blend



**Green Santolina (*Santolina virens*)** - Evergreen shrub, mounding and low. The foliage is deep green, and the growth habit is more compact. Bright yellow, 3/4" flowers are held on 10" long stalks and contrast nicely with the dark foliage in mid-summer. Shear back yearly after flowering to maintain compact growth.

**Height:** 12 to 18 inches

**Spread:** 2 to 3 feet

**Sun:** Full sun

**Bloom:** Summer- yellow, gold



**Bertram Anderson Sedum (*Sedum crassulaceae*)** - Forms a low carpet of small, burgundy-black leaves. Stems of a glossy purple hue are cloaked with cool, dusty-lilac leaves creating an overall effect of a very subdued blue. In bold contrast with its understated foliage are the rose-pink flowers it produces in late summer.

**Height:** 6 to 9 inches  
**Spread:** 12 to 15 inches  
**Sun:** Full sun  
**Bloom:** Summer- lavender, pink



**Angelina Stonecrop (*Sedum rupestre 'Angelina'*)** - Terrific low evergreen groundcover forms a trailing mat of succulent golden-yellow leaves. Clusters of yellow starry flowers appear during the summer. The leaves of this cultivar are the main ornamental interest. Needs good soil drainage to perform well.

**Height:** 3 to 6 inches  
**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet  
**Sun:** Full sun  
**Bloom:** June to August- yellow



**October Daphne Sedum (*Sedum sieboldii 'Dragon'*)** - This mound-like species splays out from the center like a miniature fountain. Blue-green leaves with matching rosy margins. In early fall, bright pink, star-shaped flowers are borne in small clusters at the ends of the stems and the foliage turns beautiful shades of pink, red, yellow, and orange.

**Height:** 6 to 10 inches  
**Spread:** 12 to 18 inches  
**Sun:** Full sun  
**Bloom:** Early fall- pink



**Chinese Sedum (*Sedum tetractinum 'Coral Reef'*)** - Easily grown in average, dry to medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerates some light shade. Creeping stems root at the nodes. Tiny, star-shaped, white to pale pink flowers (to 3/4") bloom in July-August on stems rising to 4-5" tall. Round, flat green leaves.

**Height:** 3 inches  
**Spread:** 3 to 12 inches  
**Sun:** Full sun  
**Bloom:** July to August- pink, white



**Mexican Feather Grass (*Stipa tenuissima*)** - This grass exhibits quite the refinement of texture as this species. Its bright green foliage resembles delicate filaments that arise in elegant, vase-like clumps and spill outward like a soft fountain. All summer it bears a profusion of feathery panicles, which mature from foamy-green to blonde.

**Height:** 12 to 24 inches  
**Spread:** 12 to 24 inches  
**Sun:** Full sun  
**Bloom:** June to September- green, blonde



**Wall Germander (*Teucrium chamaedrys*)** - A shrubby, woody-based, clump-forming, broad leaf evergreen which is grown ornamentally for its attractive, aromatic, evergreen foliage. Pinch (or shear if leggy or scraggly) stems after flowering to promote bushy, compact growth.

**Height:** 9 to 12 inches

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Sun:** Full sun

**Bloom:** May- pink, purple, lavender



**English Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*)** - Upright, woody-based perennial with highly aromatic leaves that are used fresh or dried as a seasoning in a variety of culinary applications. Whorls of tiny, tubular, lilac flowers appear on the stem ends in late spring to early summer. Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil.

**Height:** 6 to 12 inches

**Spread:** 6 to 12 inches

**Sun:** Full sun

**Bloom:** May to July- purple, lavender

## Full Sun to Part Shade



**Black Scallop (*Ajuga reptans*)** - Common bugleweed is a dense, rapidly spreading, mat-forming ground cover that features shiny, dark green leaves. Whorls of tiny, blue-violet flowers appear in mid to late spring on spikes rising above the foliage to 10". Evergreen in mild and warm climates, this plant has rich, deep blue blooms crowded along short spikes.

**Height:** 6 to 9 inches

**Spread:** 6 to 12 inches

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Bloom:** May to June- blue



**Frosted Curls Sedge (*Carex comans* 'Frosted Curls')** - Plants form a low, cascading mound of very fine grassy leaves. Especially effective as an edging, in the rock garden or in containers. Grassy leaves are olive green in color with prominent silver tips. The foliage often turns brown in fall.

**Height:** 12 inches

**Spread:** 16 inches

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Bloom:** None



**Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*)** - Best grown in moist, loamy, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. This is a tough and adaptable plant that can withstand considerable poor soils. Easiest propagation is by stem cuttings. If correctly sited, plants may require little pruning.

**Height:** 2 to 3 feet

**Spread:** 5 to 8 feet

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Bloom:** May to June- pink



**Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)** - Perennial with 2-5 ft. stems and long-lasting, lavender flowers. Flowers occur singly atop the stems and have domed, purplish-brown, spiny centers and drooping, lavender rays. An attractive perennial with purple (rarely white), drooping rays surrounding a spiny, brownish central disk.

**Height:** 2 to 4 feet

**Spread:** 18 to 24 inches

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Bloom:** June to August- purple, pink



**Evergreen Spurge (*Euphorbia wulfenii* 'Shorty')** - Forms a compact, upright to outwardly spreading habit and strong stems surrounded with blue-green leaves that remain evergreen. Huge clusters of yellow flowers open in very early spring, contrasting with the foliage.

**Height:** 18 to 24 inches

**Spread:** 15 to 18 inches

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Bloom:** March to May- green, yellow



**Southern Beeblossom (*Gaura Angustifolia*)** - Herbaceous perennial that grows in a loose, bushy clump. The stems are slender and wiry, and covered with tiny hairs. The leaves are spoon shaped with toothed margins. The flowers are produced above the foliage on erect spikes that continue to elongate throughout the extended blooming period of late spring until first frost.

**Height:** 4 to 5 feet (*stems only*)

**Spread:** 3 to 4 feet

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Bloom:** June to August- purple, pink



**Daylily Hybrids (*Hemerocallis hybrida*)** - Forms a compact, upright to outwardly spreading habit and strong stems surrounded with blue-green leaves that remain evergreen. Huge clusters of yellow flowers open in very early spring, contrasting with the foliage.

**Height:** 2 to 2.5 feet

**Spread:** 2 to 2.5 feet

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Bloom:** June to August- orange, yellow, deep red



**Inkberry (*Ilex glabra* 'Shamrock')** - The inkberry holly has narrow, glossy, spineless leaves and tiny black fruits. The narrow foliage produces a much finer texture than that of many other hollies. A slow-growing, evergreen shrub that produces greenish white, inconspicuous flowers in spring, followed by jet black drupes the size of peas. Makes an excellent hedge or border plant.

**Height:** 3 to 5 feet

**Spread:** 3 to 4 feet

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Bloom:** May to June- greenish-white flowers and blackish berries



**Lily Turf (*Liriope muscari*)** - Tufted, tuberous-rooted, grass-like perennial which typically grows 12-18" tall and features clumps of strap-like, arching, glossy, dark green leaves (to 1" wide). Clumps slowly expand by short stolons, but do not spread aggressively. Erect, showy flower spikes with tiered whorls of dense, violet-purple flowers rise above the leaves in late summer.

**Height:** 1 to 1.5 feet

**Spread:** 9 to 12 inches

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Bloom:** August to September- lavender



**Creeping Lily Turf (*Liriope spicata*)** - Grass-like perennial which forms a clump of narrow, arching, glossy, dark green leaves. Erect flower spikes with pale lavender to white flowers arise, somewhat hidden, among the leaves in late summer. Flowers often give way to blackish berries in fall. Spreads aggressively; do not plant adjacent to turfgrass without edge restraint.

**Height:** 9 inches to 1.5 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Bloom:** August to September- lavender to white



**Box Honeysuckle (*Lonicera nitida*)** - Fast-growing, dense, box-like shrub, tolerates heavy trimming. Small dark, densely-growing leaves make for a great formal hedge or topiary. Evergreen. Hardy.

**Height:** 2 feet  
**Spread:** 2 feet  
**Sun:** Full sun to part shade  
**Bloom:** Spring- cream, white



**Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)** - Clump-forming, warm season, perennial grass noted for its attractive summer foliage and spectacular clouds of fall flowers. Glossy, wiry, thread-like, dark green leaves and stems form an attractive basal clump to 2' tall. Masses of airy, open, loosely branched inflorescences float above the foliage in a lengthy fall bloom.

**Height:** 2 to 3 feet  
**Spread:** 2 to 3 feet  
**Sun:** Full sun to part shade  
**Bloom:** September to November- pink



**Emerald Blue Creeping Phlox (*Phlox subulata* 'Emerald Blue')** - A dense herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition. Beautiful masses of deep blue flowers top creeping stems.

**Height:** 3 to 6 inches  
**Spread:** 14 to 18 inches  
**Sun:** Full sun to part shade  
**Bloom:** Spring- purple



**Creeping Raspberry (*Rubus calycinoides*)** - This prostrate evergreen species produces a mass of richly textured leaves, making it an attractive groundcover. In summer, it bears white flowers, which are sometimes followed by red fruits. The leaves are thick, neatly rounded and formed, with bronzy undersides and autumn color that persists through the winter.

**Height:** 2 to 4 inches  
**Spread:** 3 to 5 feet  
**Sun:** Full sun to part shade  
**Bloom:** May to June- white



**Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)** - This widespread wildflower is considered an annual to a short-lived perennial. It has bright-yellow, 2-3 in. wide, daisy-like flowers with dark centers atop 1-2 ft. stems. This native prairie biennial forms a rosette of leaves the first year, followed by flowers the second year.

**Height:** 1 to 3 feet  
**Spread:** 12 to 18 inches  
**Sun:** Full sun to part shade  
**Bloom:** June to October- yellow





**Mexican Petunia (*Ruellia simplex*)** - Low-growing perennial with long leaves and blue or purple petunia-like flowers. The individual flowers only last for a day, but the plant blooms throughout the summer. When planted in full sun to partial shade and fertile, moist-to-wet soil, they require little care.

**Height:** 2.5 to 3 feet

**Spread:** 2.5 to 3 feet

**Sun:** Full sun

**Bloom:** May to October- violet-blue



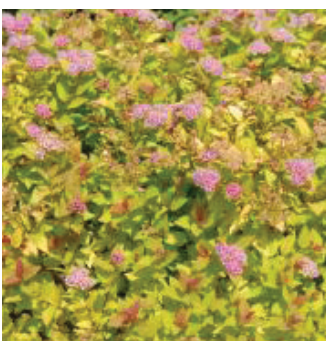
**Lyre Leaf Sage (*Salvia lyrata* 'Purple Volcano')** - Foliage forms a mound of large purple-black leaves that remain attractive for the entire season. Contrasts especially well against plants with gold leaves. Fairly inconspicuous flowers. Adapts to most light situations but appreciates afternoon shade in hot regions.

**Height:** 10 to 18 inches

**Spread:** 12 to 16 inches

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Bloom:** June to October- white



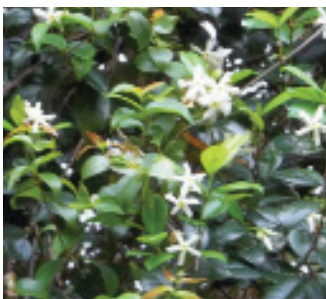
**Goldmound Spirea (*Spirea japonica* 'Goldmound')** - Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerates light shade and a wide range of soils. Remove faded flower clusters as practicable (light shearing is an option) to encourage additional bloom.

**Height:** 3 to 4 feet

**Spread:** 3 to 5 feet

**Sun:** Full sun to light shade

**Bloom:** June to July- light pink



**Asiatic Jasmine (*Trachelospermum asiaticum*)** - Asian Jasmine is a dense, fast growing groundcover for large areas. The small oval leaves are rich green in color and shiny. It prefers moist, well-drained, well-prepared soil for best establishment.

**Height:** 1 to 2 feet

**Spread:** 10 to 12 feet

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Bloom:** June to September- yellow



**Color Guard Yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*)** - Beautiful variegated sword-shaped leaves with sharp pointed leaf tips that bear bold central stripes of bright canary-yellow against a rich celadon edge. In cool weather, margins are tinged pink, and the entire yellow stripe turns rose-colored on many of the leaves, lasting through early spring.

**Height:** 1 to 3 feet

**Spread:** 1.5 to 2 feet

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Bloom:** June to July- Creamy white

## Part Sun to Full Shade



**Gumpo Azalea (*Azalea 'gumpo'*)** - Displays large, single bright white blooms with occasional reddish pink flecks in late spring. Its lush green foliage is fairly dense and provides beautiful contrast for the showy pink blooms. Attracts butterflies. Evergreen.

**Height:** 12 to 24 inches

**Spread:** 24 to 36 inches

**Sun:** Part sun

**Bloom:** May- white or pink depending on varietal



**English Boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*)** - A small, rounded shrub that forms tufts of growth resembling a cloud if unshaped. Slow growing, dwarf habit makes this ideal for edging and borders along pathways or around flower beds.

**Height:** 5 to 15 feet

**Spread:** 5 to 15 feet

**Sun:** Part sun to shade

**Bloom:** None



**Autumn Fern (*Dryopteris erythrosora*)** - Its peak of color is in spring when its fronds unfurl copper-red or pink in color and eventually fade to a bronze-green. In late summer, bright-red spore clusters appear on frond undersides. In fall, fronds can change to a more russet tone.

**Height:** 18 to 24 inches

**Spread:** 18 inches

**Sun:** Part to full shade

**Bloom:** None



**Lenten Rose (*Helleborus orientalis*)** - Flowering perennial/groundcover. Beautiful, nodding flowers resembling single Roses in colors from white, cream, or pink to purple appear in very early-spring above coarse, broad, palmate leaves which are evergreen. An indispensable addition to any shade garden. Spreads easily from seed.

**Height:** 1 to 1.5 feet

**Spread:** 1.5 to 2 feet

**Sun:** Part shade to shade

**Bloom:** February to April- pink



**Hosta spp. (*Hosta species*)** - An ideal foliage plant for shady areas, hosta grows well under deciduous trees, in borders, and as a ground cover. Taller flower spikes appear in early to mid summer. Foliage colors range from chartreuse to deep blue-green, and many cultivars have striking variegation.

**Height:** 6 inches to 3 feet

**Spread:** 3 to 5 feet

**Sun:** Part shade to shade

**Bloom:** June to July- white, lavender flowers



**Soft Caress Mahonia (*Mahonia eurybracteata*)** - Soft to the touch, the olive-green foliage is narrow and threadlike. Clusters of citrus yellow flowers appear on short spikes that rise above the foliage in early winter and are followed by long lasting blue berries.

**Height:** 3 to 4 feet

**Spread:** 3 to 4 feet

**Sun:** Part sun to shade

**Bloom:** Winter- yellow, green

## Flowering Bulbs



**Hyacinthus spp. (Hyacinth species)**, suggested cultivars include: **'Blue Jacket', 'City of Harlem', 'Gypsy Queen', 'Pink Pearl', 'White'**

The perfume of blooming hyacinths is as symbolic of early spring as lilacs are to the late-spring garden. Hyacinth plants consist of chubby, succulent leaves arranged around a central flower spike. Florets pack the flower column in tight clusters. Hyacinths thrive in any well-drained soil in full to partial sun.

**Height:** 1 to 3 feet

**Spread:** 3 inches

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Bloom:** February to April- blue, orange, pink, red, white



**Iris spp. (Iris species)**, suggested cultivars include: **'Algerian Iris', 'Bearded Iris'**

Best grown in humusy, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun, but best flowering and disease resistance occur in full sun. Plants will tolerate light shade. Good soil drainage is essential to combat potential soft rot problems. Avoid use of mulch for the same reason.

**Height:** 2 to 3 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Sun:** Full sun

**Bloom:** February to April- purple with yellowish beard



**Narcissus spp. (Daffodil species)**, suggestions include: **Hoop Petticoat Daffodil (Narcissus bulbocodium), Paperwhite Daffodil (Narcissus papyraceus), Poet's Narcissus (Narcissus poeticus), Wild Daffodil (Narcissus pseudonarcissus), Angel's Tears (Narcissus triandrus)**

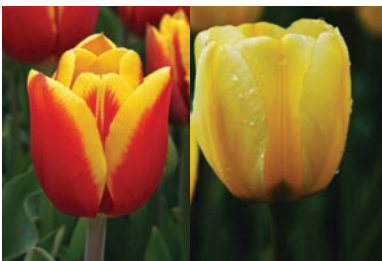
Flowers may be single or double, grow singly on a stem or with multiple flowers per stem, and height varies from 6 to 20 inches. Daffodils grow best in areas with cold winters, cool springs, and cool summers. Choose varieties that mature at different times to extend the bloom season.

**Height:** 1 to 3 feet

**Spread:** 3 to 6 inches

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Bloom:** February to March- white, orange, yellow



**Tulipa spp. (Tulip species)**, suggested cultivars include: **'Attila', 'Aladdin', 'Appeldoorn's Elite', 'Apricot Beauty', 'Black Parrot', 'Blue Diamond', 'China Pink', 'Hamilton', 'Mount Tacoma', 'Purrissima', 'Spring Green'**

Tulips do best in areas with dry summers and cold winters. The brightly colored, upright flowers may be single or double, and vary in shape from simple cups, bowls, and goblets to more complex forms. They are excellent in beds and borders and most are excellent for cut flowers.

**Height:** 6 to 18 inches

**Spread:** 3 inches

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Bloom:** March to April- red, pink, orange, yellow, purple, white