



Halton Region Master Gardeners

Serving the communities of Burlington, Hamilton, Milton & Oakville

Are there long blooming perennials?

While gardeners will always delight in stars of the garden such as iris, peonies, and Oriental lilies, their blooms last only a few weeks out of the entire season. Luckily, there are perennials with much longer bloom periods (as much as four months) which can act as the supporting cast to those *prima donnas*.

In full sun, the bright yellow daisy-like flowers of [Coreopsis 'Moonbeam'](#) will flourish from mid-June until well into October. Equally reliable is the daylily Stella d'Oro, which produces its multiple canary yellow blooms for up to five months, although each lasts only one day



[Scabiosa 'Butterfly Blue'](#) features pincushion-like blue flowers which keep on going from late May until frost when it is planted in full sun and regularly dead-headed.

A staple of the cottage border, [Shasta daisies](#) appear from June until September. Another old-fashioned favourite is [Verbascum](#), increasingly available in a range of colours and flowering



throughout the summer.



Not only does [Achillea \(yarrow\)](#) bloom initially from June to mid-July, but when given a good cutting back, it will re-bloom from August until well into the fall, somewhat more sporadically.

Although it doesn't begin blooming until August, [Sedum 'Autumn Joy'](#) makes our list because its pink flowers, which turn a rich rust tone as fall progresses, last beyond frost and remain attractive throughout the winter.



For shady locations try [Corydalis lutea](#) which will bloom from May until frost, even in dry conditions although it prefers rich moist soils. With finely cut foliage and delicate, pale yellow flowers, corydalis is a good front-of-the-border companion to ferns and hostas.

Another long bloomer for the shade is [Dicentra 'Luxuriant'](#), a pink bleeding heart that, unlike other of the family, does not die back in summer, but flowers from April until September. It performs at its best in the cooler temperatures of spring and fall.

