



Top 50 Hot Border Plants Plants for Pollinators

Vibrant flowers and shrubs in hues of gold, orange and red for a hot-coloured border to wow throughout the summer and early autumn

List Curated by Thomas McBride

From research data collected and collated at the
National Botanic Garden of Wales

NB: Butterflies and Moths are not studied at the NBGW so any data on nectar plants beneficial for them is taken from Butterfly Conservation



Photo (CC) Jonathan Buckley



Creating a Hot Border



Hot Borders are a great way to create an eye-catching section in your garden over the summer and into the autumn. Typically, they consist of mostly perennials with a few annuals and shrubs or, sometimes, climbers towards the back if the border backs onto a wall or hedge. This list seeks to provide an overview of some of the most vibrant gold, orange and red flowers commonly grown in gardens that are beneficial for our pollinating insects. Included in this list are also a few purple-leaved cultivars which can add to the colour even when they are not flowering. It is a good idea to repeat-plant in a hot border with clumps of specific species repeating several times to create a coherent scheme.



Choosing Plants

In amongst repeating clumps of perennials such as Hemerocallis or Crocosmia, why not try adding in a few taller plants to create focal points. Tiger lilies, Giant yellow knapweed or Mexican torchflowers can add a pop of the unusual within a patterned planting scheme. Climbers such as nasturtiums or Campsis can work well in a border that backs onto a wall or larger shrubs such as Cotinus or Leucadendron may work better if the back of the border is less well-defined.



Guide to using these pages:

Map

Maps depict the native area of the plant (in green)
They also show areas the plant is naturalised (in purple)

All maps shown are derived from 'Plants of the World Online'; courtesy of Kew Gardens

Flowering Period (this is when it is good for pollinators!)

Plant Family

Growing habit and mature size of the plant

Latin Binomial Name

Tithonia rotundifolia
Mexican Sunflower

Common English Name

Photograph of the plant in flower



Insect groups known to favour the nectar of this plant



Midsummer - Mid Autumn

Asteraceae
Daisy Family

3ft Annual

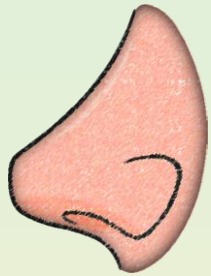
* Will not survive a frost, only half-hardy
46

Useful knowledge or warnings about the plant

RHS AGM cultivars of this species (or a related species occasionally)

Key to these Pages

Additional information on these garden plants



The flowers and/or leaves have a Pleasant scent

This plant would only be suitable for meadow-style planting



Plant is often used in traditional Herbal Remedies



The plant has edible parts that are commonly eaten or used in cooking



Warnings



Plant tissue is highly toxic if ingested



Sap may cause irritation (Wash hands after touching or avoid touching)

Temperature

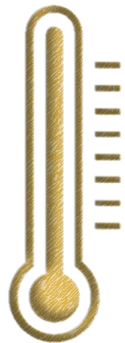
Some of the plants listed in our Top 200 are not fully hardy in all or some parts of the United Kingdom.

Plants without a thermometer symbol are fully hardy in the severest UK Winter; equating to **H5** or hardier.

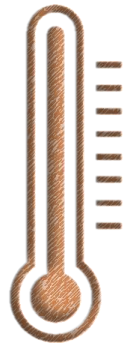
Plants with a coloured thermometer symbol are hardy to varying degrees as follows:



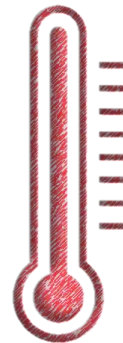
Almost Hardy
(H4)



Half-Hardy
(H3)



Not Frost Hardy
(H2)



Not Hardy
(H1)

RHS Hardiness Scale

H1a	-	Above 15°C
H1b	-	Minimum 10°C
H1c	-	Minimum 5°C
H2	-	Minimum 1°C
H3	-	Minimum -5°C
H4	-	Minimum -10°C
H5	-	Minimum -15°C

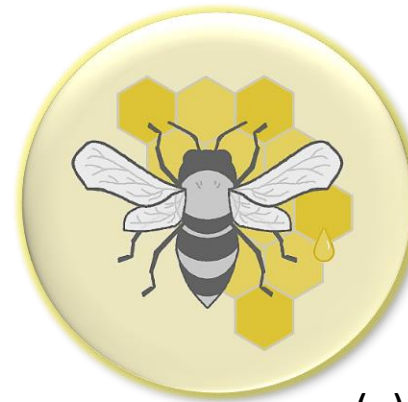
Pollinators

Our data on pollinators has been collected from studies spanning over a decade. Pollinator symbols appear when plants are proven to be good nectar plants for certain insects.

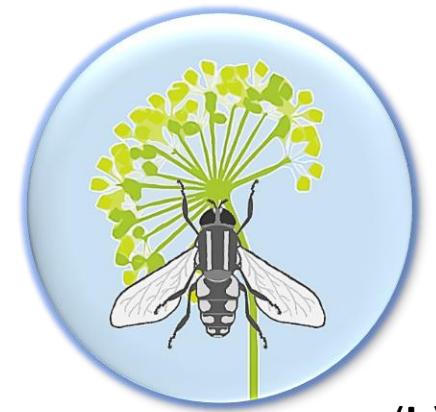
It should be noted that all bee and hoverfly data is ours but lepidoptera data is taken from Butterfly Conservation.

Our data spans a wide range of different insect species. For simplicity, these species have been condensed into six easy icons to represent them:

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| a) Honeybees | c) Bumblebees | e) Moths |
| b) Hoverflies | d) Butterflies
(Includes Moths) | f) Solitary Bees |



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



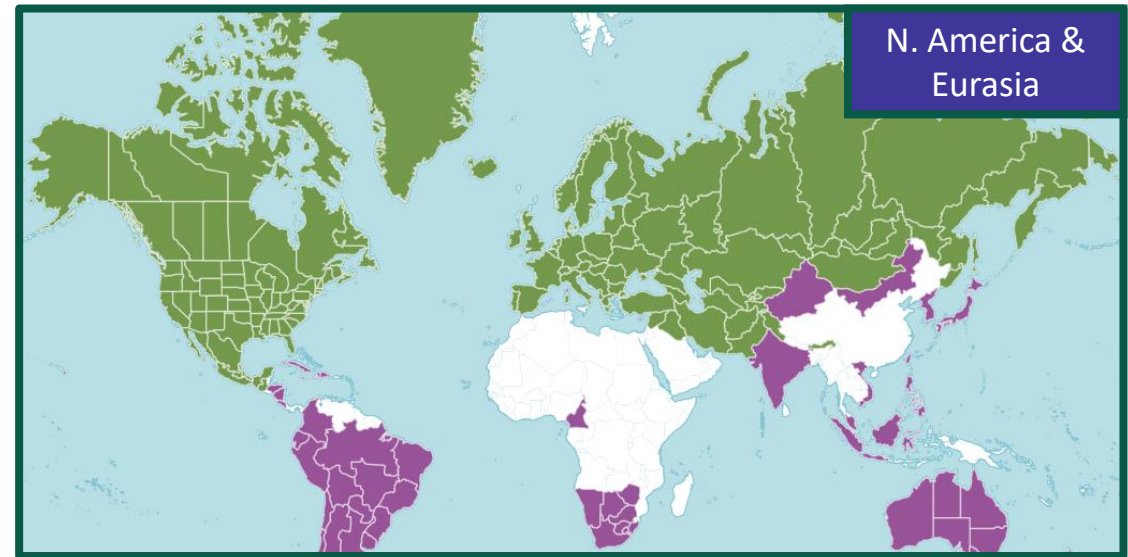
(e)



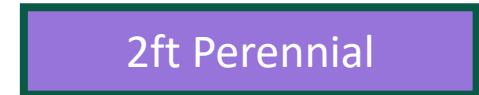
(f)

Achillea millefolium

Common Yarrow



Photograph from Flickr
(CC) Nagaki Im



Alstroemeria x hybrida

Garden Peruvian-lily

Complex group of hybrids of unknown parentage



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Glen Bowman



'Orange Glory'
'Spitfire' 'Red Elf'



Late Summer
- Mid Autumn

Alstroemeriaceae
Peruvian-lily Family

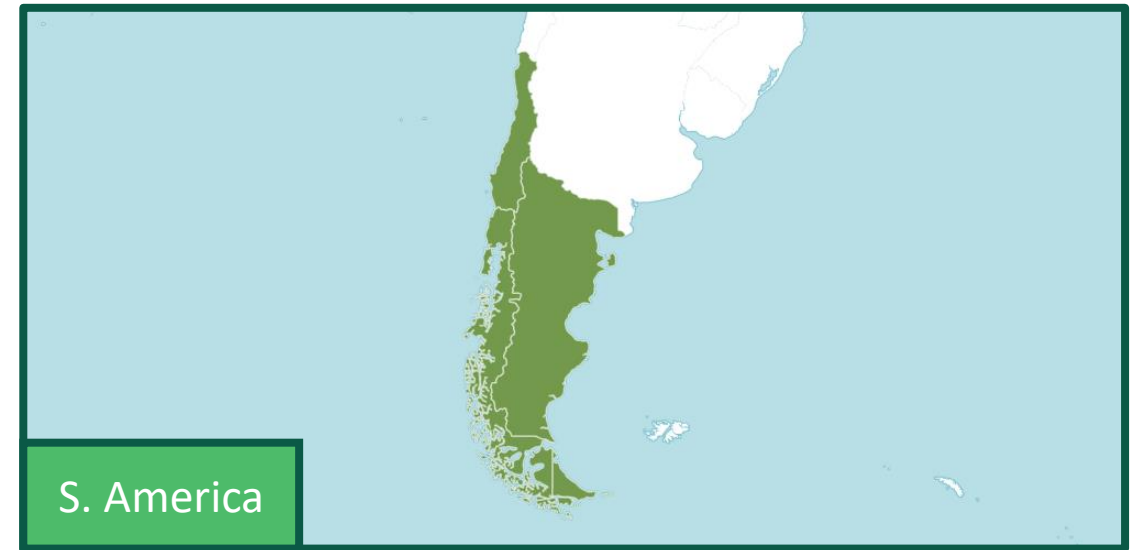
3ft Tuberos

Alstroemeria aurea

Orange Peruvian-lily



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Jon Sullivan



'Orange King'
(Not AGM)



Summer ☀

Alstroemeriaceae
Peruvian-lily Family

3ft Tuberos

* This plant will not survive below -10°C night temperatures, protect from very harsh winter nights

Antirrhinum majus

Common Snapdragon



'Deep Bronze'
'Liberty Classic'



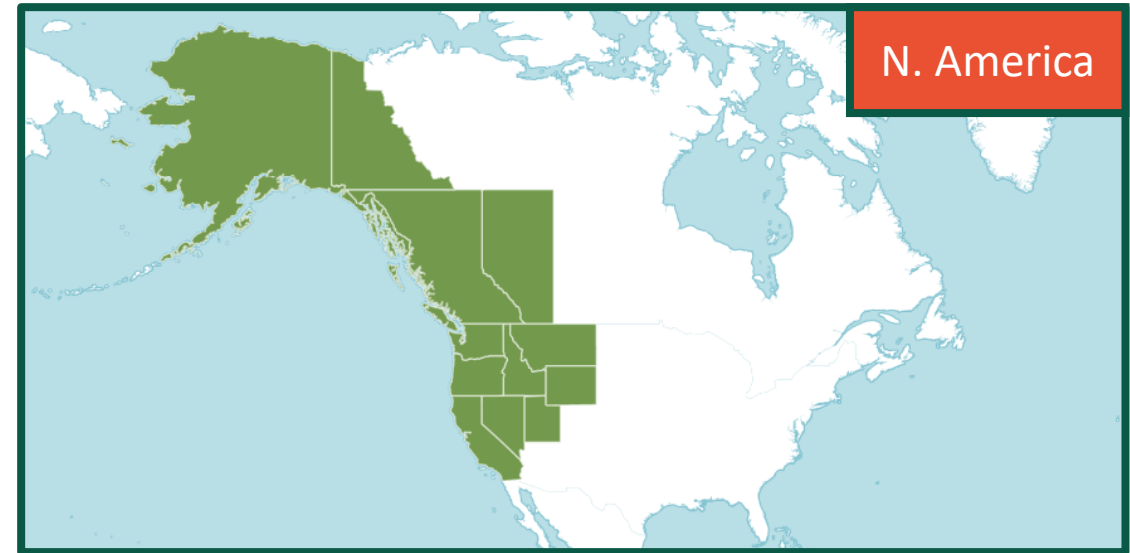
Early Summer
- Early Autumn

Plantaginaceae
Plantain Family

2ft Perennial

Aquilegia formosa

Western Red Columbine



- Species -



Mid Spring
- Midsummer

Ranunculaceae
Buttercup Family

3ft Perennial

Berberis thunbergii

Japanese Barberry



f. atropurpurea
'Fireball'



Spring 

Berberidaceae
Barberry Family

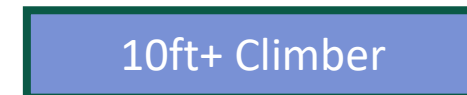
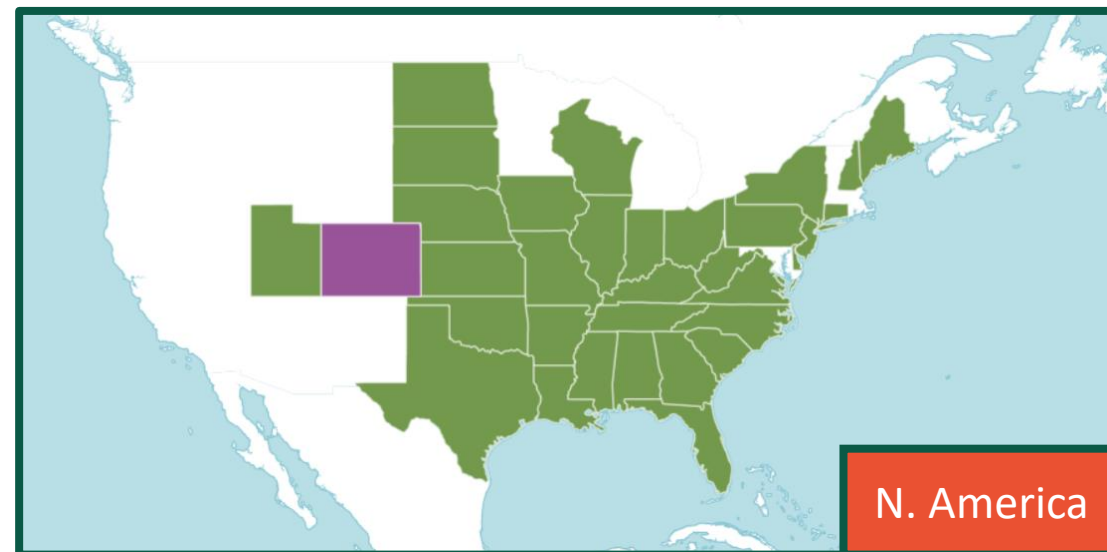
Medium Shrub

Campsis radicans

Trumpet Vine



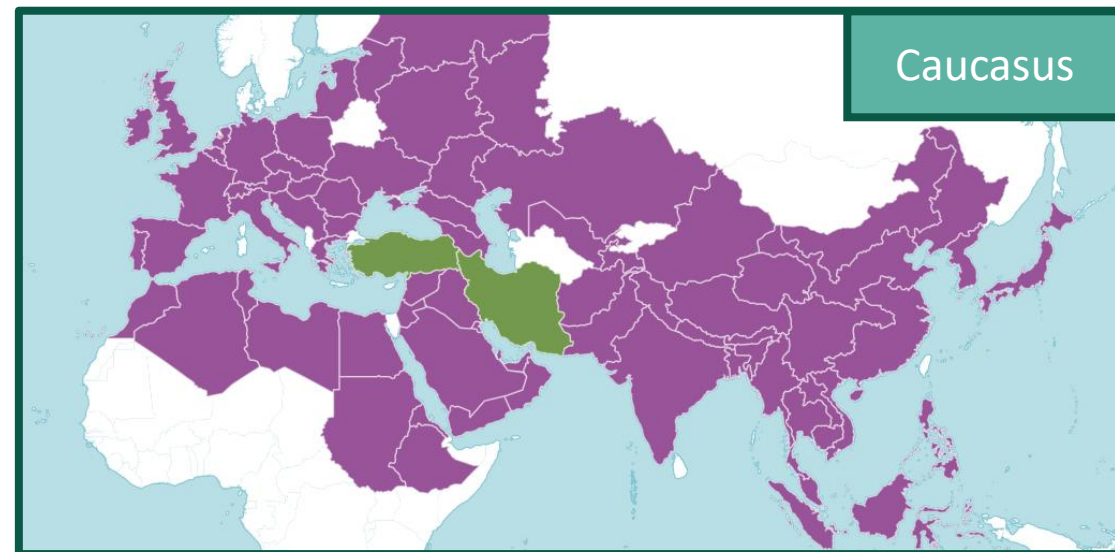
Photograph from Flickr (CC) Harald Henkel



* This plant will not survive below -10°C night temperatures, protect from very harsh winter nights

Carthamus tinctorius

Safflower



Caucasus

None



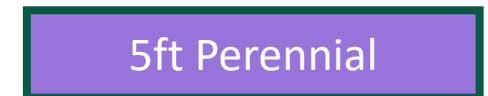
Summer ☀️

Asteraceae
Daisy Family

2ft Annual

Centaurea macrocephala

Giant Yellow Knapweed

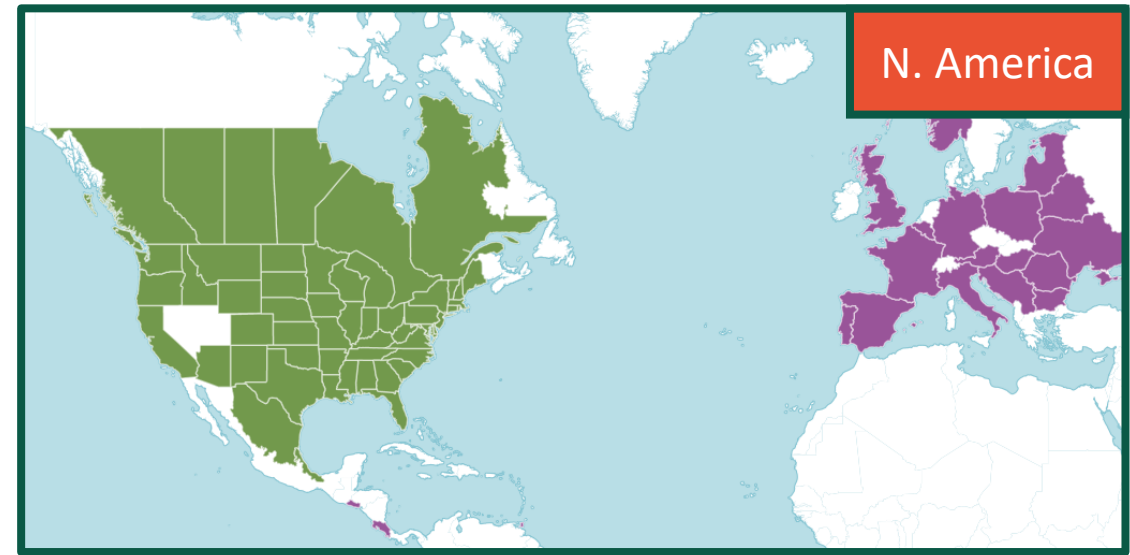


Coreopsis tinctoria

Dyer's Tickseed



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Natalie J



'Yellow and Red'



Midsummer
- Mid Autumn

Asteraceae
Daisy Family

3ft Annual

Cosmos sulphureus

Yellow Mexican Daisy



Midsummer
- Early Autumn

Asteraceae
Daisy Family

4ft Annual

* This plant, if sown early, should be sown inside during winter (cannot survive below -5°C night temperatures)

Cotinus coggygria

Smoke Bush



'Ancot' 'Young Lady'
'Royal Purple'



Summer ☀

Anacardiaceae
Cashew Family

Large Shrub

Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora

Montbretia

Crocosmia aurea x *Crocosmia pottsii* – naturally occurring hybrid



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Gabrielle Ludlow



'Star of the East'

'Lucifer'



Summer ☀

Iridaceae
Iris Family

4ft Cormous

Dahlia coccinea

Red Dahlia



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Chipmunk_1



'Bishop of Llandaff'
'Happy Single series'



Midsummer
- Early Autumn

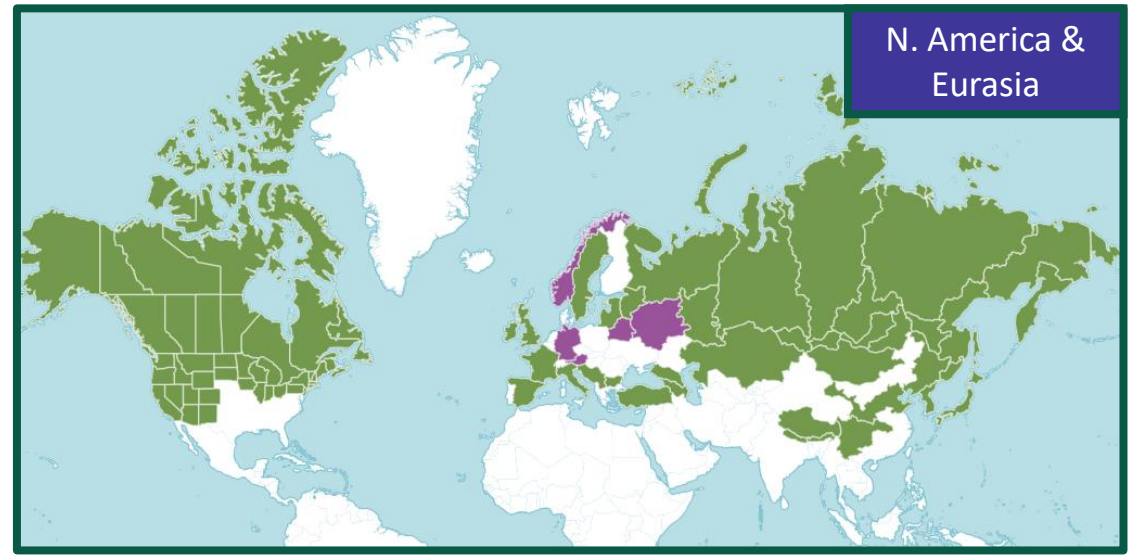
Asteraceae
Daisy Family

3ft Tuberos Perennial

* Will not survive a frost, only half-hardy, bring tubers indoors in winter to rest before planting in Spring

Dasiphora fruticosa

Garden Potentilla



Photograph from Wikipedia (CC) Réginald Hultoven

'Hopleys Orange'
'Marian Red Robin'



Early Summer
- Early Autumn

Rosaceae
Rose Family

Medium Shrub

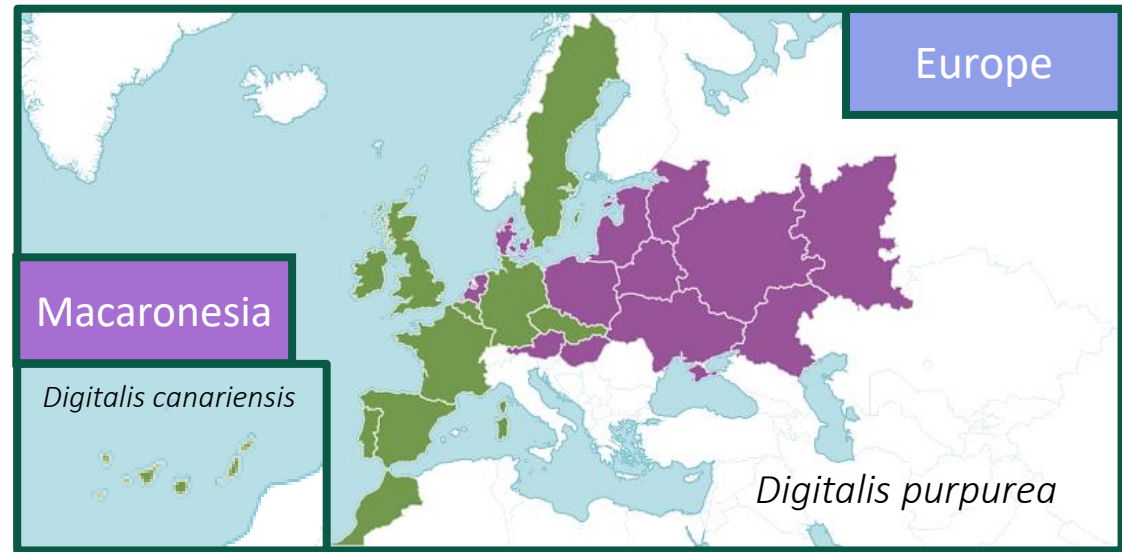
Digitalis x valinii

Illumination Foxglove

Digitalis purpurea x *Digitalis canariensis* (syn. *Isoplexis canariensis*)



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Fitz Clarke



'Illumination'
'Firebird' (Not AGM)



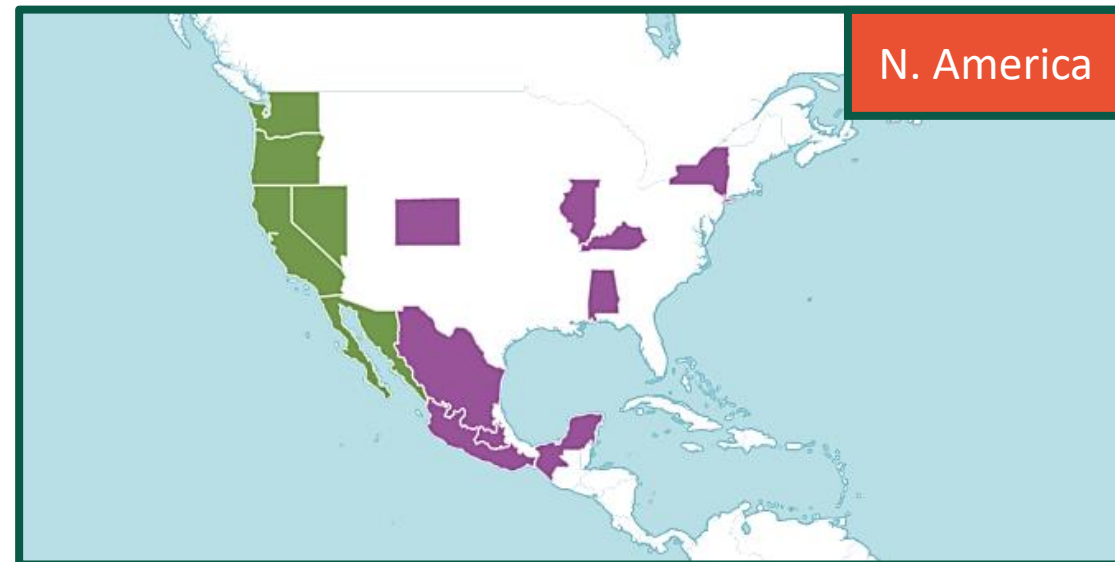
Summer ☀

Plantaginaceae
Plantain Family

3ft Perennial

Eschscholzia californica

Californian Poppy



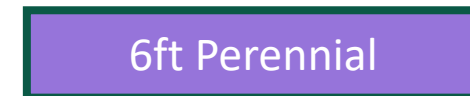
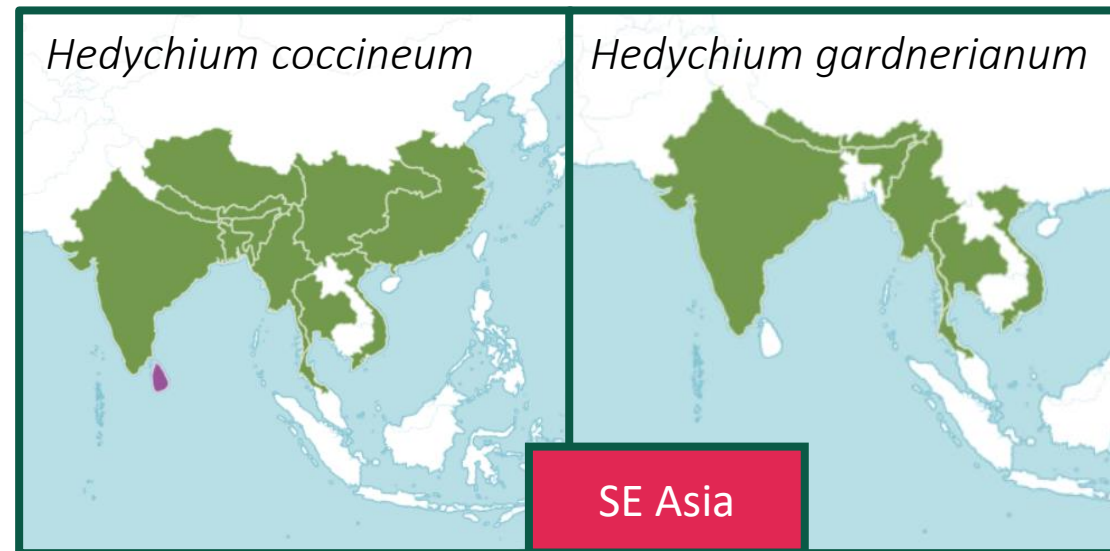
Hedychium x moorei

Hardy Ginger-lily

Hedychium coccineum x *Hedychium gardnerianum* (Probable)



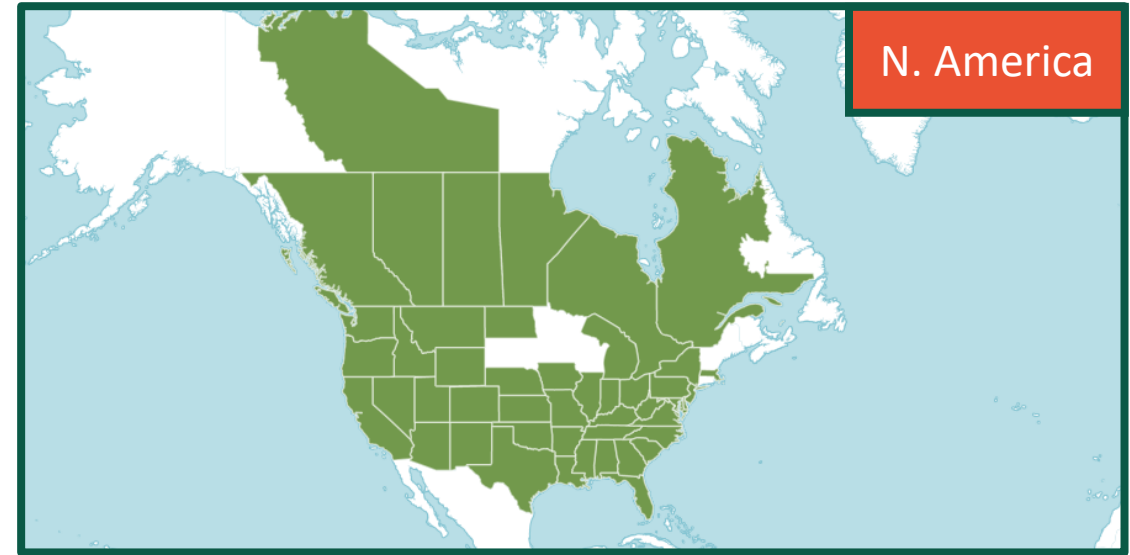
Photograph from Flickr (CC) Esin Üstün



* This plant will not survive below -10°C night temperatures, protect from very harsh winter nights

Helenium autumnale

Common Sneezeweed



'Ring of Fire'
'Butterpat'



Late Summer
- Mid Autumn

Asteraceae
Daisy Family

3ft Perennial

Helianthemum nummularium

Common Rock-rose



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Heather Alexander



'Fire Dragon'
'Henfield Brilliant'

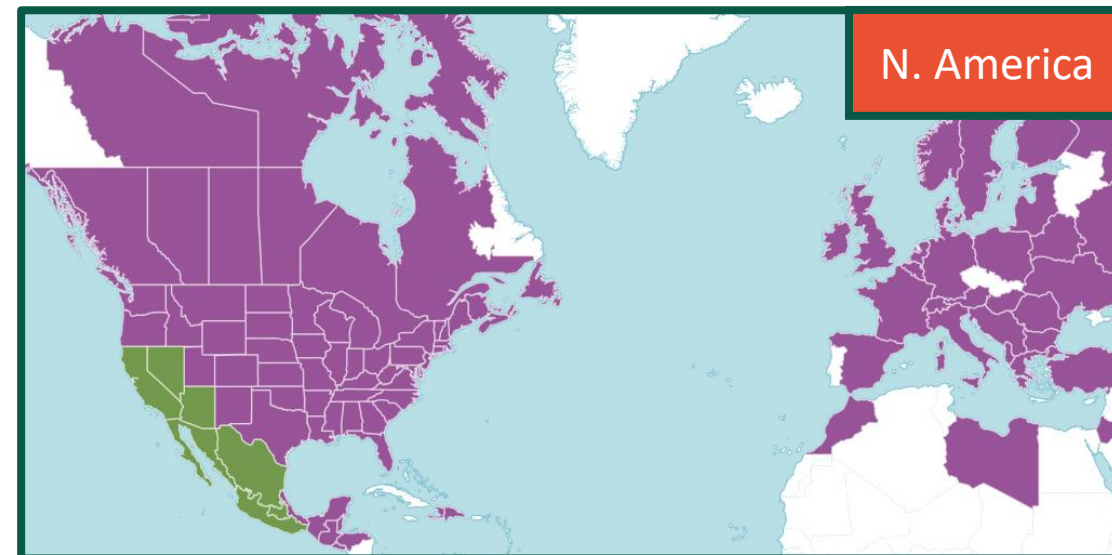
Late Spring
- Midsummer

Cistaceae
Rock-rose Family

Small Trailing Shrub

Helianthus annuus

Common Sunflower



'Claret' 'Waooh'
'Pastiche'



Midsummer
- Early Autumn

Asteraceae
Daisy Family

3ft Annual

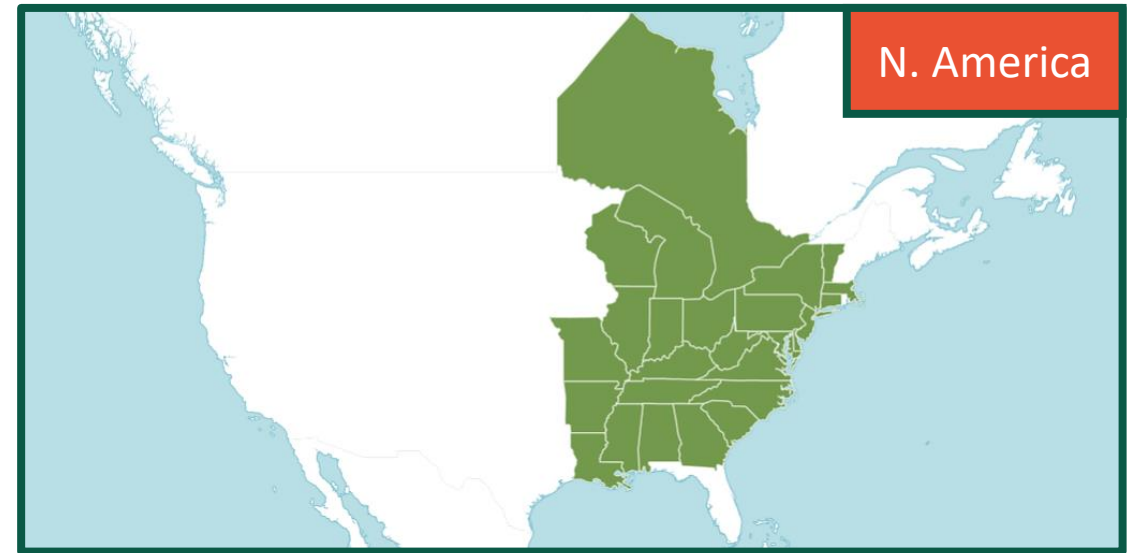
* Dry Seeds edible ('sunflower seeds'),
Seeds are harvested commercially for sunflower oil.

Heliopsis helianthoides

False Sunflower



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Sascha Gloede



'Benzinggold'
'Light of Loddon'



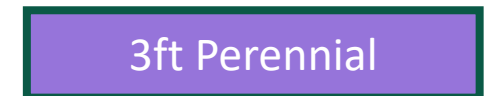
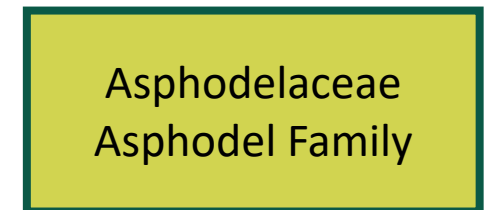
Midsummer
- Mid Autumn

Asteraceae
Daisy Family

4ft Perennial

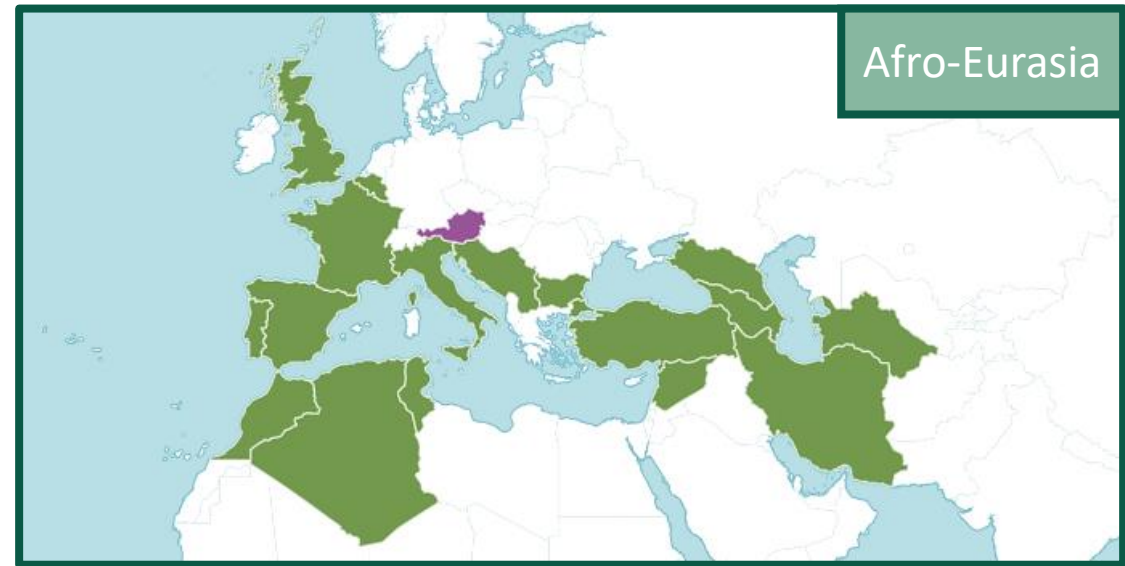
Hemerocallis fulva

Orange Daylily



Hypericum androsaemum

Tutsan



Afro-Eurasia



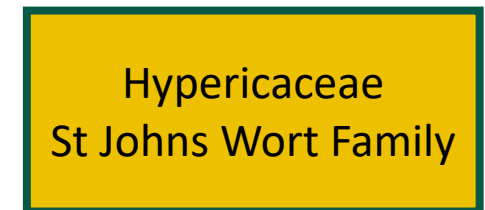
Photograph from Flickr (CC) Inês Fonseca



Hypericum x inodorum
'Golden Beacon'
(Hybrid with *H. hircinum*)



Summer ☀



Hypericaceae
St Johns Wort Family



Small Shrub

Inula magnifica

Giant Fleabane



'Sonnenstrahl'



Summer ☀

Asteraceae
Daisy Family

4ft Perennial

Leucadendron salignum

Common Sunshine Conebush



* This plant should be grown in a sheltered location
(cannot survive below -5°C night temperatures)

Ligularia dentata

Leopardplant



'Britt Marie Crawford'



Midsummer
- Early Autumn

Asteraceae
Daisy Family

4ft Perennial

Lilium lancifolium

Tiger Lily



- Species - (Not AGM)

Related sp: *L. pardalinum*



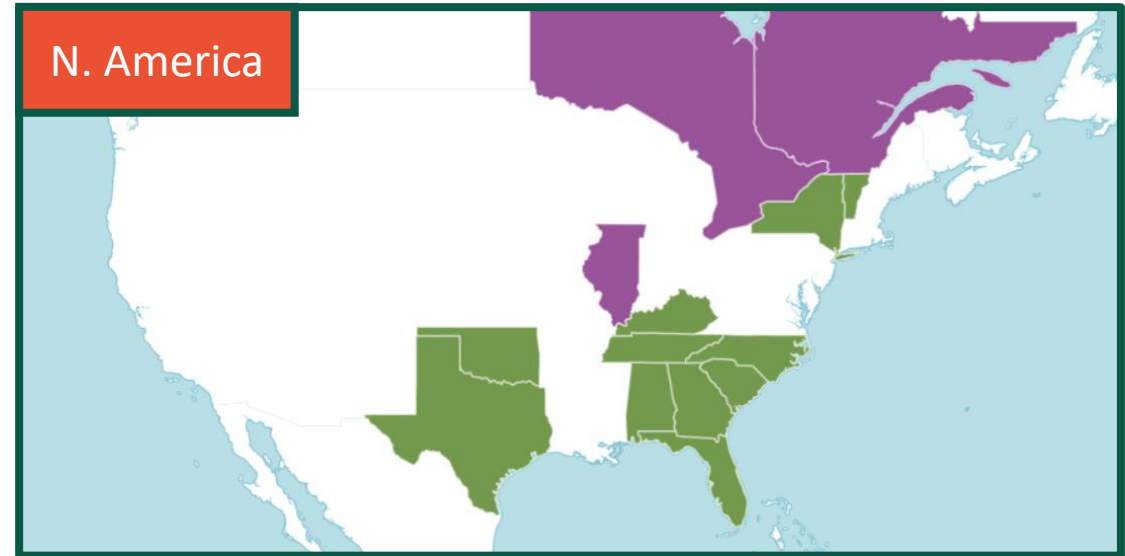
Summer ☀

Liliaceae
Lily Family

4ft Bulbous

Lonicera sempervirens

Coral Honeysuckle



Related Hybrid:
L. tragophylla x *L. sempervirens*
x *tellmanniana*

RHS AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT

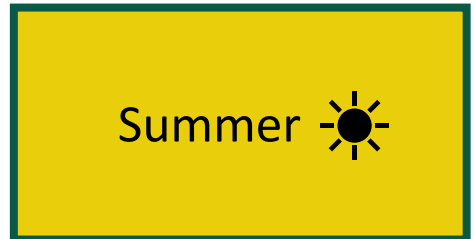
Late Spring
- Early Autumn

Caprifoliaceae
Honeysuckle Family

10ft+ Climber/Vine

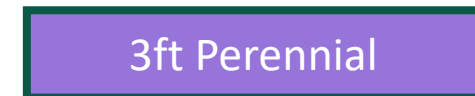
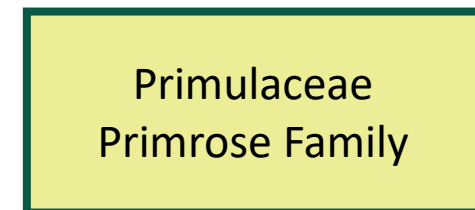
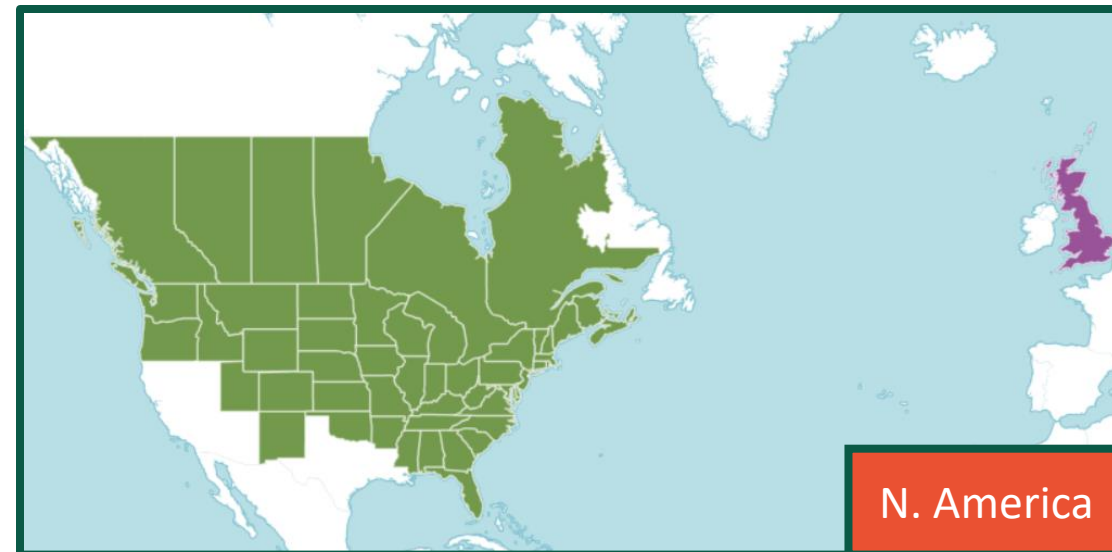
Lychnis chalcedonica

Maltese-Cross



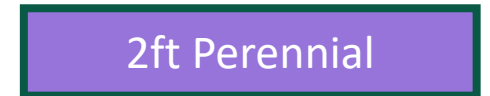
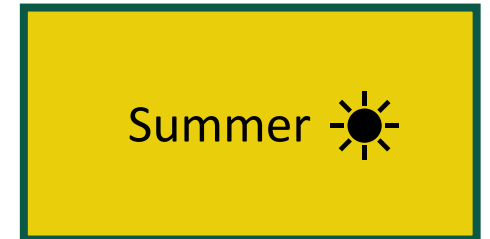
Lysimachia ciliata

Fringed Loosestrife



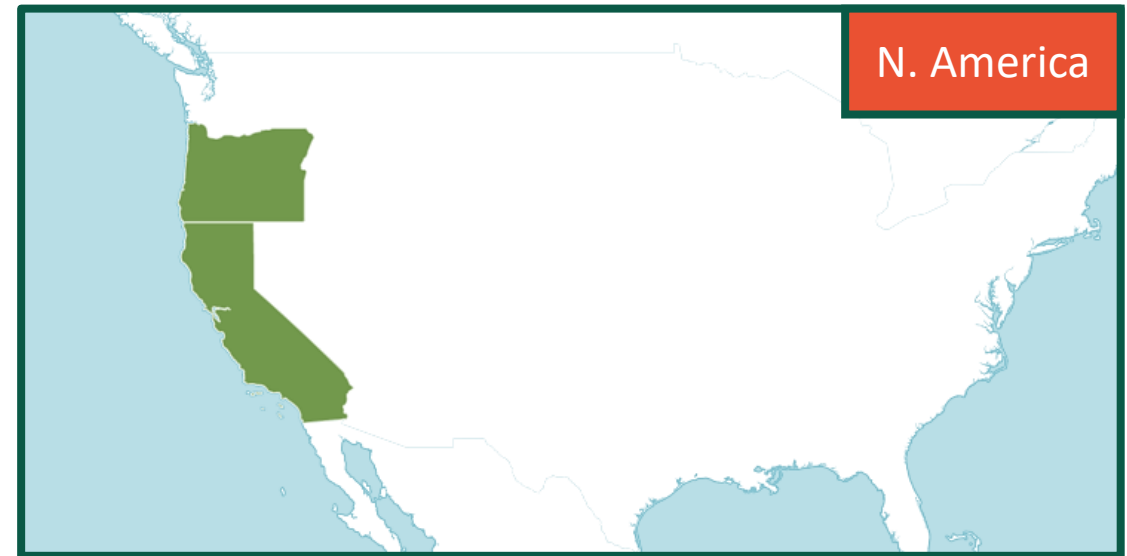
Meconopsis punicea

Sichuan Red Poppy



Mimulus aurantiacus

Orange Bush Monkeyflower



- Species –
var. puniceus



Midsummer
- Early Autumn

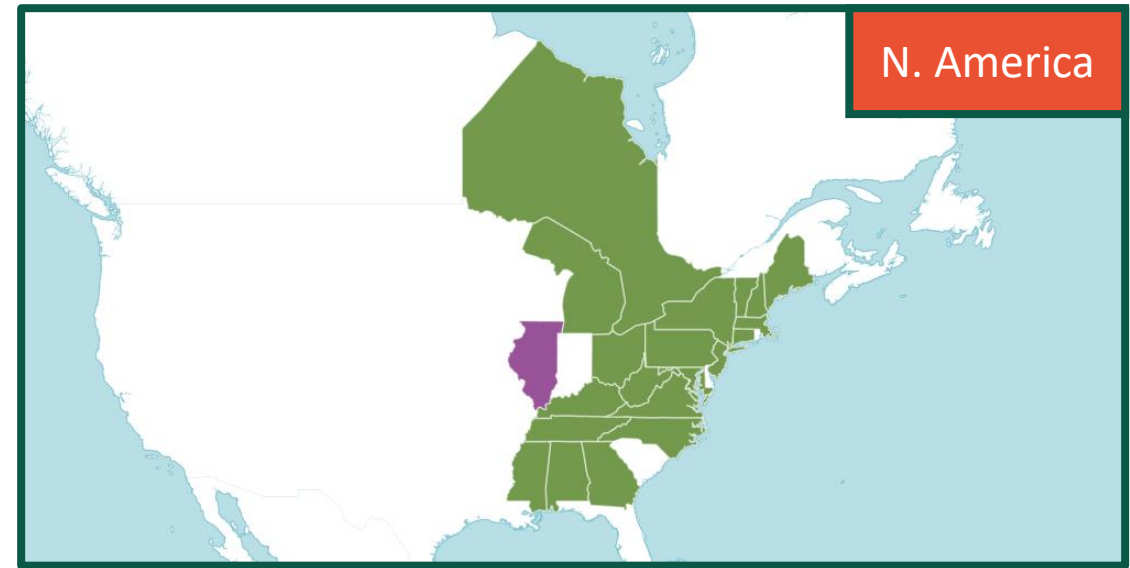
Phrymaceae
Lopseed Family

Small Shrub

* Will not survive a frost, only half-hardy, bring indoors in winter. Recommended pot plant.

Monarda didyma

Bergamot, Scarlet Bee Balm



'Gardenview Scarlet'
'Squaw'



Midsummer
- Early Autumn

Lamiaceae
Mint Family

3ft Perennial

Nicotiana alata

Jasmine Tobacco



Nicotiana x sanderae
(Hybrid with *N. forgetiana*; not AGM)
(Pictured)



Summer ☀

Solanaceae
Potato Family

2ft Annual

* Will not survive a frost, only half-hardy

Oenothera versicolor

Red Evening-Primrose



Photograph from Flickr (CC) University of California; Davis Arboretum



Probable

'Sunset Boulevard'



Early Summer
- Early Autumn

Onagraceae
Willowherb Family

3ft Perennial

Paeonia delavayi

Delavay's Paeony



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Leonora Enking



'Black Pirate'
- Species -



Late Spring
- Early Summer

Paeoniaceae
Paeony Family

3ft Perennial

Papaver orientale

Oriental Poppy



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Alvon Kho



Anatolia & Caucasus



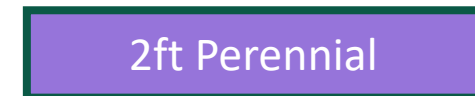
'Leuchtfleur'
'Effendi' 'Matador'



Late Spring
- Midsummer



Papaveraceae
Poppy Family



2ft Perennial

Penstemon barbatus

Beardlip Penstemon



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Lotus Johnson



'Andenken an
Friedrich Hahn'



Midsummer
- Early Autumn

Plantaginaceae
Plantain Family

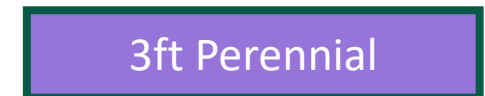
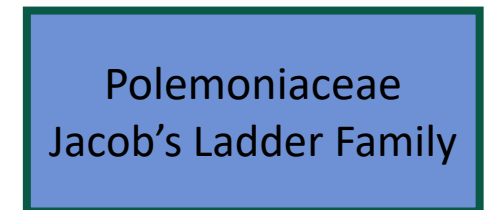
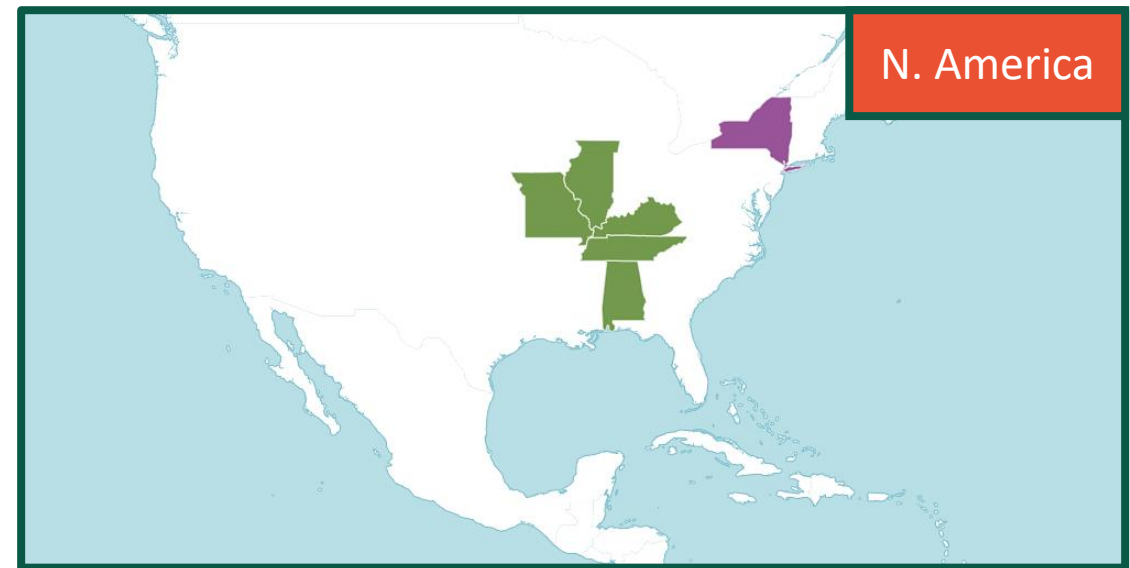
2ft Perennial

Phlox paniculata

Garden Phlox

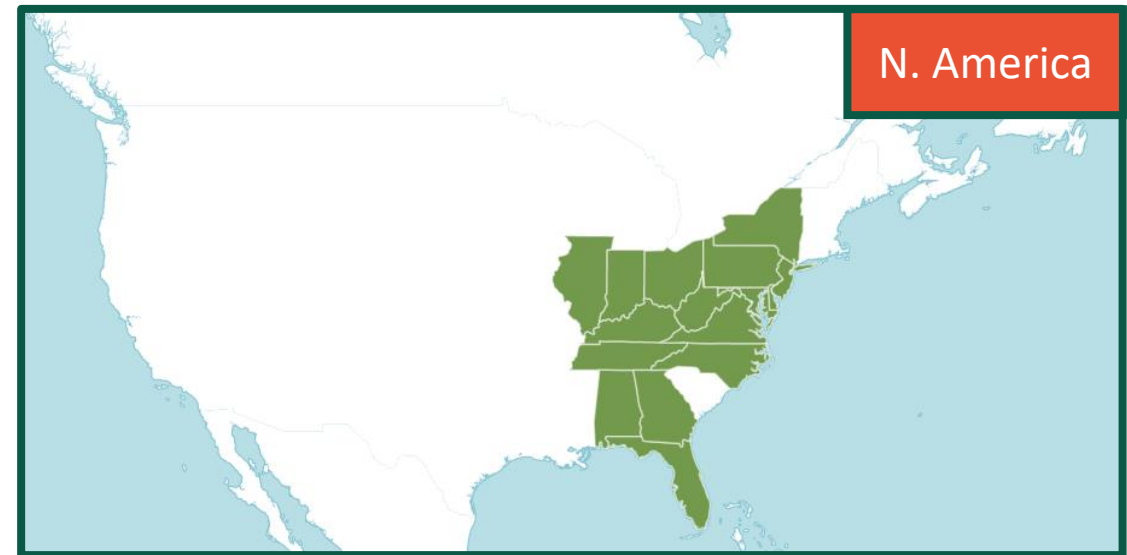


Photograph from FlowersWallpapers (CC) Grazyna Nowotna



Rudbeckia fulgida

Orange Coneflower



var. deamii
'Goldsturm'



Late Summer
- Mid Autumn

Asteraceae
Daisy Family

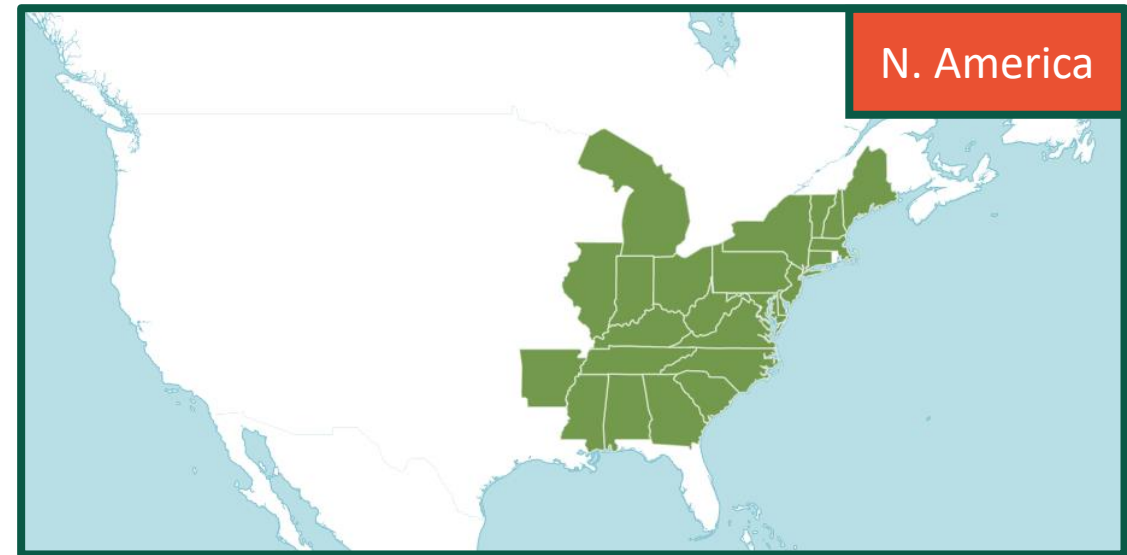
2ft Perennial

Rudbeckia hirta

Black-eyed Susan



Photograph from Flickr (CC) David Siebold



'Indian Summer'
'Toto series'



Late Summer
- Mid Autumn

Asteraceae
Daisy Family

2ft Perennial Grown as
an Annual

Salvia coccinea

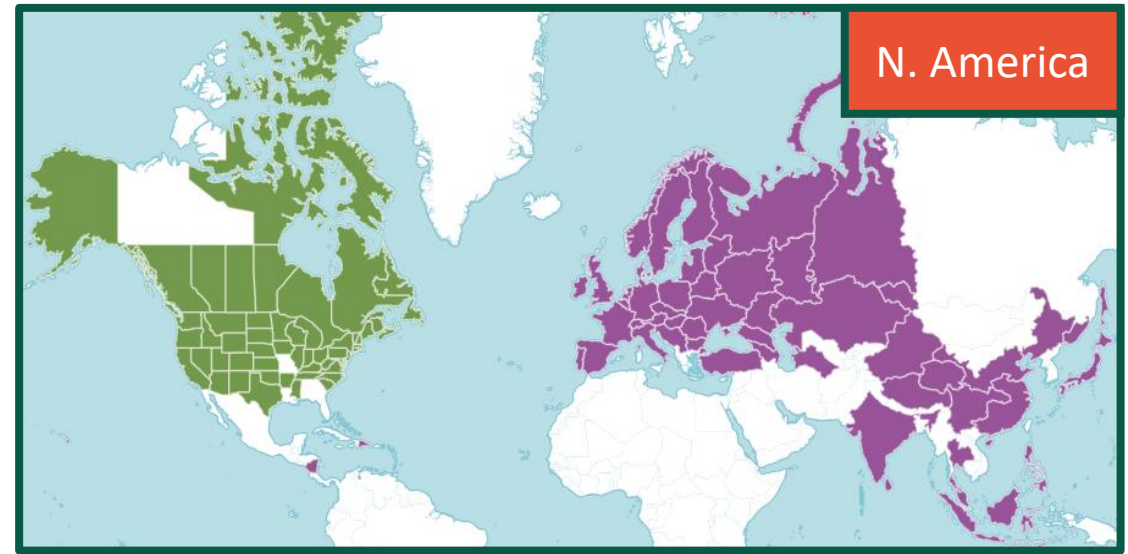
Scarlet Sage



* This plant will not survive below -5°C night temperatures

Solidago canadensis

Canadian Goldenrod



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Marcus Buchwald

'Gardone'
'Goldenmosa'



The logo for the RHS Award of Garden Merit, featuring a green circular emblem with a white trophy in the center, surrounded by the text "RHS AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT" and a registered trademark symbol. To the right of the emblem is a stylized white tree icon.

Midsummer
- Mid Autumn

Asteraceae
Daisy Family

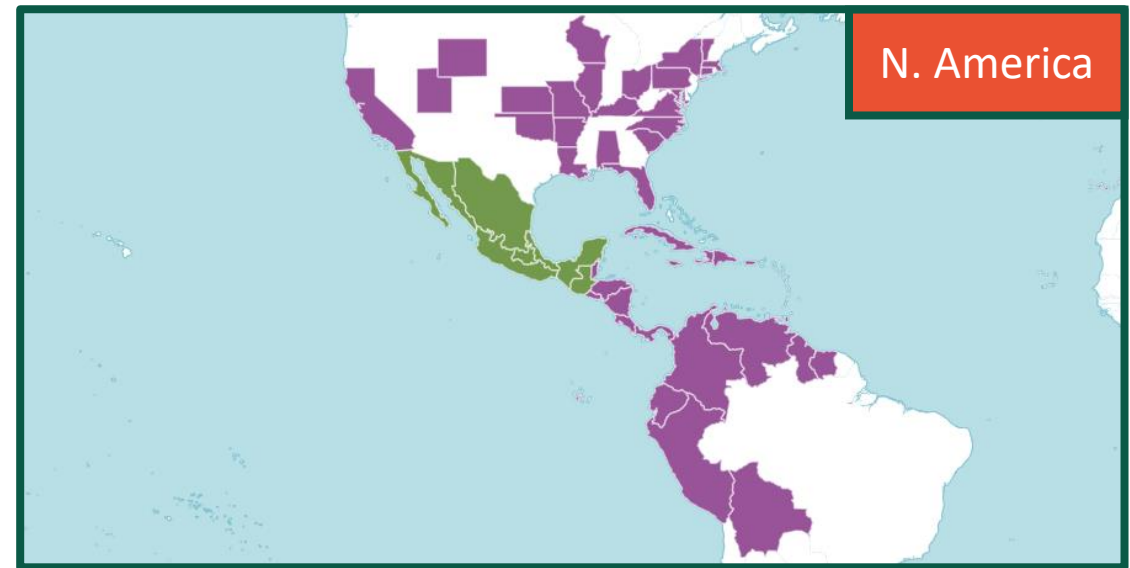
3ft Perennial

Tagetes patula

French Marigold



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Taco Witte



NB: Will not survive a frost, only half-hardy

Tithonia rotundifolia

Mexican Sunflower



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Tim Waters



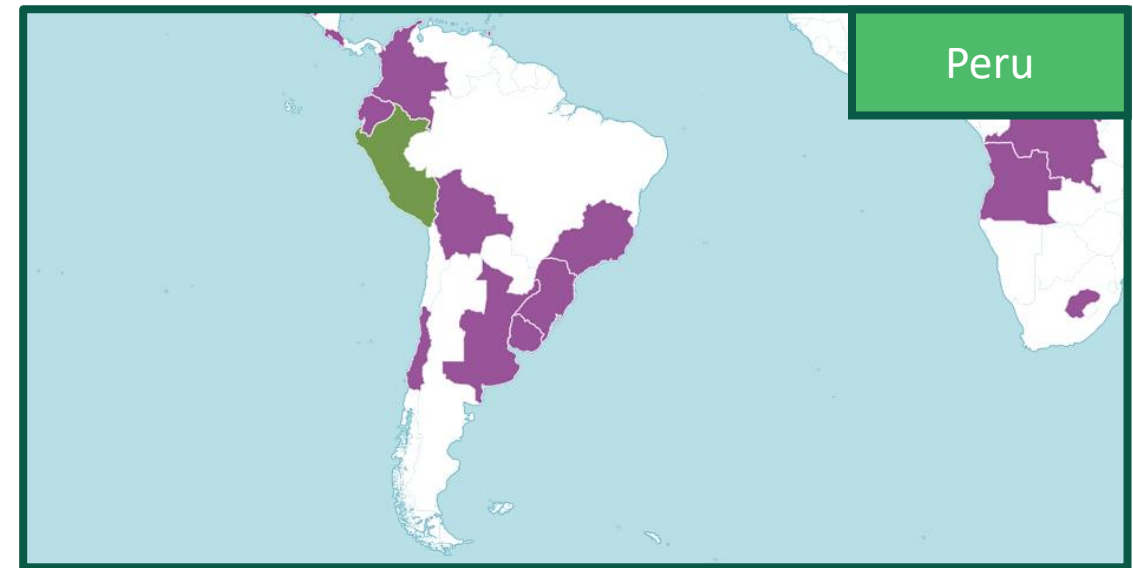
* Will not survive a frost, only half-hardy

Tropaeolum majus

Garden Nasturtium



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Mayank Sharma



'Alaska series'
'Whirlybird series'



Midsummer
- Early Autumn

Tropaeolaceae
Nasturtium Family

1ft Trailing Annual

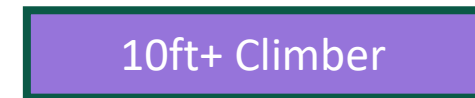
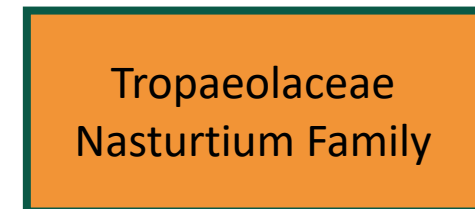
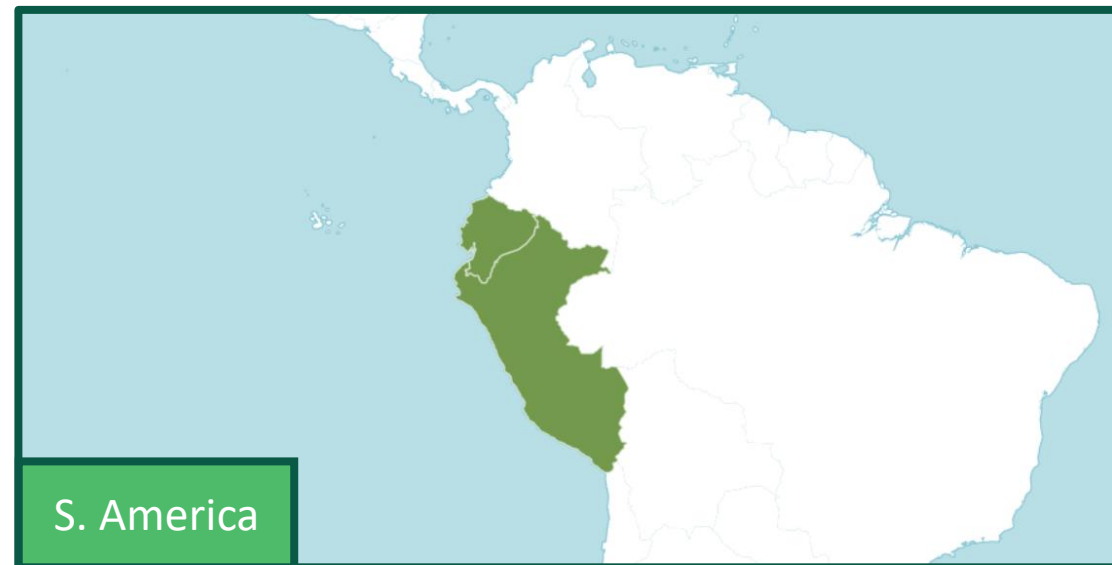
* This plant will not survive below -5°C night temperatures

Tropaeolum peregrinum

Canary Creeper



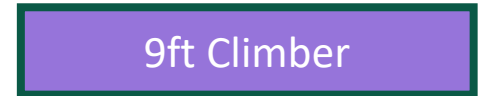
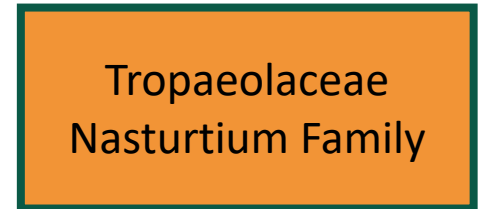
Photograph from Wikipedia (CC) Niepokój Zbigniew



* This plant will not survive below -5°C night temperatures. Grow in a sheltered location or treat as an annual.

Tropaeolum speciosum

Flame Nasturtium



Verbascum nigrum

Black Mullein



Photograph © Thomas McBride



'Cotswold series'
'Tropic Sun'

