



RENAISSANCE GARDENING LTD.
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Thank you for joining me to celebrate Astonishing Annuals!

As we've seen, annuals are a peculiarly handy focus for our creation, discovery, or rediscovery of new fashions in both our horticulture in particular, and our culture in general. So this lecture could only be an introduction to such a self-consciously innovative area.

To help you spark up your own horto-spectrum, I've included a sourcelist for the annuals we looked at, as well as two-thumbs-up thumbnails of some of my favorite books that dote on annuals.

Thank you once again for your interest and enthusiasm. Don't hesitate to stay in touch if I can provide further information.

Warmly,

Louis@RGardening.com

Recommended Books:

Victorian Gardens, Brent Elliott, Timber Press, 1986. Explore the previous Great Age of Annuals, an era when "brighter, darker, deeper, and more exotic" were all positive attributes incapable of excess. To compete in such well-hued times, our famous modern plant retailer would have had to rename itself Purple Flower Farm.

The Art of Beautifying Suburban Home Grounds of Small Extent, Frank J. Scott, 1870. Books.google.com. Scott's confident design advice and un-self-conscious misogyny are at once engaging and unsettling. An hilarious, horrifying read—but also the origin of much of today's classic suburban landscape.

Hot Plants for Cool Places, Susan Roth & Dennis Schrader, Houghton Mifflin, NY, 2000. Lush enthusiasm and first-hand growing advice for scores of essential tropicals, some of which you'll be able to toss at the end of the season, but many of which deserve careful nurturing under cover for the winter. With so many to species choose from, the book is only a sampling—but one that will edify and inspire for years to come. (And maybe convince more of us to grow cannas? I can only hope!)

Garden Flowers from Seed, Christopher Lloyd, Timber Press, Portland, OR, 1994. In his endearingly gossipy and confessional style, Lloyd and his co-author explore hundreds of species, many of them annuals, that self-respecting gardeners may well want to grow from seed. (And because so many unusual annuals don't tolerate transplanting, growing your own is a necessity.) Best bits: When the two authors disagree if a plant is a gem or trash. It's liberating to know that even the experts can't see eye-to-eye.

Summer Annuals, Martyn Rix et al. Random House, NY. 1998. Annuals HAVE come of age: Finally, the long-awaited companion to Rix's semi-definitive series of Shrubs, Perennials 1 & 2, Herbs, Roses, & Bulbs.

Sourcelist:
Astonishing Annuals
 St. Botolph Club
 March 2010

<i>Latin Name</i>	Common	e-Source
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Cardoon	Seeds: companionplants.com Plants: plantdelights.com
<i>Lavatera trimestris</i>	Tree mallow	Seeds: thompson-morgan.com
<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	Opium poppies	Seeds: selectseeds.com
<i>Nicotiana alata</i>	Jasmine tobacco	Seeds: selectseeds.com
<i>Amaranthus hypochondriacus</i>	Prince's feather	Seeds: seedsofchange.com
<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>	Four o'clocks	Seeds: selectseeds.com
<i>Nigella damascena</i>	Love in a Mist	Seeds: johnnyseeds.com
<i>Amaranthus caudatus</i>	Love Lies Bleeding	Seeds: seedsofchange.com
<i>Helichrysum petiolare</i>	Licorice plant	Plants: logees.com
<i>Scaevola aemula</i>	Fan flower	Plants: naturehills.com
<i>Coleus</i>	Coleus	Plants: avantgardensne.com
<i>Canna 'Russian Red'</i>	Russian Red canna	Tubers: brentandbeckysbulbs.com
<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	Elephant ears	Tubers: brentandbeckysbulbs.com
<i>Canna 'Pretoria'</i>	Striped canna	Tubers: brentandbeckysbulbs.com
<i>Euphorbia cotinifolia</i>	Red spurge	Plants: glasshouseworks.com
<i>Brugmansia 'Snowbank'</i>	Snowbank tree datura	Plants: plantdelights.com

<i>Hibiscus acetosella</i>	Red Shield hibiscus	Plants: anniesannuals.com
<i>Furcraea foetida</i> 'Medio-Picta'	Striped false-agave	Plants: asiaticanursery.com
<i>Oryza sativa</i> 'Black Madras'	Purple rice	Seeds: thompson-morgan.com
<i>Canna</i> 'Striped Beauty'	Striped Beauty canna	Plants: karcheskycanna.com
<i>Dahlia</i> 'Classic Summertime'	Classic Summertime dahlia	Tubers: brentandbeckysbulbs.com
<i>Argyreia nervosa</i>	Woolly morning glory	Seeds: companionplants.com Plants: Landcraft Environmentals via (say) Mahoney's. In RI: Farmers Daughter Nursery.
<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i> 'Variegatum'	Variegated St. Augustine grass	Plants: Glasshouseworks.com
<i>Ensete maurelii</i>	Abyssinian banana	Plants: brentandbeckysbulbs.com
<i>Solanum quitoense</i>	Naranjilla	Seeds: banana-tree.com Plants: Landcraft Environmentals via (say) Mahoney's. In RI: Farmers Daughter Nursery.
<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i> 'Limelight'	Limelight four-o'clocks	Plants: glasshouseworks.com
<i>Abutilon</i> 'Souvenir de Bonn'	Variegated flowering maple	Plants: glasshouseworks.com
<i>Ipomoea alba</i>	Moonflower	Seeds: parkseed.com