

Alliums... The Ornamental Garden

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by Joan Sargent

As bulb planting time rolls around again I can't help wondering why so few gardeners make use of the Allium family. It's a mistake to ignore this vast race - coming as they do in so many shapes, sizes and colors. I started slowly several years ago with *A. aflatunense*, the light purple flower that looks like a tennis ball, and *A. molly*, a bright yellow starry flower for late May. Then on to *A. azurem*, a cornflower blue small globe for June, and *A. cernum*, the "nodding onion" with pink pendant flowers. Two whites, *A. cowanii*, with pure white fragrant flowers in a tight ball, and a greenish white, *A. multibulbosum*. All need sun to do well.

If you only have shade, don't despair- *A. triqustrum* likes damp and shady spots and is a spreader. I have not tried *A. globemaster*. I don't think I want an allium as big as a baby's head, but should any of you have it, I'd love to see it in your garden. Good bulb catalogues list these and dozens more. Try some this fall. My chipmunks ignore the bulbs, the deer ignore the flowers...what more could you want?

Ed. note:

We have tried to find photos of each for reference.



A. aflatunense



A. cernum



A. molly



A. cowanii



A. azurem



A. multibulbosum



A. globemaster



A. triqustrum