

About the Long Bloomers

FROM SEPTEMBER 96

About the long bloomers: If I go away for five weeks and find the same flowers blooming when I come back-- uneaten, unmildewed and unbowed-- I am extremely grateful. This year's survival stars are Becky, a tall long-stemmed white daisy-- once it was a Shasta, now it's a Dendranthema [or Leucanthemum]. Linaria Canon J. Went, a Toadflax of pale pink, looking like a tiny snapdragon, will seed itself about. Astrantia needs partial shade and tiny florets will form dome-like clusters on long stems. Achillea Pink Deb stays upright in full sun, about two feet and remains a good pale pink. Monarda Blue Stocking and Monarda Marshall's Delight, another good pink, will spread, but are easily controlled. Thanks to all these long bloomers for hanging in there and giving us this late season joy.

Joan Sargent, a longtime member and master gardener who passed away in August 2012; wrote about 24 gardening columns for NCBL through the years for our newsletter. We are reprinting them again.



Achillea Pink--there is also a Lavender Deb. aka Common Yarrow. Native to prairies and meadows. Loves sun. Pollinator plant. grows to 36 inches tall. Herb gardeners know it for its medicinal uses.



Above left is Monarda 'Blue Stocking', and right M. 'Marshall's Delight'. Marshall's Delight is a nice step forward in the Monarda family. Beneficial for pollinators.



Linaria purpurea 'Canon Went'-- bearing masses of small pink & mauve snapdragon-like blooms upon upright, slender, pointy spikes, a foot & a half to two feet tall. It is in bloom from June until the first frost, the blossoms being favorites of bees & butterflies. Below is Leucanthemum 'Becky', aka a Shasta, or a Dendranthema in the background.



Above is Astrantia (Astrantia major)-- known as masterwort, that is both beautiful and unusual. This shade-loving perennial is not common to most gardens, but it should be.