

# Annuals

Master Gardener Series

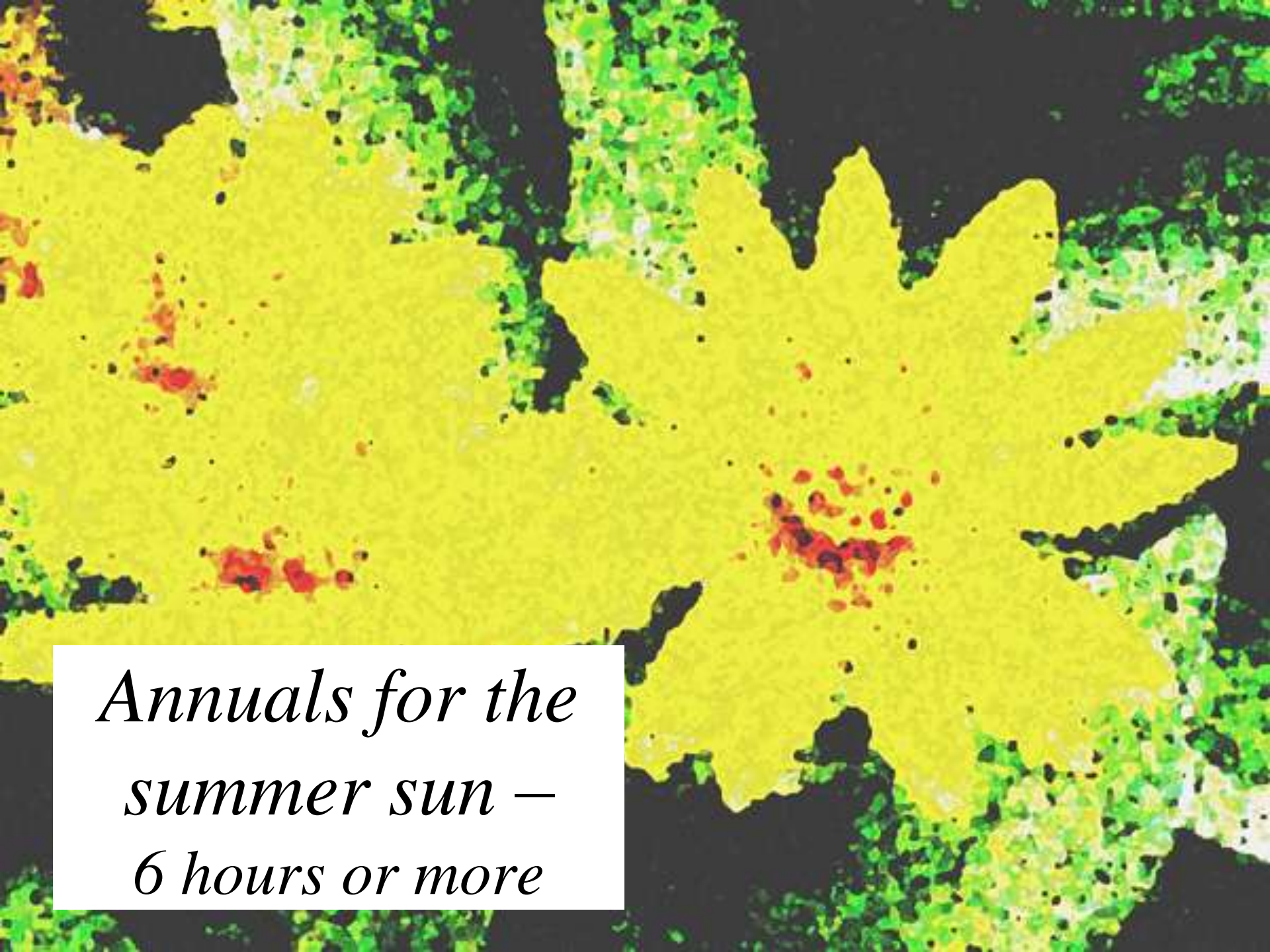
2004

University of Arkansas  
Cooperative Extension Service



# Warm Season Annuals

- Plant after the danger of frost is past – in south Arkansas after **April 1**, in central Arkansas after **April 10** and **April 20** in north Arkansas
- Space plants 12 to 18 inches apart
- Fertilize at planting, and periodically throughout season.
- Water as needed.

A close-up photograph of a yellow flower with red spots, set against a background of green foliage. The flower is the central focus, with its petals showing distinct red markings. The background is a dense, textured green, likely from other plants or leaves.

*Annuals for the  
summer sun –  
6 hours or more*





*Lobularia maritima* 'Rosie O' Day' Sweet Alyssum



# Dusty Miller

(*Centaurea cineraria*)

- Plant as a winter annual with pansies or in spring with warm weather plants
- Will overwinter down to zero
- Good for edging and background

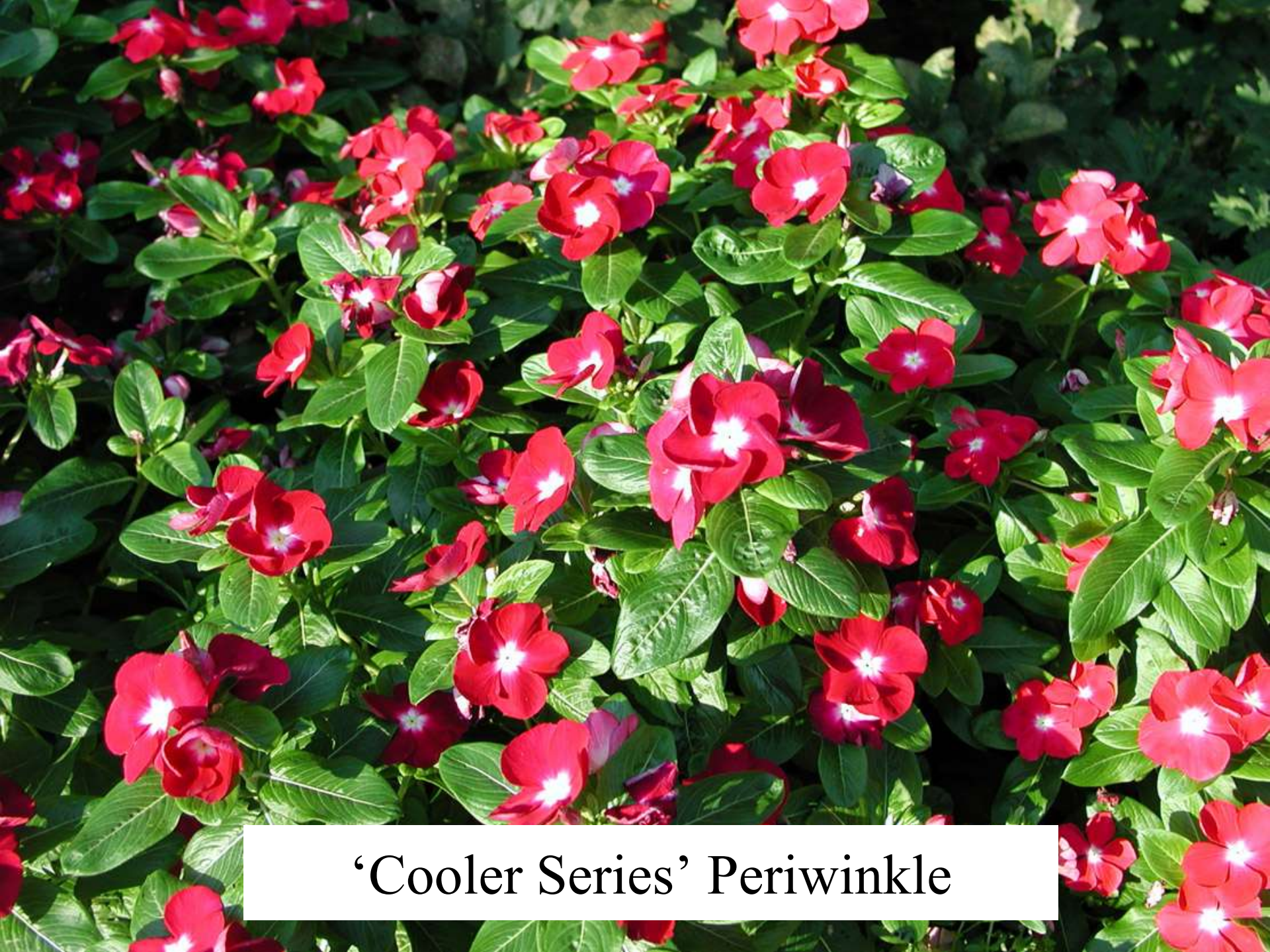


# Periwinkle or Vinca

- Loves the heat
- Glossy green foliage
- self-cleaning flowers.
- Stem canker problems more common with overhead watering.







‘Cooler Series’ Periwinkle





Plumed Cockscomb



Crested Cockscomb



# Lantana

- Loves the heat of summer; tolerates drought
- Used as an annual
- May overwinter
- ‘New Gold’ was a 2000 Arkansas Select winner







Variegated Lantana





Butterfly Pentas  
2002 Arkansas Select



# Petunias

- Belong to the potato family and do best in good soil before the summer gets too hot
- Cut plants back if they stop flowering
- All commercial cultivars are F1 hybrids
- New “Wave” type are more vigorous and tolerate heat better than most





Wave petunias are heavy feeders, so fertilize at least monthly to keep them blooming









# *Calibracoa*

- *2001 Arkansas Select*

- Similar to petunia but with smaller blooms

- In protected areas may overwinter







*Portulaca grandiflora*

Moss Rose



*Portulaca oleraceae* Purslane





# Scarlet Sage

## *Salvia splendens*



- Summer flowering annual responds well to water and fertilizer
- Pinching heads off will keep the plants in bloom
- Loves the heat of an Arkansas summer









*Ageratum houstonianum* Floss Flower



# Melampodium

- 1999 Arkansas Select winner
- Loves heat – a Texas native wildflower
- Self cleaning
- Depending on variety grows 8 to 18 inches tall





# Marigolds (*Tagetes*)

- *T. patula* (French)
- Plants small stature under 16 inches
- Blooms smaller – often yellow or orange
- Easy to transplant and grow
- Spidermite magnet
- *T. erecta* (African)
- Plants 24 to 36 inches tall
- Blooms 3 to 4 inches across and mostly yellow
- Often late flowering



*Tagetes patula*  
French Marigold





# Garden Zinnia

- Full sun plant that is mainly grown from seeds planted directly in the garden
- Can bloom in 5 weeks from seed
- Powdery mildew is a major disease problem.







*Zinnia angustifolia* 'Crystal White'  
*a 1998 Arkansas Select*





*Z. elegans* x *Z. angustifolia*  
(Profusion series)





***Ipomea batatas* 'Marguerite' and 'Blackie'  
Sweet Potato Vine**



# Marguerite Sweet Potato Vine







*Pelargonium x hortorum*  
Garden Geranium

- Grown from cuttings or seeds
- Best in pots in the cooler weather of spring
- Not a good summer bedding plant in the south because of heat





*Flowers for the  
Shade Garden*



# Impatiens or Sultanas

- Best flowering annual for the shade
- Grows quickly from seed
- Flowers all summer
- May reseed in a favorable site
- Dwarf forms available







Sultana (Impatiens)



# New Guinea Impatiens





- Grows best in shade but will take full sun
- Slow from seed so must be grown as a transplant
- Flowers in pink, red or white
- Pest free

Wax Begonia







Dragonwing  
Begonia

*2001 Arkansas Select*



# Coleus - the foliage plant for sun or shade



- Many fancy leafed forms
- Grows well in the soil or in containers
- Sensitive to cold temperatures
- Watch for mealybugs









*Cool  
Season  
Annuals*



## *Dianthus chinensis* 'Snowfire'

- Plant in fall or spring
- Blooms fall through spring
- Shear back in summer for fall bloom
- Sensitive to water





# Snapdragon

(*Antirrhinum majus*)

- Winter annual in zone 7 and south
- Used as a cut flower
- Usually will not make it through our hot summers and remain in bloom





Ornamental Kale plant in September for best show







Ornamental Kale is hardy to about 15 degrees F



# Pansy

- Winter annuals
- Pansies are the most popular winter color plant south of zone 6
- Usually ineffective after May 15 in most years as plants stretch out as nights warm up







Viola flower compared to a Pansy flower





**Plant Pansies before November 1 in North Arkansas.**