

SINGING THE BLUES

Connie Murphy, Marais des Cygnes District Master Gardener

There is a frequent request at farmers market as well as weddings for primarily blue flowers in bouquets and arrangements. Plant breeders are trying to create blue flowers in plants not normally associated with blue, such as roses. Significant progress has been made, but those efforts often result in distinctly lavender (i.e., blue with a pink tone) flowers, such as “Cool Water” roses. I generally grow only a limited number of blue flowers but lately I am trying to increase my options by planting more species.

Blue tones are useful in the garden because they optically seem to recede, giving an Illusion of space. Blue tends to work well with most other colors. Blue and white or silvery-gray are calming, while blue with opposite colors on the color wheel--the “warm colors”-- will make a dramatic statement as the colors will really “pop”. Here is a short list of blue flowers for your consideration:

Anchusa, *Biraginacaea*: (Italian bugloss—*A. azurea*). Related to *Myosotis* (forget-me-not); pure blue color available; annual, biennial or perennial

Aquilegia: (columbine): Heat and cold zones vary by species; comes in almost every color, including blue; perennial.

Campanulaceae: (bellflower family) at least 300 species, Canterbury Bell and peachleaf bellflower are available in blue, purple, pink, white; biennial

Centaurea cyanus (cornflower, bachelor’s buttons) come in true blue as well as other colors; self-seeds easily if seed heads are scattered in place; annual

Delphinium cultivars will grow well in cooler temperatures and with appropriate staking. Mine grow best under light shade around a tree Color ranges from pale to deepest cobalt and purple plus other colors; half- hardy perennial (short-lived perennial)

Hydrangea does best in acid soil with an eastern sun exposure. Several blue cultivars are offered; acidity affects some blue varieties, which will be pink in alkaline soil; perennial

Iridaceae (*iris*) cultivars: a large and remarkably diverse group of 200-300 species with specific requirements. Tall bearded irises are the most commonly sold groups and blue colors range from palest icy blue to deep cobalt and to purple-black (in addition to almost every other color under the sun). These grow from rhizomes; perennial. Dutch **and** Spanish irises are small- bulb irises which are smaller than the bearded type. They come in blues and other colors; perennial.

NOTE: *Most irises require good drainage and will rot in overly damp conditions.*

Ipomoea (morning glory): *I. tricolor* comes in true blue such as “Heavenly Blue”; this is **not** the wild morning glory or bindweed.; annual

Myosotis (forget-me-not): *M. sylvatica* is an old-fashioned blue annual or biennial; self-seeds easily

Salvia: (sage): has dozens of species including annual, biennial, perennial, shrub types. Some shrub types will grow as annuals in our climate. *S. farinacea* (mealy-cup sage) has blue flowers. *S. azurea grandiflora* has gentian blue flowers but may work best in a container as it does not like wet winters

Solanaceae (petunia hybrids): dozens of varieties and growth habits; many new breeds with blue flowers; annual in our climate; check latest catalogs for new plants

Veronica (speedwell): varies greatly in hardiness, size, growth habits and water needs. “Victoria” is mid-blue while “Sunny Border Blue” has dark violet-blue flowers and grows well here; annual but self seeds easily

Viola: *V. wittrockiana* (pansy) comes in many colors including blue; is a perennial treated as an annual. Violets and Johnny-Jump-Ups are included in the Viola family.

Peruse seed catalogs and visit the Kansas State Research and Extension websites for further information and other blue-flowered plants:

Annuals: <http://www.prairiestarflowers.com/PrairieStarnav.html>

Perennials: <http://www.prairiestarflowers.com/PrairieBloomnav.html>

Other plants: <http://www.k-state.edu/extension/info-center/recommended-plants>

Sources: Encyclopedia of Garden Design, J. Stackhouse Ed., 2004

Sunset National Garden Book, Menlo Park, Calif, 1997

Multiple seed catalogs, 2018

Capo 1 / E A Well I never felt more like singin the blues, E B7 Cause I never thought that I'd ever lose. A B7 E Your love dear, why'd you do me this way. E A Well I never felt more like cry. Singing The Blues chords. by Marty Robbins. 49,946 views, added to favorites 2,338 times. "Singing the Blues" is a popular song written by Melvin Endsley and published in 1956. The song was first recorded and released by Marty Robbins in 1956. It is not related to the 1920 jazz song "Singin' the Blues" recorded by Frank Trumbauer and Bix Beiderbecke in 1927. The best-known recording was released in October 1956 by Guy Mitchell and spent ten weeks at number 1 on the U.S. Billboard chart from December 8, 1956, to February 2, 1957. An example of the U.S. recording is on Columbia #40769, dated Singing The Blues by the late Arizona songwriter Marty Robbins. Lyrics: Well, I never felt more like singin' the blues 'Cause I never thought that I'd ever lose Your love dear, why'd you do me this way Well, I never felt more like cryin' all night 'Cause everything's wrong, there ain't nothin' right With-out you, you got me singin' the blues. Now the moon and stars no longer shine The dream is gone I thought was mine There's nothin' left for me to do But cry-why-why over you Well, I never felt more like Singing The Blues. 3 years ago3 years ago. singing the blues. Comment must not exceed 1000 characters. Like. Use shift and the arrow up and down keys to change the volume. Some Velvet Morning music. Current track: Marlon Williams - Please Don't Let Me Love YouMarlon Williams - Please Don't Let Me Love You.