

Flowers for Round the Clock Gardens

Do you work all day and need some plants that are as pretty in an evening garden as in a daytime one? Here are three selections from **Garden Gate** Magazine. These were chosen because they have pale colored foliage, interesting textures, and daytime blooms so they'll look pretty at all times.

Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) With its airy spires of small, purple-blue flowers and finely-cut gray-green foliage on upright, grayish-white stems, Russian sage adds a haze of color to the garden from midsummer into fall, blending well with just about any other flower color. With semi-woody stems, this member of the mint family is drought tolerant and trouble-free. They attract hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. Happy in full sun and well-drained, even dry soil.

Shasta Daisy (*Leucanthemum*) Fresh, clean, simple Shasta daisies bloom over a long period, from early summer until late fall, forming tidy clumps from 2-3 feet tall and up to 2 feet across. The bright flowers contrast nicely with the glossy, dark green foliage, livening up any garden bed. The flowers are also suitable for cutting. They attract butterflies, bees, and birds, too. Shasta Daisies prefer full sun and well-drained soil.

Lamb's Ear (*Stachys byzantina*) A hardy perennial most known for its thick wooly leaves, and not its flowers, Lamb's Ear is a very hardy and strong-growing perennial, with thick white wooly foliage. It is valued as a dense, low growing, spreading bedding plant in the landscape. Lamb's Ear works well when filling an area of your landscape and as a border perennial, with pink-purple flower spikes during the summer season. The foliage provides striking silvery color and unique velvety soft textural qualities. It attracts bees and butterflies. Lamb's Ear likes full sun and well-drained soil. It can tolerate poor soil conditions.

Portions excerpted from the National Gardening Association website.