FLOWERS FOR CUTTING AND DRYING

* Note: all plants with an asterisk * can be dried.

ANNUALS

*Amaranthus* Amaranthus
Antirrhinum Snapdragons
*Aster* Aster
Calendula Pot Marigold
*Celosia* Celosia
Centaurea Bachelor’s Buttons
Cosmos Cosmos
*Delphinium* D. ajacis Larkspur
*Emilia* Tassel Flower
Gerbera African Daisy
*Gomphrena* Globe Amaranth
*Helianthus* Sunflower
*Helichrysum* Strawflower
Lathyrus Sweet Pea
Matthiola Stock
*Nigella* Love in a Mist
*Salvia* Salvia, Clary Sage, Sage
Scabiosa S. atropurpurea
*Statice* Statice
Tagetes Marigold
Tithonia Mexican Sunflower
Verbena V. bonariensis and others
*Xeranthemum* Everlasting
Zinnia Zinnia

There are many other annuals suitable for fresh cut flowers or drying! This list does not attempt to be comprehensive, but merely to cover the basic plants to start with in an annual cutting garden.
PERENNIALS and BIENNIALS

*Achillea Yarrow
Aconitum Monkshood
*Alchemilla Lady’s Mantle
*Anaphalis Pearly Everlasting
*Aquilegia Columbine (Dry seed pods)
*Astilbe Astilbe
*Astrantia Masterwort
*Baptisia Baptisia (Dry seed pods)
Calluna Heather
Campanula Bellflower (including biennial Canterbury Bells)
*Centarea C. macrocephala makes best cut or dried flower
Centranthus Red Valerian, Jupiter’s Beard
Convallaria Lily of the Valley
Coreopsis Coreopsis
*Delphinium Pinks, Carnations (including biennial Sweet William)
Dicentra Bleeding Heart
Digitalis Foxglove
Doronicum Leopardsbane Daisy
*Echinops E. coelestinum –peren. Ageratum good fresh cut,
   E. pupureum and all Joe Pye Weed also can be dried
Ferns Ferns
Gaillardia Blanket Flower
*Grasses Ornamental Grasses
*Gypsophila Baby’s Breath
*Heliopsis Sunflowers (some varieties can be dried such as H. ‘Soleil d’Or’
Helleborus Christmas or Lenten Rose
Heuchera Coral Bells
Hosta Plantain Lily
Iris Iris
Knautia Knautia
Kniphofia Red Hot Poker
*Lavandula Lavender
*Liatris Gayfeather
Lillium Lily
*Limonium Sea Lavender, Statice
*Lunaria Honesty, Money Plant (Biennial)
Lupinus Lupine
Lysimachia L. punctata, Circle Flower
Matricaria Feverfew
*Monarda Bee Balm
Paeonia Peony
Papaver Poppy (Oriental varieties and any with sap, bur the end of the stem first)
Penstemon Beard Tongue
Perovskia Russian Sage
Phlox P. paniculata, P. maculata Summer Phlox
Physostegia Obedient plant
*Rose Rose
Rudbeckia Black Eyed Susan
Scabiosa  Scabiosa  
*Sedum  Sedum (esp. taller varieties such as S. ‘Autumn Joy’)
*Stachys  Lamb’s Ears
Veronica  Veronica

**TREES AND SHRUBS**
Many are good foliage plants and are marked with an “F”.

Abelia  Abelia
Abeliophyllum  White Forsythia
Buxus  Boxwood (F)
Chaenomeles  Quince
Cornus  Dogwood
Cytisus  Scotch Broom (F) and flowers
Deutzia  Deutzia
Euonymus  Euonymus (F)
Forsythia  Forsythia (F) use forsythia foliage as a good foliage in arrangements!
    Also flowering branches, of course.
Hamamelis  Witch Hazel
Hedera  English Ivy (F)
*Hydrangea  Hydrangea
Ilex  Holly (F) and berries
Kalmia  Mountain Laurel (F)
Ligustrum  Privet (F) [SOME SPECIES ARE INVASIVE]
Magnolia  Magnolia
Malus  Apple, Crabapple
*Myrica  Bayberry  Berries good dried in holiday arrangements.
Prunus  Cherry, Plum
Pyrus  Pear
*Salix  Pussywillow, Corkscrew Willow
Spirea  Spirea
Syringa  Lilac
Viburnum  Viburnum  Many Viburnums are good for cut flowers as well as berries.

**HERBS and VEGETABLES**

There are many, many herbs that make excellent cut or dried flowers or foliage. This list highlights some of the most important ones.

Agastache  Anise Hyssop
*Allium  Chives, Garlic Chives
*Artemesia  Artemisia (F) A. lactiflora is the one Artemesia that is grown for its flowers, not its silver foliage. Flowers can be used fresh cut or dried. All others are used fresh or dried for silver foliage.
Asparagus  Asparagus (F)
Brassicas  Broccoli flowers
Foeniculum  Fennel (F) and flowers
*Lavendula  Lavender
Pelargoniums  Scented Geraniums (F)
Ruta  Rue (F) and flowers
*Salvia  Sage (F) and flowers
*Tanacetum  Tansy (F) and flowers
Note: Many designers also incorporate fruit and vegetables into their designs! Examples are grape clusters, Crabapples, Pineapples, Red hot peppers, etc. Be creative!

“WILD THINGS”

Many pods and berries of the roadside can be incorporated into a natural style arrangement. Be sure what you are picking is not an endangered plant! This list is to be an inspiration, and is only the beginning of the natural materials that could be gathered and used in arrangements.

Chrysanthemum Ox eyed Daisy
*Daucus Queen Ann’s Lace
*Eupatorium E. maculatum Joe Pye Weed
Ilex I. verticillata Winterberry
Lonicera Honeysuckle (some are invasive)

BULBS

Acidinanthera Abbysinian Gladiolus
Agapanthus Agapanthus
*Allium Allium
Anemone Anemone
Brodiaeа Brodiaeа
Crocosmia Montbretia Lily
Dahlia Dahlia
Eremurus Foxtail Lily
Gladiolus Gladiolus
Hyacinthus Hyacinth
Iris Dutch Iris
Lillium Lily
Narcissus Daffodils
Ranunculus Ranunculus
Tuberosa Tuberose
Tulipa Tulip

Note: The plants marked with * can be easily dried using natural methods such as hang drying, drying on a screen, etc. Many more of these flowers can be preserved using silica gel, glycerin, etc.

There are many excellent books on drying flowers as well as growing fresh cut flowers. This list is intended to be a basic reference. The subject is vast. I hope this sparks your imagination and starts you on a life long hobby of growing fresh and dried flowers!

In an effort to provide horticultural information, these educational documents are written by Nancy DuBrule-Clemente and are the property of Natureworks Horticultural Services, LLC. You are granted permission to print/photocopy this educational information free of charge as long as you clearly show that these are Natureworks documents.