



Plant types

Annuals

Plants that complete their full life cycle in one year.
Germinate, grow to maturity, flower, set seed, die.

Hardy annuals

Annuals that are frost tolerant. They are often self-seeders.

E.g.

Edible flowers - *Nasturtiums*, *Calendula officinalis* – Common Pot Marigold

Half-hardy annuals

Will not tolerate frost so cannot be planted out until danger of frost has passed.

Seeds need to be sown indoors or in a protected outside environment such as a greenhouse or poly tunnel for the plants to be able to reach full maturity within the year. These are often bought as 'Bedding' plants.

E.g.

Tomatoes, *Courgettes*, *Tagetes* 'Disco Orange' – Dwarf French Marigold

Perennials

An herbaceous plant i.e. one that is not 'woody' and usually dies back in winter, and lives for more than 2 years.

Usually refers to hardy perennials but some perennials are tender.

E.g.

Nectar rich flowers - *Verbena bonariensis*, *Sedum spectabile* 'Brilliant' – 'Ice Plant'

Edibles – *Artichokes*, *rhubarb*, *strawberries* (short lived) *Horseradish*, *Asparagus*

Biennials

An herbaceous plant that completes its biological life cycle in 2 years -

Makes vegetative growth in the 1st year and usually flowers/crops in the second year.

Biennials that are grown for edible leaves or roots are grown for just one year (and not grown on a second year to run to seed).

E.g. *Onion family*, *spinich*, *parsley*.

Shrubs

A woody plant that has a permanent branch structure. Shrubs are usually smaller than trees and either have a short main stem or multiple stems coming from ground level.

Can be evergreen or deciduous.

E.g. *Raspberries*, *Currents*, *Blackberries*.

Climbing Plants

Plants which climb up trees and other tall objects. Many of them are vines whose stems twine round trees and branches.

E.g. *Grapevine*, *hops*.

Trees

Woody perennials that usually have a clean main stem or trunk with branches above it.

E.g. *Apple trees*, *Pear trees*, *Cherry trees*.