

Week of May 14

By Sage Sassafras

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE

This is the time of year to lift thine eyes from thine own dirt and unto the hills to gander at a spread of white trillium over near Vergennes and a clutch of wild columbine hanging onto a cliff on Rt. 100 near Rochester. Refreshed you can go back to figuring out which Zone 4 perennials will create that knock-dead effect you're after.

Here are 12 favorites:

For spring blooming:

Trollius (globe flower) for its wonderful yellow or orange flowers; plant where roots stay moist and plants are in shade in hottest part of the day.

Columbine that get lush each year of you cut off the flowers before they go to seed.

Euphorbia (spurge, milkwort, myrtle euphorbia) for hot, dry sunny locations if you can stand the name, a little like the sound of tuberous begonia that is prettier than it sounds.

For early summer blooming

Peonies and hold those ants that the plants require.

Perennial salvia get almost 4 feet tall and are blue or blue violet; deadhead to encourage continuous growth.

Russell hybrid lupine just like those along the interstate.

For mid-summer blooming

Monarda (bee balm or bergamot) with white, pink, red or purple tubular flowers that bees and hummingbirds love.

Annabelle Hydrangea with big white blossoming heads blooming from summer.

Shasta Daisies called Becky perfect for cut flowers and tolerate drought.

Late summer into Fall

Sedum (stonecrop) drought-resistant and turn from green to russet in fall and beloved as hors d'oeuvres by deer.

Rudbeckia (coneflower, Echinacea) is another of those weird names but the flowers, yellow and orange, are great up to frost.

Michaelmas daisy (aster) blooms late season in all shades of pink and named after a Sept. 29 feast day.

Happy gardening and don't forget to check the website

www.woodstockgardenclub.org. Remember that Mother Nature needs all the coddling we can give her.

