Selecting what varieties of cut flowers to grow can be a difficult decision. There are several things that will influence your choices. Some flowers can’t be grown in your particular growing zone, eliminating those flowers from your potential shopping list. Talking with other growers in your area you can learn firsthand what cut flowers will grow in your location. Next you’ll need to know how you will be selling your flowers and tailor your plantings to produce the types of flowers you’ll need. When you are ready to sit down with the seed and plant catalogs, or spend some time on the computer, you want to look for the little scissors icon in the catalogs. While this can be a helpful guide, do not limit yourself to just these plants. Some varieties marked as cut flowers are only marginal at best, while some not marked as a cut flower may make a unique specialty cut flower in the hands of a creative floral designer.

Sunflower – Annual grown from seed. Plant weekly or bi-weekly for continued harvest all season. “Pollenless” is better than pollen producing varieties. Usually listed in catalogs with “days to harvest.” Shorter crop times mean less chance of problems and a quicker payback on your investment. Direct sow or grow own plugs.
Suggested varieties:
- Pro Cut Orange
- Sunbright & Sunbright Supreme
- Sunrich Orange
- Double Quick
- Pro Cut Bi-Color

Zinnia – Annual grown from seed. Succession plant three to four plantings. Easy to grow from seed. Direct sow or grow own plugs.
Suggested varieties:
- Benary Giant
- Zowie
- Uproar Rose

Celosia – Annual grown from seed. Thrives in summer heat, Three main flower types are crested or coxcomb, feather or plume, and wheat. Use support netting for most varieties, Direct sow, purchase or grow own plugs. Don’t plant short bedding varieties.
Suggested varieties:
- Crested:
  - Cramers series
  - Chief series
Wheat:
- Cramers Amazon
- Cramers Hi-Z
- Pink Candle
- Sylphid
- Feather/Plume
- Forest Fire
- Pampas Plume

**Asters** – China Aster. Annual grown from seed. Support netting is suggested. Plantings done after June 15th will need night interruption lighting for stem length. Purchase or grow plugs.
- Suggested varieties:
  - Matsumoto series
  - Serenade

**Lisianthus** – Annual grown from seed. Support netting is suggested. Use white plastic mulch to keep soil cool. Flower quality improves with high tunnel or greenhouse protection. Plants may overwinter with protection. Purchase plugs.
- Suggested varieties:
  - Mariachi series
  - Echo series
  - ABC series

**Hydrangea** – Woody shrub. Supply adequate moisture. Partial shade or shade cloth improves flower quality. Macrophylla varieties, with blue and pink flowers are recommended only if they bloom reliably in your area. Paniculata and Arborescens varieties bloom on new wood and will bloom every year. Cut back to 12" in late winter for long stems and large flowers. Flowers are dryable later in season when they have turned green and leathery. Purchase bare root or potted plants.
- Suggested varieties:
  - Paniculata:
    - Limelight
    - Kyushu
  - Arborescens
    - Annabelle

**Peony** – Long lived perennial grown from divisions. Plants take several years to become fully productive. Pick just before flowers open. On hot days they may need to be picked several times throughout the day. Holds well in the cooler, stored dry for 3-4 weeks if needed. Purchase 3-5 eye roots.
- Suggested varieties:
  - Kansas (red)
  - Sarah Bernhardt (pink)
  - Bowl of Cream (white)
  - Festiva Maxima (white)
  - Red Charm (true red)
  - Coral Charm (coral)
  - Monsieur Jules Elie (hot pink)
**Phlox** – Tall garden phlox paniculata. Grown from cuttings or divisions. Plugs planted this summer will produce next season. Plants that bloomed in June will re-bloom in September and early October if you cut it back to about 4" when picking the blooms in the summer. Keep watered and feed throughout the summer.

Suggested varieties:
- David (white)
- Lavender David (pink)
- Bright Eyes (pink)
- Starfire (red)

**Gomphrena** - Annual grown from seed. Single stemmed or branching plants. Heat loving. Support sometimes needed if windy or stormy weather. Buy or start plugs.

Suggested varieties:
- Bi-color Rose (branching)
- Upright Purple (branching)
- QIS series – Carmine, Purple (single stem)
- Woodcreek Red (single stem)

**Salvia Leucantha** – Annual grown from cuttings rooted in spring. Flowering begins in mid-September, only a couple weeks before a killing frost. High tunnel protection is recommended to extend harvesting into November. Netting is recommended. Pinch in early July to encourage branching and more flowers with manageable stems. Purchase plugs or maintain stock plants.

Suggested varieties:
- Standard cultivar (purple with white eye)
- All Purple selection (purple with magenta eye)

**Lily** – Grown from bulbs. Can be grown year round in greenhouses, or extended season in high tunnels. Oriental. OT and LO lilies have fragrance, LA and Asiatic are unscented. Expensive deer candy. Purchase programmed bulbs from cut flower bulb supplier.

**Yarrow, Achillea** - Perennials grown from cuttings, seed, or divisions. Drought tolerant. Deer resistant. Buy plugs, or start plugs from seed.

Suggested varieties:
- Corronation Gold (golden yellow – cuttings or division)
- Moonshine (brighter yellow - cuttings or division)
- Terracotta (pumpkin color – cuttings or division)
- Summer Pastels (bright pastels – plugs from seed)
- Colorado Mix (earth tones – plugs from seed)

**Dahlia** - Grown from tubers or cuttings. Very productive plants. Mulch heavily and keep watered well. Cut flower industry standard is the Karma series available in plugs grown from virus indexed stock plants. Strong support netting is required. Plants will get large. Buy Karma plugs or tubers, or tubers for other varieties.

Suggested varieties:
- Karma series
**Sweet William** - Biennial grown from seed. Start plugs in July, plant out in August for blooms the following year in late May and early June. Support netting recommended.
Suggested varieties:
- Tall Double Mix
- Electron
- Sweet series (blooms without verbalization)
- Amazon series (blooms without verbalization)

**Rudbeckia** - Biennial/Annual grown from seed. Plant in May for blooms in July/August. Plant in late summer for blooms the following June. Buy or start plugs from seed.
Suggested varieties:
- Indian Summer
- Prairie Sun

**Cosmos** - Annual grown from seed. Over fertilization produces large week plant with few flowers. Direct sow or start plugs. Succession plant 2-3 times throughout season. Pinch plants when 8’’-12’’ tall. Use support netting.
Suggested varieties:
- Versailles mix. (best variety)
- Double Click (unique double flowers)

**Ageratum** - Annual grown from seed. Good filler flower. Cut plants back hard and fertilize to get a good second flush of blooms. Stems root easily for a fresh crop later in the year. Start or buy plugs.
Suggested varieties:
- Blue Horizon (blue with sturdy stems)
- Red Top (burgundy with thin stems)

**Eucalyptus** - Shrub grown as annual from seed. Harvest in late summer when leaves are leathery. May overwinter with protection. Start seeds early or buy plugs to plant out May.
Suggested varieties:
- Silver Dollar
- Silver Drop

**Bachelor Button** – Annual from seed. Fertilize lightly, pick daily to keep flowers fresh. Direct sow in early fall for flowers the following June. Support netting suggested.
Suggested varieties:
- Blue Boy
- Florist strain

**Larkspur** – Annual from seed. Direct sow in early fall for flowers the following June.
- Giant Imperial Mix
- QIS mix

**Flowering Branches** – Woody shrubs. Pussy Willow, Curly Willow, Red Twig Dogwood, Winterberry Holly. Purchase bare root or potted plants.