

Fall Cuts: What can you grow that will decorate consumers' homes in the fall?

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In fall, the spring plantings of summer cut flowers typically fade and diminish in productivity, and require different strategies by growers to keep consumer interest. Some flowers, notably lisianthus, sunflower, zinnia and especially dahlia, continue to bloom under fall conditions. Others, such as snapdragons and calendula, can be planted late for fall harvest. Others such as chrysanthemum only flower in the fall because of the need for short days to induce flowering. The foliage of ornamental cabbage and kale requires cool weather to bring out the white or purple color that makes these plants ornamental. The fruiting stems of several annual plants can provide decoration in fall bouquets: peppers come in a range of fruit sizes, shapes and colors. *C. annuum* lines tend to be short in stature and their leaves wilt in the vase; *C. baccatum* lines stay more hydrated, and are easier to defoliate. The woody stems of willow have interesting shapes and colors, and are followed by ornamental pussy willows for winter harvest. Woody stems of these and other species will be shown during the talk.