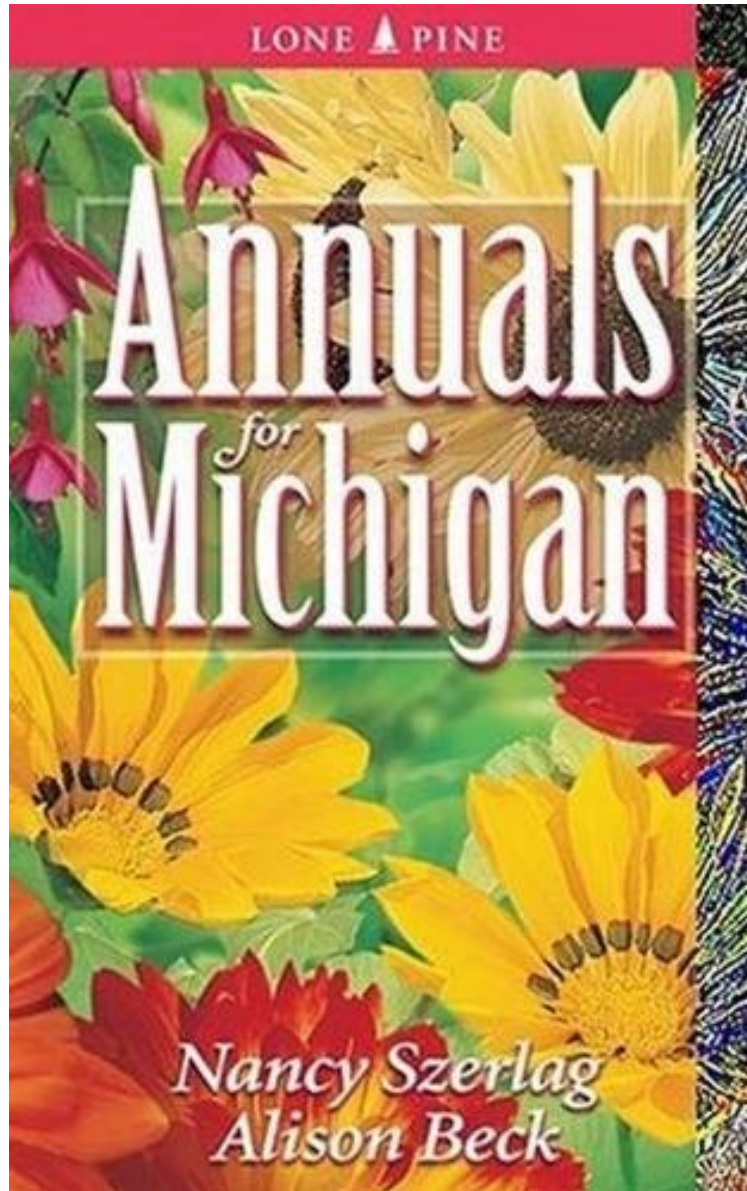


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Annuals for Michigan

Nancy Szerlag, Alison Beck

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Nancy Szerlag, Alison Beck : Annuals for Michigan before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Annuals for Michigan:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Tangling with a feisty morning gloryBy ealovittI don't believe I've ever seen a gardening book where the information was as well-organized as it is in "Annuals for Michigan" and its

companion volume, "Perennials for Michigan." Often books of regional interest are thrown together and published on the cheap, but these books are tightly-bound, full of color illustrations, and above all, well written. And they're really about Michigan climate and Michigan soils. Someone didn't just go through and change, say 'Iowa' to 'Michigan' with a word processor, then rename the book. According to the authors, Michigan ranks third nationwide in the production of annual plants, so we must have a pretty decent climate for growing them. I've only had a couple escape from their beds and attempt to take over the yard--the morning glory 'Grandpa Ott' and every kind of mallow I've ever tried--so don't be afraid to experiment. Our winters usually exterminate the overly bold. The book begins with a pictorial guide called "The Flowers at a Glance" where photographs of the annuals are listed in alphabetical order, by common name. There is a short introduction on trends in annuals and a map of the average last-frost dates for Michigan, so that you will know when to plant out depending on where you live. The next few sections explain how to start annuals, both by growing them from seed or by schlepping over to the nearest gardening center and buying them. There are chapters on caring for annuals, and the obligatory chapter on 'Problems Pests' before we plunge into the heart of this book: the alphabetically-arranged sections on each of the 443 selected annuals. Each species is described, including height, spread, and flower color. Each has subsections on 'Planting' (how and when to start your plants), 'Growing,' 'Tips,' 'Recommended' varieties, and (usually) 'Problems and Pests.' There are over 400 color photographs, usually (but not always) labeled by variety, to help with your decisions on what to plant. There is also a very nice 'Quick Reference Chart' in back that lists the colors, sowing method, height, hardiness, light and soil requirements for each species. There is even a short list of companies and their websites where you can purchase seed, although a couple of my favorites aren't mentioned, i.e. Thompson and Morgan, and Park Seed. Annuals are so much fun. If you hate the color combinations you tried one year, you can start all over again the following spring. Sometimes if you're lucky, a favorite annual like Love-in-a-Mist will reseed itself and return even more beautifully the following season. Of course, that could also happen with pests like Grandpa Ott--we finally had to concede defeat after five years of weeding purple morning glories out of the vegetable beds. We sold our house to someone who hopefully loves this old vine.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is an excellent book. If you want to know anything about ...By babycows
This is an excellent book. If you want to know anything about flowers you need this book.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Annuals of Michigan
By L. Malloy
Easy alphabetical Reference - All the basics including photos, landscaping suggestions, specie recommendation, problems/pests, color coded reference carts for form, features, blooming, foliage - articles on pruning, planting, purchase, care - highly recommend

Brilliant photographs and down-to-earth advice are packed into this guide to over 443 annuals suited to the climate of this Great Lake state. Szerlag and Beck provide information on light, water and nutrient needs, as well as recommendations on how and when to start your plants. This book also includes tips on planting, growing, recommended varieties, and problems and pests.

About the Author
NANCY SZERLAG is a gardening columnist with the Detroit News and spent four years as the gardening expert on the NBC-affiliate WDIV-TV in Detroit. A certified Master Gardener, Nancy is a popular guest speaker at Michigan garden shows and teaches extension gardening classes at Mott College. ALISON BECK is a seasoned gardening writer, with 38 books published to date. She came to the task well trained, with a university degree in Creative Writing and a diploma in horticultural technology. The English-born Beck has been gardening since she was a child. Her writing reflects a talent for practical advice and a passion for gardening.