



Dear Clematis,

The house that we bought in 2018 has pretty gardens during spring and summer. But after July, most everything has stopped blooming. Do you have any ideas for plants that would provide color and flowers for cutting into the fall?

*Hopefully,
Wistful on Westview*

Dear Wistful,

No need to be wistful – you can be a wishful gardener! “Fall freshness” is not an oxymoron in Nashville. We are fortunate to have a long growing season. There are many perennial plants that put on a show in the fall, but they take a while to fill out and make a statement.

Your timing is perfect right now to buy bulbs that you plant in the spring after the last frost. These will bloom in late summer and fall; some of them even continue until the temperature drops below freezing. My favorites are dahlias, cannas and lilies such as Surprise Lilies and Spider Lilies.

None of these plants take up much space; you can plant bulbs here and there in sunny spots and experiment with color combinations. When your summer-blooming plants are finishing, your spring-planted bulbs will be ready to get your attention.

You can plant bulbs in the ground or in containers, just a few inches deep. You can buy bulbs at our local garden centers, but the best selection is from online specialty nurseries. Their websites also have helpful information and tips for successful growing.

Here are a few sites to start your research:

<https://www.longfield-gardens.com/>

<https://www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com/>

<https://www.brecks.com/>

<https://www.dahlias.com/>

Have fun and enjoy your fall harvest,
Clematis

