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Contributed by Kim Eckert

YOUR FAVORITE PLANTS

For my last *Tid Bits*, I asked all members to share their favorite plant with me and I would compile a list we could all refer to as tried and true. I suggested that what binds us together as Club members is our love for gardening. Over the years, we all have gained valuable experience and found our favorite tree, shrub, or perennial. This plant, we love, can evoke a happy contented feeling when we see it in its full glory or it does really well year after year, which is incredibly important and satisfying. For each of us, it is different. I received some lovely responses which I share below.

Hellebores

I, too, love hellebores. I brought some from my previous property in Montgomery County. Others were the gift of a local Master Gardener friend. My favorite among these is IVORY PRINCE, which dominates in Cooke's Hope's parks. I love it for its purity of color and strong presence.

Rita Mhley

Hakonechloa macra ' Aureola '

What first attracted me to this low-growing grass, commonly known as Japanese Forest Grass, is the sharp, chartreuse color that stands out in any garden setting. The long, slender leaves create an arch-like movement. So graceful, I have used in a container and as a groundcover. Compliments bright pink or orange annuals or perennials for a stunning combination. Grows only 12-18 inches tall and is slow to spread but easy to grow.

Cindy Pease

Astilbe: One of my favorite plants is astilbe. I have found that it is very forgiving and can thrive in shade as well as sunny spots and doesn't mind clay soil. Each season it pops up with its lovely fern-like foliage in different shades of green and red. The flowers are a feathery plume of pink, white or maroon. (Those are the colors I have; I'm sure there are others just as beautiful.)

Laurie Mackaness

Although I had hoped for more, I love these responses. Interesting that they are all shade plants! I have all three and I agree that they are all wonderful and provide light and color to our shadier garden sites. Thank you ladies, for sharing!



Photo: Trish Reynolds



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Source - Internet, BHG