

## Plant Families for Designers Constructing Monobotanic Designs

### Examples only; Not inclusive

Legend: **Family** (Common name of family; for some an alternate is also correct (alt.);

*Genus* or *Genus/species* (Common Name)  
(also sometimes placed in this family)

#### **Acanthaceae** (Acanthus)

*Acanthus* (Bear's Breeches)  
*Barleria* (Philippine Violet)  
*Hypoestes* (Polka Dot Plant)  
*Justicia* (Shrimp Plant)  
*Strobilanthes* (Persian Shield)

#### **Adoxaceae** (Moschatel)

*Sambucus* (Caprifoliaceae, Sambucaceae)  
*Viburnum* (Caprifoliaceae, Viburnaceae)

#### **Amaranthaceae** (Amaranth)

*Alternanthera* (Chenopodiaceae)  
*Amaranthus* (Amaranth) (Chenopodiaceae)  
*Beta vulgaris* (Beet) (Chenopodiaceae)  
*Celosia* (Chenopodiaceae)  
*Gomphrena globosa* (Chenopodiaceae)

#### **Amaryllidaceae** (Amaryllis)

*Allium* (Onion, Leek, Garlic) (Alliaceae, Liliaceae)  
*Clivia miniata* (Natal Lily, Bush Lily) (Liliaceae)  
*Crinum* (Crinum Lily) (Liliaceae)  
*Galanthus* (Snowdrop) (Liliaceae)  
*Hippeastrum* (Amaryllis) (Liliaceae)  
*Hymenocallis* (Spider Lily) (Liliaceae)  
*Leucojum* (Snowflake) (Liliaceae)  
*Lycoris* (Naked Lady, Hurricane Lily, Spider Lily) (Liliaceae)  
*Narcissus* (Daffodil) (Liliaceae)  
*Tulbaghia violacea* (Society Garlic) (Alliaceae, Liliaceae)

#### **Apiaceae** (alt. Umbelliferae) (Parsley)

*Anethum* (Dill)  
*Angelica*  
*Carum* (Caraway)  
*Coriandrum* (Coriander)  
*Daucus carota* (Queen Anne's Lace, Carrot)  
*Eryngium* (Sea Holly)  
*Foeniculum* (Fennel)  
*Petroselinum crispum* (Parsley)

#### **Apocynaceae** (Dogbane)

*Asclepias* (Butterfly Weed) (Asclepiadaceae)  
*Catharanthus* (Vinca, Periwinkle)

*Nerium oleander* (Oleander)  
*Plumeria* hybrids (Frangipani)

#### **Aquifoliaceae** (Holly)

*Ilex* (Holly)

#### **Araceae** (Arum)

*Aglaonema* (Chinese Evergreen)  
*Anthurium*  
*Arisaema* (Jack-in-the-Pulpit)  
*Caladium* and hybrids  
*Dieffenbachia*  
*Epipremnum* (Pothos)  
*Monstera deliciosa* (Swiss Cheese Plant)  
*Philodendron* (Philodendron)  
*Spathiphyllum* (Peace Lily)  
*Zantedeschia* (Calla Lily)

#### **Araliaceae** (Aralia or Ivy)

*Fatsia japonica* (Fatsia)  
*Hedera* (Ivy)  
*Schefflera* (Umbrella Plant)

#### **Arecaceae** (alt. Palmae) (Palm)

*Caryota* (Fishtail Palm)  
*Chamaedorea elegans* (Parlor Palm)  
*Cocos* (Coconut Palm)  
*Howea forsteriana* (Sentry Palm)  
*Phoenix* (Date Palm)  
*Sabal palmetto* (Sabal Palm)

#### **Asparagaceae** (Asparagus)

*Agave* (Century Plant) (Agavaceae)  
*Asparagus densiflorus* 'Meyeri' (Liliaceae)  
*Asparagus aethiopicus* 'Sprengeri' (Liliaceae)  
*Aspidistra* (Convallariaceae, Liliaceae, Ruscaceae)  
*Chlorophytum* (Airplane Plant, Spider Plant) (Anthericaceae, Agavaceae, Liliaceae)  
*Convallaria* (Lily of the Valley) (Convallariaceae, Liliaceae, Ruscaceae)  
*Cordyline* (Laxmanniaceae, Astelliaceae, Lomandraceae, Agavaceae)  
*Dracaena* (Agavaceae, Convallariaceae, Dracaenaceae, Liliaceae, Ruscaceae)

*Hosta* (Liliaceae, Hostaceae, Agavaceae)

*Liriope* (Agavaceae, Convallariaceae, Dracaenaceae, Liliaceae, Ruscaceae)

*Polianthes* (Agavaceae)

*Sansevieria* (Agavaceae, Convallariaceae, Dracaenaceae, Liliaceae, Ruscaceae)

*Yucca* (Anthericaceae, Liliaceae, Agavaceae)

**Asteraceae** (alt. *Compositae*) (Aster)

*Artemisia*  
*Aster*  
*Calendula*  
*Centaurea*  
*Chrysanthemum* (Mum)  
*Coreopsis*  
*Cosmos*  
*Dahlia*  
*Echinacea* (Purple Coneflower)  
*Echinops* (Globe Thistle)  
*Eutrochium purpureum* (syn. *Eupatorium*) (Joe Pye Weed)  
*Gaillardia* (Blanket Flower)  
*Gerbera hybrida* (Gerbera Daisy)  
*Helianthus* (Sunflower)  
*Helichrysum* (Strawflower)  
*Heliopsis* (False Sunflower)  
*Liatris* (Gayfeather)  
*Osteospermum* (African Daisy)  
*Rudbeckia* (Black-eyed Susan)  
*Stokesia* (Stoke's Aster)  
*Tagetes* (Marigold)  
*Tithonia* (Mexican Sunflower)  
*Zinnia*

**Begoniaceae** (Begonia)

*Begonia*

**Betulaceae** (Birch)

*Alnus* (Alder)  
*Betula* (Birch)  
*Corylus* (Alder)

**Brassicaceae** (alt. *Cruciferae*) (mustard)

*Brassica* (Cabbage, Kale)  
*Iberis* (Candytuft)  
*Lobularia* (Sweet Alyssum)  
*Lunaria annua* (Money Plant)  
*Matthiola incana* (Stock)

**Boraginaceae** (Borage)

*Mertensia* (Virginia Bluebells)

**Bromeliaceae** (Bromeliad)

*Aechmea*  
*Ananas comosus* (Pineapple)  
*Billbergia*  
*Tillandsia usenoides* (Spanish Moss)

**Buxaceae** (Box)

*Buxus* (Boxwood)  
*Pachysandra*

**Cactaceae** (Cactus)

*Cereus*  
*Opuntia*  
*Pereskia*  
*Rhipsalis*

**Campanulaceae** (Bellflower)

*Campanula* (Bellflower)  
*Platycodon grandiflorus* (Balloon Flower)

**Caryophyllaceae** (Carnation)

*Dianthus caryophyllus* (Carnation)  
*Gypsophila* (Baby's Breath)

**Celastraceae** (Bittersweet)

*Celastrus* (Bittersweet)  
*Euonymus*

**Crassulaceae** (Stonecrop)

*Echeveria* (Hens and Chicks)  
*Sedum* (Stonecrop)  
*Sempervivum*

**Cupressaceae** (Cypress)

*Chamaecyparis* (Cypress)  
*Taxodium disticum* (Bald Cypress)

**Cyperaceae** (Sedge)

*Carex* (Japanese Sedge)  
*Cyperus involucratus* (Umbrella Sedge)  
*Cyperus papyrus* (Papyrus)

**Ericaceae** (Azalea)

*Kalmia*  
*Pieris*  
*Rhododendron*

**Euphorbiaceae** (Euphorbia)

*Codiaeum variegatum* (Croton)  
*Euphorbia milii* (Crown of Thorns)  
*Euphorbia pulcherrima* (Poinsettia)

**Fabaceae** (alt. *Leguminosae*) (Pea or Bean)

*Albizia julibrissin* (Mimosa)  
*Baptisia* (*Papilionaceae*)  
*Cytisus scoparius* (Scotch Broom)  
*Gleditsia* (Honeylocust)  
*Lathyrus odoratus* (Sweet Pea)  
*Phaseolus* (Bean)  
*Wisteria*

**Hamamelidaceae** (Witch-hazel)

*Fothergilla*

*Hamamelis* (Witch-hazel)

*Liquidambar* (Sweet Gum)

*Loropetalum* (Chinese Fringe-flower)

**Heliconiaceae** (Heliconia)

*Heliconia* (*Strelitziaceae*)

**Hydrangeaceae**

*Decumaria* (Climbing Hydrangea)

*Deutzia* (*Philadelphaceae*)

*Hydrangea* (Hydrangea)

*Philadelphus* (Mock Orange) (*Philadelphaceae*)

**Iridaceae** (Iris)

*Crocasmia*

*Crocus*

*Dietes* (Moraea)

*Freesia*

*Iris*

*Gladiolus*

**Lamiaceae** (alt. *Labiatae*) (Mint)

*Lavandula* (Lavender)

*Mentha* (Mint)

*Moluccella laevis* (Bells of Ireland)

*Monarda* (Bee Balm)

*Ocimum* (Basil)

*Perovskia* (Russian Sage)

*Physostegia* (Obedient Plant)

*Plectranthus* (Coleus and others)

*Salvia*

*Stachys* (Lamb's Ear)

**Liliaceae** (Lily)

*Fritillaria*

*Lilium* (Lily)

*Tricyrtis* (Toad Lily)

*Tulipa* (Tulip)

**Magnoliaceae** (Magnolia)

*Liriodendron* (Tuliptree)

*Magnolia*

*Magnolia figo* (syn. *Michelia figo*) (Banana Shrub)

**Malvaceae** (Malva)

*Althaea* (Althea)

*Gossypium* (Cotton)

*Hibiscus* (Hibiscus)

**Musaceae** (Banana)

*Ensete* (False Banana)

*Musa* (Banana)

**Myrtaceae** (Myrtle)

*Callistemon* (Bottlebrush)

*Eucalyptus*

*Melaleuca*

**Nyctaginaceae** (Four O'Clock)

*Bougainvillea spectabilis*

*Mirabilis jalapa* (Four O'Clock)

**Oleaceae** (Olive)

*Chionanthus* (Fringe Tree)

*Forsythia*

*Ligustrum* (Privet)

*Osmanthus*

*Syringa* (Lilac)

**Orchidaceae** (Orchid)

*Cattleya*

*Dendrobium*

**Pandanaceae** (Screwpine)

*Pandanus utilis* (Screwpine)

**Papaveraceae** (Poppy)

*Dicentra* (*Fumariaceae*)

*Eschscholzia* (California Poppy)

*Papaver* (Poppy)

**Pinaceae** (Pine)

*Abies* (Fir) (*Abietaceae*)

*Cedrus* (Cedar) (*Abietaceae*)

*Picea* (Spruce)

*Pinus* (Pine)

*Tsuga* (Hemlock) (*Abietaceae*)

**Pittosporaceae** (Pittosporum)

*Pittosporum*

**Plantaginaceae** (Plantain)

*Angelonia* (Summer Snapdragon) (*Scrophulariaceae*)

*Antirrhinum* (Snapdragon) (*Scrophulariaceae*, *Veronicaceae*)

*Digitalis* (Foxglove) (*Scrophulariaceae*, *Veronicaceae*)

*Russelia* (Firecracker Plant) (*Scrophulariaceae*, *Veronicaceae*)

**Plumbaginaceae** (Plumbago)

*Limonium sinatum* (Statice)

*Plumbago auriculata* (Blue Plumbago)

**Poaceae** (alt. *Graminae*) (Grass)  
*Bambusa* (Bamboo)  
*Chasmanthium* (Northern Sea Oats)  
*Cortaderia* (Pampas Grass)  
*Miscanthus* (Japanese Silver Grass)  
*Panicum* (Switchgrass)  
*Triticum* (Wheat)  
*Zea* (Corn)

**Polemoniaceae** (Phlox)  
*Phlox*  
*Polemonium* (Jacob's Ladder)

**Primulaceae** (Primula)  
*Cyclamen* (*Myrcinaceae*)  
*Primula*

**Proteaceae** (Banksia)  
*Banksia*  
*Protea*

**Pteridaceae** (Brake)  
*Adiantum* (Maidenhair Fern)  
*Pteris* (Brake Fern)

**Ranunculaceae** (Buttercup)  
*Anemone*  
*Aquilegia* (Columbine)  
*Clematis*  
*Consolida* (Larkspur)  
*Delphinium*  
*Helleborus* × *hybridus* (Lenten Rose)  
*Ranunculus*

**Rosaceae** (Rose)  
*Amelanchier* (Serviceberry)  
*Chaenomeles* (Quince)  
*Cotoneaster*  
*Crataegus* (Hawthorn)  
*Eriobotrya* (Loquat)  
*Fragaria* (Strawberry)  
*Kerria japonica* (Japanese Rose)  
*Malus* (Apple)  
*Potentilla*  
*Prunus* (Plums, Cherries, Peaches, Almond)  
*Pyracantha* (Firethorn)  
*Pyrus* (Pear)  
*Rubus* (Raspberry, Blackberry)  
*Spiraea*

**Rubiaceae** (Madder)  
*Gardenia*  
*Hamelia* (Firebush)  
*Ixora*  
*Pentas* (Starflower)

**Rutaceae** (Citrus)  
*Citrus* (Oranges, Lemons, etc.)  
*Coleonema* (Breath of Spring, Diosma)

**Salicaceae** (Willow)  
*Populus* (Poplar, Cottonwood, Aspen)  
*Salix discolor* (Pussy Willow)  
*Salix matsudana* 'Tortuosa' (Curly Willow)

**Sarraceniaceae** (Pitcher Plant)  
*Sarracenia*

**Sapindaceae**  
*Acer* (Maple)  
*Aesculus* (Buckeye)

**Saxifragaceae** (Saxifrage)  
*Astilbe* (False Spiraea)  
*Heuchera* (Coral Bells)  
*Tiarella* (Foamflower)

**Scrophulariaceae** (Figwort)  
*Buddleja* (*Buddlejaceae*, *Loganiaceae*)  
*Verbascum* (Mullein)

**Solanaceae** (Nightshade)  
*Brugmansia* (Angel's Trumpet)  
*Capsicum annuum* (Pepper)  
*Nicotiana* × *hybrida* (Flowering Tobacco)  
*Petunia* × *hybrida* (Petunia)  
*Solanum* (Potato, Eggplant, Tomato)

**Strelitziaceae** (Crane Flower)  
*Ravenala madagascariensis* (Traveler's Palm)  
*Strelitzia reginae* (Bird of Paradise)

**Theaceae** (Tea)  
*Camellia*  
*Gordonia lisianthus* (Loblolly Bay)

**Violaceae** (Viola)  
*Viola*  
Pansy

***Xanthorrhoeaceae*** (Aloe)

*Aloe* (*Aloaceae*, *Asphodelaceae*)

*Bulbine* (*Asphodelaceae*, *Liliaceae*)

*Dianella* (Flax Lily) (*Hemerocallidaceae*, *Liliaceae*, *Phormiaceae*)

*Eremurus* (Foxtail Lily) (*Asphodelaceae*, *Liliaceae*)

*Hemerocallis* (Daylily) (*Hemerocallidaceae*, *Liliaceae*)

*Haworthia* (*Aloaceae*, *Asphodelaceae*)

*Kniphofia* (Red Hot Poker) (*Asphodelaceae*, *Liliaceae*)

*Phormium* (New Zealand Flax) (*Agavaceae*, *Hemerocallidaceae*,  
*Phormiaceae*)

***Zingiberaceae*** (Ginger)

*Alpinia* (Shell Ginger)

*Zingiber* (Ginger)

Source for families listed in this document:

USDA, ARS, National Genetic Resources Program. *Germplasm Resources Information Network - (GRIN)* [Online Database]. National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland.

URL: <http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxfam.pl>

The Plant List: <http://www.theplantlist.org/>

Marie Harrison, Revised 2014