

This chart accompanies the Janet's Journal article, "Double Your Perennials, Double Your Fun:  
Pair perennials properly to create superb companion plantings.

Common name	Notes	Qualifications for doubling up					
		A1 lark/ dormancy	A2 owl	B1 high riser	B2 ground floor	C1 tap root	C2 shallow root
<b>Botanical name</b> * - part shade to shade OK							
<b>Larks</b>							
Crocus Crocus minimus Crocus kotschyanus	early, snow crocus best of spring bloomers; use white and yellow; also fall species	x					x
Daffodil Narcissus species & hybrids	foliage takes longer to fade than tulips so avoid very tall types; don't plant too shallow	x				x	
Dutch iris Iris reticulata, I. pumila, and hybrids of these	I. pumila good where too wet for tulips and daffs; foliage hides in grasses	x					
Giant allium Allium giganteum, etc.	very short bloom season; huge leaves in spring; won't tolerate wet	x					
Golden marguerite Anthemis tinctoria & hybrids	cut down hard after bloom; blooms again and/ or allows companions to grow	x					x
Magic lily, red spider lily Lycoris squamigera	lots of foliage in spring; bloom in August on naked stalk	x					
Mayapple * Podophyllum peltatum	large, bold leaf; dormant by August	x					
Old-fashion bleeding heart * Dicentra spectabilis	dormant earliest if in sun; drainage must be very good	x				x	
Oriental poppy Papaver orientale & hybrids	some spread very rapidly; must retain late-summer growth of leaves into winter	x				x	
Perennial bachelor button Centaurea montana	cut to ground in late June, hastens new growth and 2nd bloom	x					
Perennial gladiola Gladiolus byzantinus	short bloom season then grassy foliage hides in grass	x					
Quamash Camassia spp.	bulb for wet areas	x					
Spring beauty * Claytonia virginica	tiny spreader; usually dormant by June	x				x	
Squill Scilla sibirica	spreads rapidly	x					
Summer snowflake * Leucojum spp.	like a daff for shade	x				x	
Trillium * Trillium grandiflorum	usually dormant by August; easy to grow	x				x	
Tulip Tulipa, esp. short species and Greigii hybrids	attractive foliage is a plus; plant them deep, at least 8"	x				x	
Virginia bluebells * Mertensia virginica	steal your heart; easy to grow, easy to lose the root	x					

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<b>Owls</b>							
Annuals and self-sowers alyssum, calendula, balsam, feverfew, coreopsis, perilla, dill, cleome, bells of Ireland	ground must be receptive (don't mulch there) and weeder must allow them to grow		x				
Balloon Flower Platycodon grandiflorus Platycodon g. 'Mariesii'	must have excellent drainage; full or half sun; pinch to delay bloom into fall		x	x		x	
Blue mist/beard spirea Caryopteris x clandonensis	cut down to ground in fall or early spring so larks beneath it have their chance		x				
Blue mist flower Eupatorium coelestinum * a.k.a. Conoclinium coelestinum	can spread rapidly; sometimes hard to find; dries well; butterflies		x				x
Butterfly bush Buddleia davidii	cut down to ground in fall or early spring so larks at its feet can shine		x	x			
Hibiscus Hibiscus moscheutos	very showy in August; red, pink or white; loves wet		x				x
Hosta * Hosta species, esp. slow, large	provides skirt over plants that leaf in spring then die back in summer		x				
Japanese anemone * Anemone japonica, a.k.a. A. hybrida, A. hupehensis	hybrids usually spread less aggressively than species		x				
Joe pye, boneset Eupatorium purpureum, etc. Eupatorium perfoliatum	can be pinched in June-July for shorter plants & later bloom; loves wet areas		x	x			x
Plumbago * Ceratostigma plumbaganoides	better in half shade than full sun		x		x		
Russian sage Perovskia atriplicifolia	cut down hard in early spring so larks near it have their chance to grow		x			x	
Toadlily * Tricyrtis hirta, others	can be very aggressive		x	x			
<b>High risers</b>							
Blackberry lily, candy lily Belamcanda chinensis x Pardancanda norrissii				x			
Blue star * Amsonia tabernaemontana				x			
Bush clematis * Clematis davidii, heracleifolia	cut back hard in spring		x	x			
Ferns * leatherwood, painted, royal	many fast spreaders		x	x			
Gas Plant * Dictamnus albus	slow to grow; long-lived			x		x	
Grasses esp. fountain grass, blue oat, fescue, sea oats, Miscanthus	vase shaped are best; most are for full sun; shortest for mingling with grassy foliage of crocus, bulb iris		x	x			
Ligularia * Ligularia 'Rocket'	must have cool shade			x			
Merry bells * Uvularia grandiflora				x			
Shrubs, summer bloom spirea, Ural false spirea, roses, rose of Sharon, potentilla, beautyberry, twig dogwood, etc..	those that can be cut back hard in spring and thus are "not there" until summer		x	x			
Solomon's seal * Polygonatum biflorum, P. odoratum				x			

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<b>Ground floor specialists</b>							
Candy tuft <i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	evergreen; shear after bloom to keep neat; tolerates shade				x		
Hybrid pinks <i>Dianthus allwoodii</i>					x	x	
Myrtle euphorbia <i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	blue-green evergreen				x	x	
Sedum <i>Sedum spurium</i> , <i>S. acre</i> <i>S. sieboldii</i> (Oct. daphne, etc.) <i>S. spectabile</i> 'Autumn Joy'	many leaf & flower colors; varied bloom seasons winter interest				x		x
Snow in summer <i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	tolerates shade				x		
Sweet woodruff * <i>Galium odoratum</i>					x		x
Woodland creeping phlox * <i>Phlox stolonifera</i> , <i>P. divaricata</i>	much looser, more open form than sunny phlox spp.				x		
<b>Tap root, or deep root</b>							
Butterfly weed, Orange glory <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	needs good drainage		x	x		x	
False indigo * <i>Baptisia australis</i> , etc.	very slow to grow; for half shade, not dense shade					x	
Lilies <i>Lilium</i> spp. & hybrids	great in grasses			x		x	
Perennial alyssum <i>Aurinaria saxatilis</i> 'Compacta'	good drainage required				x	x	
<b>Shallow root scramblers</b>							
Bee Balm * <i>Monarda didyma</i> & hybrids	not for the dense shade; cut back to ground after bloom; use with tall plants, shrubs						x
Creeping forget-me-not * <i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	fast if moist; tolerant of sun				x		x
Irish moss * <i>Arenaria verna caespitosa</i>	not for the dense shade; needs shade from midday sun				x		x
Lamium, dead nettle * <i>Lamium maculatum</i> varieties	fast to spread if moist				x		
Moss pinks <i>Dianthus gratianopolitanus</i> , <i>Dianthus alpinus</i> , & hybrids	some blue-green, evergreen; deadhead to keep neat; need good drainage				x		x
Pearly everlasting <i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i> , <i>A. triplinervis</i>	requires great drainage						x
Threadleaf coreopsis <i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	use with taller, deeper root plants; choose short varieties						x