

## 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, Asteliaceae, 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)

*Crocsmia*  
*Crocus*  
*Dietes* (*Moraea*)  
*Freesia*  
*Iris*  
*Gladiolus*

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

*Lavendula* (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* (*Myrsinaceae*)  
*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/>