My Top Flowering Garden Plants
Peter Mahony, NJ Licensed Landscape Architect, contractor and plant fan
Lawrence Landscapes, Ewing, NJ         www.Lawrencelandscapes.com

Trees
Cercis canadensis – The Eastern Redbuds: Native tree. Spring bloom, often coincides with Flowering dogwood. Available cultivars feature exotic leaf colors and a variety of different growth habits Cercis Forest Pansy, Ruby Falls, Covey, Alba, The Rising Sun, and the straight species.


Lagerstroemia – The Crapemyrtles: Can be trees to 30’+ in NJ. Always specify a cultivar and check hardiness rating as less-hardy varieties are sometimes brought in my less-than scrupulous vendors. Avoid fall planting. Beautiful flowers in many colors, sexy bark, good clean foliage.

Shrubs
Azalea – Deciduous varieties: Many native and hybrid selections. Medium-growing shrubs with flowers from early spring to August depending on variety. Some intensely fragrant. May have good fall color.

Barberry William Penn: Evergreen, medium-sized, mounding shrub with 1” long deep green spiny leaves. Thorns along the stems. Bright yellow flowers in Spring, somewhat hidden by the foliage. Deer resistant and not fun to prune.

Clethra alnifolia – Sweet pepperbush. Native shrub. Small to medium/large shrub with sweetly fragrant white to deep pink flowers in mid to late summer. Good yellow fall color. Very site tolerant when established. C. alnifolia Hummingbird, 16 Candles, Compacta, Ruby Spice

Lagerstroemia – The Crapemyrtles: Several medium to large shrub forms are available. L. x Pokemoke deep pink (3’ – 5’?) with dense rounded habit, Victor bright red (5’ – 8’?) upright/spreading.

Hamamelis x intermedia – Witch hazels: Some are native. Early spring bloom. Fragrant. Tough!

Osmanthus – Tea Holly/False holly. Evergreen shrubs Gulftide (green), Goshiki (variegated). October flowers. Gulftide is worse to prune than William Penn barberry.

Shrub Roses: Knockout series, Drift series. Most all are Bambi-candy

Spirea: Colorful flowers and foliage. Repeat bloom (japonica’s) if tipped back.

Viburnum: Medium to large, (can be tree-like) shrubs. Dozens of different types available that can suit almost any need. Some evergreen, some have fragrant flowers, some Bambi-resistant, some Bambi-candy.

Perennials: Astilbe     Hemerocallis/Daylilies     Nepeta/Catmint     Persicaria Firetail     Sedum

Bulbs: Tulips (Angelique), Daffodils (Ice Follies, Tete a Tete, Jack Snipe, early-flowering varieties)