

Even the most well-designed gardens experience days without flowers as they transition from one season to the next. Late summer and early fall often represent a challenge as summer-blooming plants begin to fade and fall bloomers have not quite reached their peak. Fall-blooming anemones stand out as harbingers to summer's end, welcoming shorter days and cooler weather.

*Anemone* boasts a rich garden heritage, dating back to the 17th century and likely earlier. European plant explorers brought back exciting news from Japan, which included the existence of *Anemone japonica*, or Japanese anemone. They had no way of knowing that this plant, now correctly named *A. hupehensis* var. *japonica*, was a native of China and had naturalized in Japan after escaping from gardens there. Because of this history, species such as *A. hupehensis*, *A. ×hybrida* and *A. tomentosa* are all commonly called Japanese anemones, although fall-blooming anemone and windflower are also common names. In 1947, Bowles and Stearn published *The History of Anemone japonica* in the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, which, to this day, represents the most comprehensive commentary on the origin and naming of fall-blooming anemones.

Fall-blooming anemones consist of the species *Anemone hupehensis*, *A. ×hybrida*, *A. tomentosa* and *A. vitifolia*, and their subspecies and cultivars. Along with *A. hupehensis*, *A. ×hybrida* is the most recognizable of the fall bloomers and was developed in Britain from a cross between *A. vitifolia* (entire leaves and single flowers) and *A. hupehensis* var. *japonica* (subdivided leaves and semi-double to double flowers). The majority of current cultivars are attributed to *A. hupehensis* and *A. ×hybrida*.

The dark green leaves of fall-blooming anemones are usually three-parted and softly pubescent beneath. They have clumping habits but spread by rhizomes once established in the garden. Most are less than 3 feet tall, but some cultivars can reach 5 feet when in bloom. Fall-blooming anemones are also known as windflowers because their 2- to 3-inch flowers are held on wiry stems that sway in the breeze. Flower colors range from pure white to dark pink and purple, and flower forms vary from single, with four to six broad tepals, to semi-double and double with 30 or more tepals. The tepals of fall-blooming anemones are colorful, petal-like structures that take the place of both sepals and petals. Similar structures make up the flowers of

lilies and tulips, as well as other members of the buttercup family (Ranunculaceae) such as *J30063 Tw(the but28 l1 The9h 5 feetk51 Tc-0.00*





gardens. From 1998 to 2003 the average first frost at the Chicago Botanic Garden occurred on October 10, with the earliest on October 1, 2003 and the latest on October 20, 1999. Frosts at this time of year have the potential to adversely affect flowering by either reducing flower production or ending flowering altogether. A number of *Anemone* varieties routinely bloomed well past first frost without any observable reduction in flower production. These included *A. hupehensis* 'Hadspen Abundance', *A. hupehensis* 'Splendens', *A. hupehensis* 'Superba', *A. hupehensis* var. *japonica* 'Bressingham Glow', *A. hupehensis* var. *japonica* 'Pamina', *A. hupehensis* var. *japonica* 'Prinz Heinrich', *A. ×hybrida* 'Alice', *A. ×hybrida* 'Andrea Atkinson', *A. ×hybrida* 'Honorine Jobert', *A. ×hybrida* 'Königin Charlotte', *A. ×hybrida* 'Max Vogel', *A.*