

Tarrant County Horticulture Office
401 East Eighth Street
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RECOMMENDED BEDDING PLANTS FOR NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS

Botanical name	Common Name	Propagation	Flower Color	Flowering Season	Approx. Height
<u>Canna x generalis</u>	Garden Canna	Division, Tubers	Yellow, Red Pink, Salmon	Summer	2-4'

The advent of the more dwarf cultivars has helped make cannas useful as landscape plants. Drought resistant, long flowering season and easy culture characterize these hardy perennials. Pfitzer dwarfs are a commonly available series that do well all over the South.

<u>Chrysanthemum maximum</u>	Shasta Daisy	Division, Seed	White	Spring	3'
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Shasta daisies are dependable perennials of easy culture throughout the South and Southwest. They should be divided and reset each fall for best results. Southern gardeners should favor early flowering dwarf forms of shasta since their flowers tend to last longer and not need support.

<u>Chrysanthemum morifolium</u>	Garden Mums	Cuttings, Division	Many	Fall	3'
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Garden mums are a beautiful source of fall flowers but require considerable maintenance to reach perfection in the garden. Although florist pot mums can sometimes be dependable perennials successful growers often prefer to root tip cuttings of their favorite garden varieties each spring and discard the old clumps.

<u>Coreopsis grandiflora</u>	Baby Sun Coreopsis	Seed, Division	Yellow	Late Spring, Summer	2'
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The hybridized cultivars of coreopsis such as 'Baby Sun' and 'Sunray' are excellent landscape plants. The ancestors of these varieties are southern and southwestern perennial wildflowers. 'Baby Sun' is considerable more dwarf than most native forms of the species. Annual division of the clumps in fall or early spring is necessary for the continued health of the plants. Seedlings started in the winter greenhouse will usually bloom the first summer. Long spring blooming season with fall re-bloom. C verticillata has finer textured foliage. 'Moonbeam' and 'Zagreb' are floriferous, compact selections good for our area.

<u>Crocsmia Potsii</u>	Monbretia	Division(corms)	Orange-red	Early Summer	2'-3'
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Sometimes known as Montbretia, this gladiolus relative is easily grown. Crocsmia is popular as a cutflower and garden accent perennial. It reproduces prolifically in good soils and must be cut back soon after blooming to retain a tidy appearance. The red-orange form is the one that is dependable in the South.

Botanical name	Common Name	Propagation	Flower Color	Flowering Season	Approx. Height
<u>Cuphea micropetala</u>	Cigar Plant	Cuttings, Division	Red/Yellow	Late Summer, Fall	3'-4'

Sometimes called 'cigar plant' or 'Mexican Oleander' this herbaceous perennial is attractive even when not in flower. A mounded form to three feet, a shiny lance-shaped leaves and drought tolerant make it a rewarding garden subject. Tubular flowers in 8"-12" spikes are a blend of yellow and red. They are known to attract hummingbirds.

<u>Dianthus sp.</u>	Perennial Pink	Cuttings, Division	Many	Spring	1'
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Perennial forms of dianthus (garden pinks) that thrive in the south are few. Two, or occasionally three years is about the longest even well-adapted cultivars will live, especially in the gulf coast areas, where excess moisture and humidity seem to favor fungal diseases.

Dianthus can be extremely effective spilling over walls, in masses and borders. Correct classifications of varieties seems to be a problem. The best choice is to procure cuttings or started plants of locally adapted varieties from nurserymen or collectors in your area. There is an everblooming double red dianthus (carnation) that once was common in the South and does well. Tip cuttings taken from September-November stuck directly into pots or beds will usually root and flower the following season.

<u>Echinacea purpurea</u>	Purple Coneflower	Seed, Division	Purple	Spring, Summer, Fall	18"
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Selected forms of the native purple coneflower such as 'Bright Star' are generally better garden subjects than specimens collected from the wild. Flower season can begin in April and go through November in the South and Southwest. Clumps may be divided annually although seedlings can usually be found near established plants. 'White Luster' is a white form sometimes available. Excellent and long-lasting as cutflowers.

<u>Eupatorium coelestinum</u>	Perennial Ageratum	Division	Lavender-blue	Summer, Fall	3'
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This perennial form of ageratum is native to the South. Its main attributes are ease of culture and fall bloom. In well prepared garden soils, they can become a pest and invade surrounding plant colonies of other species. Sometimes called "mistflower," Eupatorim can create a beautiful effect in the fall landscape in sun or partial shade.

<u>Gaillardia sp.</u>	Indian Blanket	Seed, Division	Red-yellow blend	Spring, Summer, Fall	18"
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Sometimes called "Indian Blanket" in Texas where the annual forms of Gaillardia are a well-known and appreciated wildflower. Perennial selections such as 'Little Goblin' are available and useful as heat and drought tolerant plants. The mahogany-reds and yellow flowers occur in profusion. Old flower heads become unsightly and must be cut off to keep plants neat in appearance.

<u>Gerbera sp.</u>	Gerbera (Transvaal)	Seed, Tissue Culture	Many	Spring, Summer, Fall	1-2'
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Gerbera daisies are appreciated for their showy, pastel-colored flowers and long bloom season. They are, however, not very well adapted to the extreme heat and occasional winter freezes that occur in most of the South. Some gardeners in Gulf Coast areas of the deep south are successful with Gerberas when planted in well prepared and drained soil. Protection from hot afternoon sun is helpful. Most Gerberas sold in florists as pot plants or cut flowers are not selected for landscape durability.

Botanical name	Common Name	Propagation	Flower Color	Flowering Season	Approx. Height
<u>Gladiolus</u>	Gladiolus	Division of corms	Purple or white	Summer	3'
<p>Gladiolus are well-adapted to the South and Southwest but have little to offer in the way of landscape value. The flowers appear from late spring through early summer and are excellent for cutting. Corms may be dug and stored after the foliage dies down in summer. Gladiolus can be effective in borders if used behind mounding plants such as Shasta Daisies. Plant in groupings or rows about 6" apart and 3-4" deep. If plantings are made every two weeks from late winter to early spring, a long season of flowers will result. Spray to control mites and thrips.</p>					
<u>G. Byzintinus</u>	Baby Gladiolus	Division of corms	Purple or white	Summer	2-3'
<p>This old-fashioned gladiolus is still found in many old Southern gardens and is available from some of the mail order bulb sources. Spikes and flowers are about half the size of normal gladiolus and the corms develop clumps that return faithfully in most gardens. Since they are not so tall as conventional gladiolus, they rarely need the support of unsightly stakes. By far, the most common color is a red purple. A white form is occasionally found.</p>					
<u>Helianthus maximiliana</u>	Maximilian Sunflower	Seed, Division	Yellow	Late Summer, Fall	3'-4'
<p>A tall growing perennial sunflower that is useful at the back of border plantings. Can reach 6'-7' tall with 3" flowers occurring on the top three feet of stems. Blooms in late fall for one to two months. Divide clumps in spring.</p>					
<u>Hemerocallis</u>	Day Lily	Division	Many	Spring, Summer	1'-3'
<p>Daylilies are useful in flowering borders and as ground cover material. Color range continues to increase with hybridization and includes yellow, reds, pinks, oranges, bicolors and pastels. Some varieties bloom in spring while others flower in summer, fall or repeat. Most varieties put on their biggest show in May and June in the South. Divide every 3 or 4 years in the fall. Sun or partially shaded sites work well. Dwarf evergreen forms are well-suited for borders and masses.</p>					
<u>Ipheion uniflorum</u>	Spring Star Flower	Division	Blue	Spring	6"
<p>This is a small or minor flowering bulb but it can create a nice effect in the landscape. The small 1" pale blue flowers on 6" stems appear early in spring and last for about two months. Foliage is flat, blue green and smells like onions when bruised. The bulbs will multiply and naturalize on most well-drained soil. Sunny locations are preferred but partial shade is acceptable. Plant or divide in fall for use as border or groundcover in semi-natural areas.</p>					
<u>Iris, Bearded</u>	Bearded Iris	Division	Many	Spring	1'-3'
<p>Where soil drainage is good and humidity is relatively low, bearded iris can be useful landscape plants. Sword-like foliage is vertical and bluish green in color. Flowers are spectacular and orchid-like in form. Colors range from white to blue, purple, pink, yellow and rust. Bicolors and pastels are common. The 'white flags' of early southern gardens (<u>Iris albicans</u>) are extremely hardy and often live for generations. Divide bearded iris every three or four years in the fall. Barely cover rhizomes with soil. Flowers occur in spring.</p>					

Botanical name	Common Name	Propagation	Flower Color	Flowering Season	Approx. Height
<u>Iris, Dutch</u>	Dutch Iris	Division	Many	Spring	1'-3'
Dutch iris are planted during the fall from bulbs. They are easily grown and will sometimes naturalize in the South. Flowers occur in early spring and range from white, yellow, bronze, purple and blue. For plants to recur the foliage must be allowed to die naturally after the blooming period each spring. This is unsightly and can be partially hidden by interplanting with annuals such as pansies or snapdragons. Bulbs should be planted 3"-4" deep in sun or partially shaded areas.					
<u>Iris fulva X I. gigantea X I. caerulea X I. foliosa</u>	Louisiana Iris	Division, Seed	Many	Spring	3'
Louisiana iris are attractive and versatile landscape plants. Tall sword-like foliage can reach 4 feet. Flowers occur in spring on tall stems in blues, yellows, purples, whites and rusts. Louisiana iris thrive on wet sites but do not require constant moisture. Moisture is needed most during the fall, winter and spring when plants are growing rapidly. On dry sites they usually go dormant in summer and resume growth with fall rains. Louisiana iris are also an excellent plant for growing along the edge of a pond. Handsome foliage and elegant flowers make them useful perennials for many landscape settings. Rich soil, high in organic content is preferred.					
<u>Justicia Brandegeana</u>	Shrimp Plant (Gold & Red-brown selections)	Division, Cuttings	Yellow or Red-brown	Summer, Fall	3'
Shrimp plant is a perennial with a long bloom season and easy culture. Although root hardy over most of the south, the above ground parts usually freeze back. Sun or partial shade exposures are equally successful. Both the gold and red-brown selections are popular for cut flower use.					
<u>Lantana montevidensis</u>	Trailing Lantana	Division, Seed, Cuttings	Many	Spring, Summer, Fall	1'-2'
Trailing lantana is native to central and western Texas and adapted to the deep south as a perennial ground cover. It is very drought tolerant and requires only occasional pruning to keep it attractive. Freeze damage in winter is common and can be lessened by a mulch applied to the crowns of the plants in fall. The lavender flowers occur spring through fall on new growth flushes. Sunny or lightly-shaded locations are best. In addition to ground cover, plantings of trailing lantana can be effective in containers and hanging baskets.					
<u>Lycoris radiata</u>	Red Spider Lily	Division	Coral-red, White, Yellow	Fall	1'
Spider lilies are effective when naturalized in evergreen ground cover plantings such as <u>Vinca major</u> or various <u>Hedera</u> species. (English & Algerian Ivy). Foliage appears in spring, dies back in summer followed by flower stalks which appear suddenly in September, usually after a good rain. Coral-red is the predominant color. White, yellow and pink forms exist but are rare in the trade. Divide clumps in midsummer for best results although Lycoria may be moved at any time. Well-drained soils are preferred. Few, if any, insects or diseases affect spider lilies.					

Botanical name	Common Name	Propagation	Flower Color	Flowering Season	Approx. Height
<u>Mentha piperita</u>	Peppermint	Cuttings, Division	-----	-----	1'
Peppermint is an aromatic perennial herb commonly planted in southern landscapes. There are numerous cultivars in the trade. All seem to prefer partial shade, plenty moisture and rich soils. Propagation is easily accomplished from cuttings or division. Since mints can be invasive in the garden, they are often planted in containers. They are easily grown in spring but require frequent watering to survive the summers in dry areas.					
<u>Narcissus sp.</u>	Daffodils & Narcissus	Division	Yellow, White	Spring	1'
In garden culture, the small cluster flowered types are referred to as narcissus and the large trumpet types as daffodils. They are all in the genus <u>Narcissus</u> and many varieties are useful as spring flowering perennials in the South and Southwest. The small-flowering, paper-white narcissus seem to have the least chilling requirement and tend to naturalize as far south as much of the Gulf Coast. Most narcissus thrive in the northern halves of the Gulf States northward. They are useful when planted in naturalistic groupings under deciduous trees and in evergreen ground covers such as ivy, ajuga and periwinkle. Fall planting of bulbs 3"-4" deep in well-drained soil is recommended. Division of vigorous varieties every 3-5 years helps perpetuate heavy flowering.					
<u>Oxalis crassipedes</u>	Oxalis	Division	Pink	Spring, Summer	8"-10"
Some oxalis are pests in the southern garden while others can be useful. This is the perennial, pink flowering cultivar native to Argentina but common in Louisiana and Texas. It is useful as a border and blooms from late winter until late spring in sunny or partially shaded exposures. The bulbs can best be divided in summer or fall. The clover-like foliage is also attractive. Oxalis are semi-dormant during the summer.					
<u>Pavonia lasiopetala</u>	Rock Rose	Cuttings, Seed	Pink	Spring, summer, Fall	3'-4'
Pavonia, a native mallow that is becoming popular in Texas for its continuous warm season flowers and drought resistance. Two to - three-foot mounded clumps with 1" diameter bright pink flowers are effective in borders and masses. Propagation is from seed or cuttings. Cold hardiness is doubtful north of Central Texas and the deep South.					
<u>Penstemon cobaea</u>	Wild Foxglove	Seed, Division	Lavender	Spring	2'
Wild foxglove is a beautiful perennial wildflower that blooms in mid-spring and ranges from white to lavender and purple. Flowers are similar in size and effect to snapdragons. They grow naturally in poor alkaline soils but adapt well to garden culture. Propagation is from seed and occasionally division. The Penstemon genus includes a number of perennials of garden merit. <u>P. cobaea</u> is one of the most impressive in the landscape. <u>P tenuis</u> is native to the Gulf Coast and has many small lavender flowers. It is easily grown from seed or division and a good landscape plant.					
<u>Phlox paniculata</u>	Perennial Phlox	Cuttings, Division	Lavender, Pink, White	Summer	2'
Perennial or summer phlox are an old fashion flower still common to southern gardens. Flowering season is long, often from June through August if old blossoms are removed. Although the large heads of small flowers are striking the plants usually need staking. They can reach 2'-3' tall and are most effective when planted in groups or masses. Numerous colors of <u>P. paniculate</u> are sold but the only ones that seem to persist in old gardens are the magenta pink and occasionally white forms. Propagation is by division of clumps in early spring or late fall.					
Botanical name	Common Name	Propagation	Flower Color	Flowering Season	Approx. Height

<u>Phlox subulata</u>	Thrift, Moss Pink	Cuttings, Division	Pink	Spring	8"-10"
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Thrift is a very showy plant with a long, spring blooming season. The fine-textured foliage and compact ground cover forms make it useful in rock gardens and to tumble over retaining walls. Like P. paniculata, there are many color variations but the magenta-pink form is the only one that seems to persist in old gardens of the South.

Good soil drainage and at least a half day of sun are cultural requirements. Propagation is from division and cuttings taken in the fall. Plantings tend to degenerate after a few years unless divided and reset. A spectacular plant when well grown.

<u>Physostegia virginia</u>	Obedient Plant	Division	Lavender, White	Summer	3'
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Sometimes called obedient plant because the flowers will stay when moved on the stem. A good native perennial for late summer and early fall bloom. Easily grown but must have adequate moisture to bloom well. The magenta pink form is most common but a white cultivar called 'Summer Snow' does well and tends to bloom a bit earlier. Clumps may be divided fall or spring. Bloom stems can reach 2'-3' and may need support. sometimes called 'False Dragon Head.' P. virginica is a good cut flower.

<u>Plumbago auriculata</u>	Blue Plumbago	Seed, Division	Blue, White	Summer, Fall	3'
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Blue plumbago is a valuable herbaceous perennial in the Gulf Coast and Deep South. If set out in the spring and mulched after the first frost it will usually return every year. In very mild winter regions it grows and blooms all year.

Clusters of pale blue or white flowers begin in May and bloom constantly till frost. Plumbago is a graceful plant with arching branches that will climb if given support. Culture is easy with a preference for well-drained soil and full or partial sun. Mature height is 2-3 feet. Landscape uses include mass plantings and containers. Plumbago is very drought tolerant and is one of recommended xeriscape (low water usage) plants for the Austin/San Antonio area.

<u>Rhodophiala bifida</u>	Oxblood Lily	Division	Dark Red	Fall	1'
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Sometimes called 'Oxblood Lily' and naturalized over central and eastern Texas. Thrives in dry, slightly alkaline soils. Blooms about the same time as Lycoria radiata and has the same growth habits. Flowers look like half-size, red amaryllis. Sun or partially shaded sites work equally well. Originally from Argentina. Bulbs can be moved successfully at any time but early to mid summer is ideal.

<u>Rosmarinum officinalis</u>	Rosemary	Cuttings, Division	Blue	Summer, Fall	1-4'
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This is the herb that is popular for culinary use all over the world. Fleshy, needle-like foliage is grayish-green in color and evergreen in mild winter areas. Pale blue flowers are attractive and appear primarily in late spring. There are numerous cultivars of rosemary that have varying plant forms. Trailing types usually stay under a foot tall and can spread several feet. Upright forms can reach four or five feet tall.

Rosemary is a handsome landscape plant but must have a very well-drained soil to thrive. Cold hardiness is variable among cultivars but not really dependable outside the Gulf Coast region. Handsome plantings are featured tumbling over stone retaining walls at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. Other uses include containers and mass plantings. Rosemary does best in a relatively dry climate but may be grown over much of the South if given well-drained soil.

Botanical name	Common Name	Propagation	Flower Color	Flowering Season	Approx. Height
<u>Salvia farinacea</u>	Mealy Cup Sage	Seed, Division	Blue, White, Purple	Spring, Summer, Fall	3'

This native of the South seems to finally be achieving the popularity it deserves. Flower spikes are lavender, purple or white and appear from late spring until frost. The plant forms mounds of 2'-3' that can be cut back periodically during the long Southern growing season to maintain a neat appearance and more spectacular flower display.

The plants freeze to the ground with the first hard frost and come back dependably each spring. Culture is easy with most any garden soil and sun or partial shade being acceptable. There are cultivars available such as 'Victoria' which is a compact, dark-blue form. S. farinacea is heat and drought tolerant and a real asset to Southern and Southwestern gardens.

<u>Salvia Greggii</u>	Autumn Sage	Cuttings, Seed	White, Red, Pink	Spring, Summer, Fall	2'-3'
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The common name for this plant is not really accurate since it blooms all during the warm seasons. Actually a sub-shrub, S. Greggii can reach 3'-4' tall in a mound form. Occasional shearing of old bloom spikes during the growing season keeps the plant neat and productive. Native to South Texas and Mexico this is a very heat and drought tolerant plant that has recently become popular after many years of neglect. Early Texans of the 19th Century often included S. Greggii in their cottage gardens. Recent introduction of white, dark-red, salmon and pink forms have broadened interest in the species. Cold hardiness is questionable north of Dallas. Well-drained soils and sunny locations are preferred. Propagation is primarily from cuttings taken during the growing season.

<u>Symphytum officinale</u>	Comfrey	Division	White, yellowish, purple or rose	Summer	3'
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Comfrey is sometimes known as 'healing herb' and planted in the herbaceous border. Large, hairy leaves give an interesting coarse texture and summer flower spikes may be white, yellowish, purple or rose. Propagation is from seed, division or root cuttings.

<u>Tagetes lucida</u>	Mexican Marigold Mint	Cuttings, Division	Yellow	Summer, Fall	2'
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Mexican Marigold Mint is a fall-flowering, single, yellow herb of interesting character. Foliage and flowers are sometimes used to concoct a tea or to flavor vinegars. The anise-like scent is popular in vinegars as a tarragon substitute.

The plant forms a 2' mound with simple, lanceolate leaves that have little resemblance to the common cultivated marigolds. They are resistant to spider mites and most other insects and diseases. Culture is easy with at least half a day of full sun preferred. The single flowers occur only in mid-to late fall and make a handsome display. Propagation is from cuttings or division. Foliage freezes to the ground with the first hard frost then dependably returns each spring. Cold hardiness is uncertain outside the Gulf Coast and Deep South regions.

Botanical name	Common Name	Propagation	Flower Color	Flowering Season	Approx. Height
<u>Thymus vulgaris</u>	Common Thyme	Division, Cuttings	----	-----	6"

There are numerous forms of thyme, most of which are handsome landscape plants. They must have well-drained soil and at least half a day's sun to thrive. Foliage is small, evergreen and useful as culinary seasoning. Thyme is an interesting container plant and may be used as groundcover in small areas. Propagation is usually from cuttings or division.

<u>Verbena hybrida</u>	Verbena	Seed, Division	Many	Spring, Summer, Fall	6"-1'
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Verbena are known for their heat tolerance, bright colors and easy culture. The so-called, sand verbena are natives to Texas that have finely cut foliage and a fair range of flower colors. Pink, white, purple and lavender are now available. They are useful as ground covers or container specimens in sunny, well-drained locations. Bloom season is from spring through fall with occasional pruning and top dressing with soil or compost helpful.

<u>Viola odorata</u>	Sweet Violet	Division	Purple	Winter, Spring	6"-8"
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Violets were once a part of nearly every southern garden and probably deserve wider use today. They are known for their affinity to have spider mites. Flowers occur in winter and early spring. Dark purple is the type most common as a border or ground cover plant in the South. Violets prefer moist, rich soils and shade from afternoon sun during summer. V. odorata is not one of the native violets of the South but an import from Europe, Africa and Asia. It is the preferred violet of the florist and perfume trade. Foliage is handsome and evergreen. Plants rarely reach more than 6"-8" tall and are propagated by division.

<u>Zephyranthes candida</u>	White Rain Lily	Division	White	Summer	1'
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One of the group of plants known as rain lilies. Reed-like, dark green foliage is handsome and useful as a border or ground cover. Two-inch white flowers occur repeatedly in late summer and early fall, often after rains. Propagation is from seed or division.

<u>Zephyranthes grandiflora</u>	Pink Rain Lily	Division	Pink	Summer	1'
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The pink rain lily has a larger, showier bloom that usually appears in spring and summer after a rain. The flowers are larger and showier (about 4") than those of Z. candida but the foliage is less attractive. Both these species of Zephyranthes are native to South America but are hardy in most of the South and West. Propagation is from division or seed.