

Bell County Master Gardeners
Tip of the Week
By Joyce Friels
Annuals for Central Texas

I saw a robin in the back yard the other morning! Isn't that the best sign that spring is here? I've also seen fresh bedding plants at some of the garden centers. March is finally here, so we know it's time to plant all the new seeds that you have received in the mail. It's time to grab your sun hat and gardening gloves and head for the door!

Choosing to use annuals in your yard gives you many ways to add color and texture to your landscape because they provide quick color. Annuals are fast growing and relatively inexpensive. They can be used by themselves or intermingled with perennials. Use annuals as splashes of color to fill in empty spots around or in front of shrubs. The color combinations are a personal choice. Using annuals of a single color in a mass planting can be a knockout from a street view. Be creative and experiment with color combinations to get different effects and to make your landscape outstanding. The possibilities are endless!

Just remember these tips.

(1) If a bed is along a fence or wall, sow the tallest flowering varieties in the back, coming forward with the next highest growing flowers and putting the lowest growing flowers along the edge of the bed to create a uniform border.

(2) If the bed is in the center of the yard, always plant the tallest growing flowers in the center of the bed with the next tallest, finishing with the shortest growing flowers around the outside of the bed.

Annuals can also be used as a screen by planting any tall variety of flowers along a fence to help block out street noise and give you some privacy. Try old-fashioned morning glories. They will climb up a fence or run along the ground and will bloom, bloom, bloom! They are fantastic to look at all summer long.

Plant annuals, water them, feed them regularly, and watch them grow and bloom, making your landscape come alive this summer.

Have any questions about Central Texas gardening? Contact ask.bcmga@gmail.com