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HCMG Plant Sale This Saturday

by Lydia Holley

Often, Master Gardeners are asked, "What are the best plants to use?" The answer is easy. Generally, you want plants that have proven to do well locally. These plants are usually more disease resistant, need less attention, are adapted to the environment, and bloom or grow consistently. The goal of all gardeners is a beautiful garden. Using locally proven performers to fill the majority of your garden can help you reach that goal.



The Henderson County Master Gardener Association (HCMGA) will be hosting a plant sale on Saturday, May 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Henderson County Courthouse Square, 100 E Tyler, Athens, TX. There will be a large selection of perennials, bulbs and annuals at the sale. The plants available for sale are exactly what you want in your garden. They are locally proven plants that will do well for you.

In fact, you could design an entire garden with them. For instance, plant walking iris, crossvine, Carolina jessamine, and red Texas columbine for a beautiful spring display. Walking iris is easy because it never needs dividing. And crossvine not only looks beautiful, it will also attract hummingbirds to your garden.

For easy summer blooms, plant Shasta daisies, gaura, salvias, cannas, and buddleia. Gaura is a Texas native that looks like blooming butterflies, while buddleias are notorious for attracting them. Use annuals like cosmos and blue daze to fill in bare spots and to plant in pots. They will give you non-stop color all summer long. When summer fades into autumn, you still want color in the garden. Try flowering ginger, oakleaf hydrangea, blue fall aster, vitex, and various grasses. In addition to the blooms on the oakleaf hydrangea in summer,

its leaves will turn a gorgeous red in autumn. And the vitex, with its blue blooms that reach toward the sky, can be grown as a tree or cut every year and grown as a shrub.

And don't forget the herbs. No herb garden would be complete without rosemary, oregano and basil. Rosemary makes a beautiful bush with blue blooms and can be planted alongside your flowering plants. For herbs that are a little more exotic, try Mexican mint marigold, lemon grass, and thyme.

The plants mentioned above are just a small sampling of what will be available at the HCMGA plant sale. The Henderson County Master Gardeners will also be there to answer any questions you may have about specific plants or gardening in general. So, come and fill your garden with plants that will perform beautifully for you.

Please come prepared to purchase with cash or check. Credit cards will not be accepted. And if you have extra plant pots or buckets (large or small) on hand that you wish to recycle, please bring those to the sale.

For more information, go to <http://henderson-co-tx-mg.org/> or contact Judy Haldeman at 903-479-1178.