



CHOOSING ANNUALS FOR NORTH TEXAS SUMMERS

If you want to grow annuals in the steamy North Texas summers, there are a few things you should know before you begin. Site selection, soil preparation and picking the right plants will make all the difference between success and failure. All 3 of these factors are considered equally important to your ability to grow beautiful, healthy flowers. Here is some additional detail that will help you get started. It may seem daunting, but once you get the hang of it you'll become a seasoned pro in no time!

1. **Site selection** - The best site choice is a location that receives full sun early in the morning and then turns to shade as the day wears on. This is not always a possibility as yards vary but do your best to plant in a spot where you can get as close to possible to these conditions.

2. **Soil preparation** - The majority of people in North Texas have clay soil. While clay soil is not ideal as is, it can become a good soil with some treatment. You'll want to add large amounts of organic matter so that, ultimately, the beds contain at least 30 to 50% organic matter. Also, raise the beds a minimum of four to six inches so plants don't end up flooded in water during rainy periods.

3. **Picking the Right Plants** – Do your research and talk to your local landscaper about choosing the right plants. If you choose the wrong plants, your project will be doomed to failure. You can't force a plant to grow in an area it doesn't belong although many people try it and wonder what went wrong.

The following list includes several plants you can choose from to help you get going:

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| 1) Copper Plant | 8) Purslane |
| 2) Marigold | 9) Periwinkle |
| 3) Lantana | 10) Verbena |
| 4) Zinnia Lenearis | 11) Mexican Firebush |
| 5) Blue Daze | 12) Pentas |
| 6) Caladium | 13) Mexican Sun Flower |
| 7) Abelmoschus | 14) Purple Fountain Grass |

Good luck with your plantings!