

## PERENNIALS FOR TEXAS LANDSCAPES

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Perennial plants may be defined as those which endure or persist from year to year. Once a prominent part of nearly every Texas landscape, perennials are often overlooked by today's gardeners and nurserymen. Although many species can still be found in Texas gardens, their availability is often restricted to sharing among friends and neighbors.

Most perennials are easily propagated by division, seed or cuttings. Division is particularly successful since it not only provides new plants, but is often necessary for the continued vigor of plants.

Perennials can be highly useful and attractive in the home landscape. They often persist for many years and usually require less maintenance than annuals. The perennial border is an important gardening concept in England and many other areas of the world. It can provide long seasons of color and cut flowers while enhancing the overall landscape development.

If a perennial border is more than you care to attempt as your initial experience with perennials, try adding a few to existing plantings. Many perennials have attractive foliage and are an asset even when not in flower.

Among the most interesting and useful perennial plants are some of our Texas natives. Salvia gregii, Gaillardia, Coreopsis and Penstemon cobaea are notable examples. All of these will thrive in sunny locations having average, well-drained garden soils. Insects and diseases are rarely a problem since these plants are accustomed to the rigors of our climate and growing conditions.

Division is an important cultural requirement of many perennials. Without an occasional thinning, most of these plants will slowly lose their vigor. Timing is important. For spring and summer flowering plants such as iris, day lilies, penstemon, phlox, and coreopsis, late summer and fall are the best times to divide and reset the plants. Some species such as a bearded iris only need dividing every three to five years, while others such as garden mums respond favorably to an annual division. Fall flowering plants such as asters, chrysanthemums, and physostegia respond best to being divided in early spring.

Most perennials will tolerate relatively poor growing conditions, but respond very favorably to well-prepared planting areas containing high percentages of organic materials and moderately high fertility rates.

Availability is a major problem confronting the increasing use of perennials. Many gardeners will gladly share cuttings, divisions or seed of their plants, if asked. Garden centers are handling more of the common perennial species such as bearded iris, garden mums, and adapted spring flowering bulbs. Some native perennials are now available from nurseries specializing in native

Texas plants such as Carroll Abbott's Green Horizons in Kerrville and Lowrey Nursery in Houston.

Mail order sources such as Bluestone Perennials, Inc., Madison, Ohio, and White Flower Farm, Litchfield, Connecticut, offer interesting catalogs with numerous species being offered. The problem with such sources is that there are numerous species offered that are not adaptable to our growing conditions in Texas and late spring delivery often reduces the chances for success.

One of the best ways to increase your awareness and success with these plants is to notice which species are growing well in your vicinity. Some of these plants have been handed down for several generations and are interesting from a historical point of view. Many medicinal and culinary herbs are perennials and can offer still another dimension to the home landscape.

Following is a partial list of perennials worthy of your consideration:

**PARTIAL LIST OF PERENNIALS FOR SOUTHERN LANDSCAPES**

Botanical Name	Common Name	Propagation	Flower Color	Flowering Season	Height
<u>Achillea sp.</u>	Yarrow	Seed, Division	White, Rose, Yellow	Summer	1'
<u>Allium sp.</u>	Garlic, Chives	Division	White	Summer	1'
<u>Aquilegia Hincckleyana</u>	H. Columbine	Seed, Division	Yellow	Spring	18"
<u>Aquilegia Canadensis</u>	Columbine	Seed, Division	Yellow/Red blend	Spring	2'
<u>Artemisia 'Powis Castle'</u>	Artemisia	Cuttings, Division	Gray foliage	-----	2'-3'
<u>Asclepias tuberosa</u>	Butterfly Weed	Seed	Yellow/Red	Summer	2'
<u>Aster oblongifolius</u>	Frakartii Aster	Cuttings, Division	Lavender	Fall	3'
<u>Beloperone guttata</u>	Shrimp plant (Gold & Red-brown)	Division, Cuttings	Yellow or Red-brown	Summer, Fall	3'
<u>Bletilla striata</u>	Chinese Ground Orchid	Division	Purple, White	Spring	1'-2'
<u>Canna X generalis</u>	Garden Canna	Division, Tubers	Yellow, Red, Pink, Salmon	Summer	2'-4'
<u>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</u>	Ox eye Daisy	Division, Seed	White	Spring,	3'
<u>Chrysanthemum sp.</u>	Garden Mums	Cuttings, Division	Many	Fall	3'
<u>Coreopsis grandiflora</u>	Baby Sun Coreopsis	Seed, Division	Yellow	Late Spring, Summer	1'
<u>Crinum sp.</u>	Milk & Wine Lily	Division	White, rose, pink, & striped	Spring, Summer, Fall	2'-4'
<u>Crococsmia Pottsii</u>	Montbretia	Division (corms)	Orange-red	Early summer	2'-3'
<u>Cuphea micropetala</u>	Cigar Plant	Cuttings, Division	Red/Yellow	Summer, Fall	3'-4'
<u>Dianthus sp.</u>	Perennial Pink	Cuttings, Division	Many	Spring	1'
<u>Echinacea angustifolia</u>	Purple Coneflower	Seed, Division	Purple	Spring, Summer, Fall	18"
<u>Eupatorium coelestinum</u>	Perennial Ageratum	Division	Lavender-blue	Summer, Fall	3'
<u>Gaillardia sp.</u>	Indian Blanket	Seed, Division	Red-yellow blend	Spring, Summer, Fall	18"
<u>Gaura lindheimeri</u>	Gaura	Seed, Division	White	Spring, Summer, Fall	2'
<u>Gegera sp.</u>	Gerbera (Transvaal)	Tissue Culture, Seed	Many	Spring, Summer, Fall	2'
<u>G. Byzantunus</u>	Baby Gladiolus	Division (corms)	Purple, white	Summer	3'
<u>helianthus maximiliani</u>	Maximilian Sunflower	Division (corms)	Purple, white	Summer	3'
<u>Hemerocallis</u>	Day Lily	Division	Many	Spring, Summer	1'-3'
<u>Hosta sp.</u>	Plaintain Lily	Division	White	Spring, Summer	1'-3'
<u>Ipheion uniflorum</u>	Spring Star Flower	Division	Blue	Spring	6"
<u>Iris, Bearded</u>	Bearded Iris	Division	Many	Spring	1'-3'
<u>Iris, Dutch</u>	Dutch Iris	Division	Many	Spring	1'-3'

**PARTIAL LIST OF PERENNIALS FOR SOUTHERN LANDSCAPES**

<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Propagation</b>	<b>Flower Color</b>	<b>Flowering Season</b>	<b>Height</b>
<u>Iris fulva</u> X <u>I. giganticaerulea</u> X	Louisiana Iris	Division, Seed	Many	Spring	3'
<u>Lantana montevidensis</u>	Trailing Lantana	Division, Seed, Cuttings	Many	Spring, Summer, Fall	1'-2'
<u>Lycoris radiata</u>	Red Spider Lily	Division	Coral-red, White, Yellow	Fall	1'
<u>Lythrum Salicaria</u>	Purple Loosestrife	Seed, Division	Lavendar-Pink	Spring, Summer, Fall	2'-3'
<u>Malvaviscus drummondii</u>	Turk's Cap	Seed, Cuttings	Red	Spring, Summer, Fall	1'
<u>Mentha piperita</u>	Peppermint	Cuttings, Division	-----	-----	1'
<u>Narcissus sp.</u>	Daffodils & Narcissus	Division	Yellow, White	Spring	1'
<u>Oxalis crassipes</u>	Oxalis	Division	Pink	Spring, Summer	8"-10"
<u>Pavonia lasiopetala</u>	Rock Rose	Cuttings, Seed	Pink	Spring, Summer, Fall	3'-4'
<u>Penstemon cobaea</u>	Wild Foxglove	Seed, Division	Lavendar	Spring	2'
<u>Phlox divaricata</u>	L.A. Phlox	Division, Cuttings	Purple	Spring	1'-2'
<u>Phlox paniculata</u>	Perennial Phlox	Cuttings, Division	Lavendar, Pink, White	Summer	2'
<u>Phlox pilosa</u>	Prairie Phlox	Cuttings, Division	Lavendar-Pink	Spring	1'-2'
<u>Phlox subulata</u>	Thrift, Moss Pink	Cuttings, Division	Pink	Spring	8"-10"
<u>Physostegia virginiana</u>	Obedient Plant	Division	Lavendar, White	Summer	3'
<u>Plumbago auriculata</u>	Blue Plumbago	Seed, Division	Blue, White	Summer, Fall	3'
<u>Rhodophiala bifida</u>	Oxblood Lily	Division	Dark Red	Fall	1'
<u>Rosmarinus officinalis</u>	Rosemary	Cuttings, Division	Blue	Summer, Fall	1'-4'
<u>Salvia farinacea</u>	Mealy Cup Sage	Seed, Division	Blue, White, Purple	Spring, Summer, Fall	3'
<u>Salvia Greggii</u>	Autumn Salvia	Cuttings, Seed	White, Red, Pink	Spring, Summer, Fall	2'-3'
<u>Symphytum officinale</u>	Comfrey	Division	White, Yellowish, Purple.	Summer	3'
<u>Tagetes lucida</u>	Mexican Marigold-Mint	Cuttings, Division	Yellow	Summer, Fall	2'
<u>Thymus vulgaris</u>	Common Thyme	Division, Cuttings	-----	-----	6"
<u>Verbena hybrida</u>	Verbena	Seed, Division	Many	Spring, Summer, Fall	6"-1'
<u>Viola odorata</u>	Sweet Violet	Division	Purple	Winter, Spring	6"-8"
<u>Zephyranthes candida</u>	White Rain Lily	Division	White	Summer	1'
<u>Zephyranthes grandiflora</u>	Pink Rain Lily	Division	Pink	Summer	1'