

What to Plant That Will Love Growing Here
by Karen E Brown, PPCMG

Winter and cold weather causes all good gardeners to think about how to improve on what is in the yard now. If you want plants that do well here, go native! They are usually grown locally or at least within the state and love growing here. There are plants that are adapted and do well, but we are talking native to the state. One fun way to make use of natives is to plant a bed or meadow of wildflowers. They can all be the same or a variety. The Parker County office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has bags of wildflowers for sale. With water always being a consideration, native plants make the most sense. They need water to get off to a good start but once they get going, they don't require much care. Grab a good book or catalogue of natives for our area and start planning. There are some good examples at the courthouse and extension office. Some natives are mostly evergreen and some are perennials, which means the plant dies back in winter weather and regrows each spring. And of course there are annuals that just grow for one season. Some of these reseed profusely and spread that way. Here are some ideas to investigate:

- Lantana
- Gregg salvia
- Gregg's mistflower
- American beauty berry
- possumhaw holly
- Texas sage or Cenizo
- purple coneflower
- mealy blue sage
- butterfly weed
- pink skullcap
- standing red cypress
- Gallardia or Indian blanket
- Texas redbud
- Rudbeckia

These are just ideas. Please be sure that whatever you choose to plant is not an invasive variety. The Master Gardeners are having an education day on bees in February. Come learn on Saturday, February 11, 2017 from 9 to 12:30. A fee of \$10/person will be collected.