



Summer 2020

**Palo Pinto County
Extension Office**

221 South 5th Ave.

Palo Pinto, TX 76484

940-659-1228

Jason Westbrook
County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Website:

www.palopinto.agrilife.org

Facebook:

**Palo Pinto County 4-H and Texas
A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Palo Pinto County**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- *Choosing Plants for Your Garden*



- *Pond Management Resource
Page*

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

*** No upcoming programs due to
COVID-19**

**For the latest resources related to
COVID-19 go to:**

**[https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/
coronavirus/](https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/coronavirus/)**

Choosing Plants for Your Garden

by Sue McCormick

Palo Pinto County Master Gardener

Gardening in Palo Pinto County presents quite a challenge. I was used to gardening in the metroplex where the soil and rainfall are quite different and we didn't have the added factor of deer. But I have learned what it means to garden here and what it takes to have color and variety in my landscaping. The key is choosing plants that are adapted to our area.

What are the factors to consider when choosing plants? Temperature is the first factor. It can get cold here in the winter and extremely hot in the summer. We need plants that can withstand the heat of summer but not freeze out in the winter. On the temperature zone charts, Palo Pinto County in the Zone 7b. It means our temperatures can range from 20 degrees to 110 degrees and we need plants that can stand that range of temperature. When you are purchasing plants, look at the tag on the plant to see what growing zone is recommended for that specific plant.

The second factor is how much sun does the plant need to thrive. If the plant needs full sun that means a minimum of 6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight a day. Partial sun or partial shade means 4 hours of sun a day, and shade means less than 2 hours of direct sun a day. Some plants can grow in either sun or shade but most have a preference and do much better when we recognize that factor.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
"The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating"

The third factor to consider is what kind of soil do you have. Most of the county has a rocky terrain with patches of thin, alkaline soil. This is not the area for azalas and camillias. They like the more acid soil of East Texas. If you don't know what type of soil you have, get it tested through the AgriLife Extension Service.

One other factor to consider is how much water does that plant need - some need hardly any water and others need the roots damp most of the time. Since we are in a dry area and water is not plentiful, I want the ones that don't need much water --ie, drought tolerant. There are actually many plants that fit the criteria above that are drought tolerant and grow in our county. Listed below are some of my favorites:

Blackfoot Daisy: A sure winner. It is a low mounding plant that blooms Spring thru Fall and likes sun and very little water. It looks great with any perennial bush because it is low and spreading. It does best in full sun. (I dug mine up from a friend's gravel driveway that was in full sun.)

4 Nerve Daisy: A small ground hugging plant with yellow flowers on a six to nine inch stem. Needs full sun and is a slow grower.

Englemann Daisy: A medium size plant with showy yellow flowers that blooms Spring and Summer.

Prairie Verbena: A small, sprawling plant with purple flowers. It is beginning to bloom in the fields now and will continue in the home garden with just a little water. Blooms thru Fall.

Green Thread: A medium size plant with yellow flowers that bloom the whole growing season. It can be found growing wild in fields and grows well in the garden.

Mexican Hat: A colorful plant that is a part of the Cone family. Grows in the fields but also adapted to the garden. It has a red orange and yellow daisy type flower and blooms in May thru Fall if it gets a little water in the summer.

Zexmenia: A medium size bushy plant that blooms yellow orange flowers throughout the growing season. Prefers full sun to partial shade. A very hardy, easy to grow plant.

Mealy Blue Sage: A medium size plant that blooms beginning in late Spring until the first frost. It puts out blue spires and grows in full sun or light shade. It is a great plant to use in other combinations because of the

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
"The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating"

Blue Mist: A sprawling plant that puts out many runners and grows to medium height. It puts on many little blue flowers and is a huge magnet to butterflies. It can be invasive so give it plenty of room. It thrives in partial shade but has to have a few hours of direct sun. Blooms the entire growing season.

Greggi Salvia: A real standby in the garden. This is a medium size brushy plant that is evergreen. It blooms from Spring thru Fall and comes in red, white, or red and white (commonly known as hot lips).

Copper Canyon Daisy: A large bushy plant that blooms mainly in the Fall. It is covered in yellow blooms and has an aromatic foliage which keeps the deer away. This plant dies back to the ground in winter. Sometimes called a bush marigold.

Native Lantana: A very hardy plant that likes full sun and blooms all Summer and Fall. Sometimes called a calico bush because of its pink and yellow flowers. It dies back in the winter.

Caution:

Drought Tolerant doesn't mean you don't have to water the plant - it just means it doesn't need much water once it is established. In the beginning water a new plant every other day for two weeks, then every four days for two weeks, then once a week for the first growing season. After that, water when needed. Remember, not to overwater these plants once they are established.

When you consider all the growing factors above there and you have planted all the right plants for your garden - there is one other thing to take into account - deer. Personally, I don't grow flowers to feed the deer. No plant is totally deer resistant but there are some plants that are more resistant than others.

If you need further assistance call the Palo Pinto Extension Service at 940.659.1228.

Visit <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu> for pond management resources.



AquaPlant

A Diagnostics Tool for Pond Plants and Algae

[HOME](#) [FIND A PLANT](#) [DO I NEED A PERMIT?](#) [FAQS](#) [GLOSSARY](#) [VIDEOS](#) [ONLINE COURSES](#) [GET HELP](#)

The AquaPlant site is designed to help land owners identify and manage plants in their ponds or tanks. To best manage your pond vegetation, start by using the Identify a Plant section to correctly identify the plants in your pond, and then select the best management options to fit your needs for specific plants from the Manage a Plant section. Whether you choose to use a herbicide, biological control, or to remove plants manually, this site can help.

Identify a Plant



If you don't know the name of your plant, start here to compare photos and identify what type of plant is in your pond.

Manage a Plant



If you already know the name of the plant in your pond, start here to browse by name and find management options.

Fish Stocking & Pond Management



For additional resources on fish stocking and pond management, click here.

SEARCH FOR A TYPE OF PLANT

Search

[Download Management Apps](#)

[Hire a Professional](#)

[Contact Your Ag & Natural Resource Agent](#)

[Aquatic Plant Nurseries](#)

[Permissions and Citations](#)

[Aquatic Herbicide Tables](#)