

A serene landscape with a calm lake reflecting misty mountains and a forested shoreline. The scene is bathed in a soft, teal-green light, creating a tranquil and ethereal atmosphere. The mountains in the background are shrouded in mist, and the forested shoreline is reflected in the still water of the lake.

Right Plant in the Right Place

Planting Annual Flowers For Water Conservation

Goals and Focus

- Learn How To Use Annual Flowers As Part Of Your Water Conservation Plan

Water Conservation Priorities in the Landscape

- When needing to conserve water in the landscape, follow the priorities listed below to protect your investment.
 - Water your trees deep.
 - Then water your shrubs and other woody plants
 - Next, water your perennials.
 - Then, water your annual flowers
 - Last water your lawn.
- These priorities are based on value added to your property, investment of time needed to reach maturity, and cost/ease of replacement.

Benefits of planting annual flowers

- Provide striking color for majority of the growing season.
- Allow your yard to differ from year to year.
- Effective weed control
- Great for pollinators



What Is An Annual Flower?



- Any plant that will not survive for one full year is considered an annual plant
- Any plant that you do not want to keep in the same place for more than one year
- Perennials (Just not here.)

Planning, Prepping, and Planting

- Use plants with differing heights, colors textures and be intentional about plant placement.
- Flower catalogs are your best friend
- Decide on a color palette
- Design Principles
 - Balance
 - Repetition
 - Emphasis/Dominance
 - Contrast
 - Proportion
 - Movement
 - Negative/white space



Planning, Prepping, and Planting

- In pots, use “Thrill, Fill, Spill” method
- Plant high density
- Pots require A LOT of attention in the heat

Thrill plants:

Grasses
Angelonia
Snapdragon
Dracena
Canna Lilies
Bananas
Amaranthus
Cleome
Coleus
Salvia

Fill plants:

Petunias
Verbena
Lantana
Osteospermum
Euphorbia
Bidens
Coleus
Geraniums
Begonia
Salvia

Spill plants:

Fuschia
Verbena
Ipomea
Creeping Jenny
Dichondra
Ornamental Mint
Ornamental
Oregano



Planning, Prepping, and Planting

- Compost is your friend
 - Supplement with fast release garden fertilizer
 - Be careful with “hot” composts and those with higher salt content. Plant based are best.
- Fertilize with a balanced slow release fertilizer. Osmicote.
- Roto-till for ease in planting
- Set up irrigation system for annual flowers
 - Can use in-line drip hose.
 - Make sure to be able to remove.
 - If possible, set up different zone for annuals.



Where to Plant?

- Best to plant annuals as accents.
 - Draw attention to what you want seen in your yard.
 - Border plantings.
- Pots

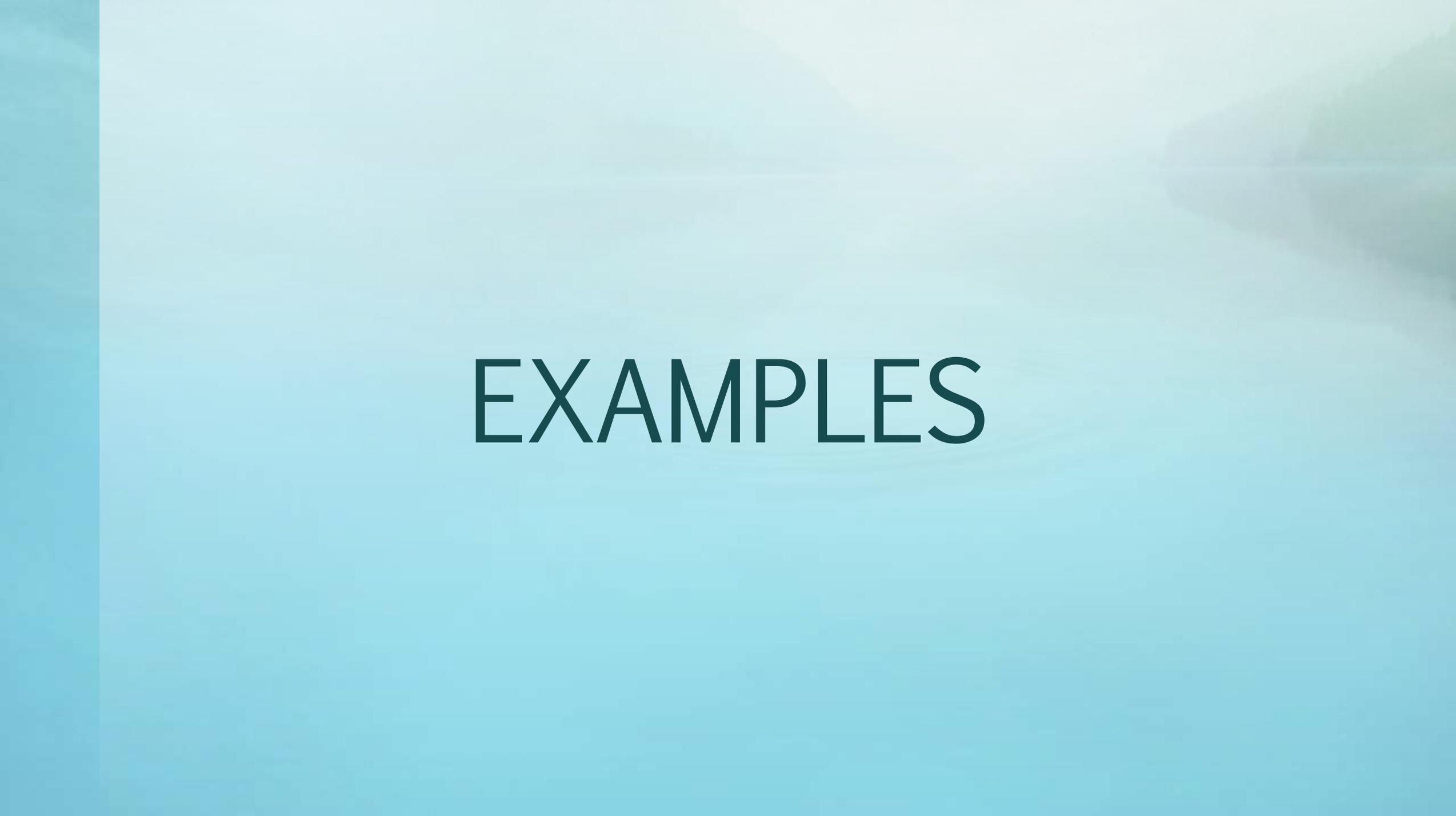


What To Plant: Right Plant in the Right Place



- Plant drought tolerant annuals
- Perennials as annuals
- Some non-typical plants can be used ornamentally.

Shown here: Marigold, Celocia and Bulls Blood Beet



EXAMPLES



LANTANA

2 types: Mounding and Trailing

Perennial woody shrub in tropical areas. Can winter indoors in very sunny conditions.

Fragrant flowers (Passion fruit) and crushed leaves (Citrus)

Multiple colors: Y, R, Pi, Pu, O, B



AMARANTHUS

- Very tall (5') generally narrow multi-stemmed plant
- Can reseed easily
- Grown for foliage



VERBENA

- Commonly found as a low growing prostrate plant
- Great alternative to petunias
- Deadhead for prolific blooms
- Pinch back 1/3 of plant before July 15th.



EUPHORBIA

- Mounding plant with wispy white flowers
- No problems. Plant and forget



GOMPHRENA

- Upright habit.
- Fun continuous bloom
- No deadheading required
- Dwarf varieties and tall varieties
- White, Pink, Purple, Red



CLEOME

- Upright habit.
- No deadheading required
- Dwarf varieties and tall varieties
- White, Pink, Purple



Scaevola

- Inverted mound habit.
- No deadheading required
- Native to the Outback of Australia
- White, Pink, Purple