

Low Water Annuals

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

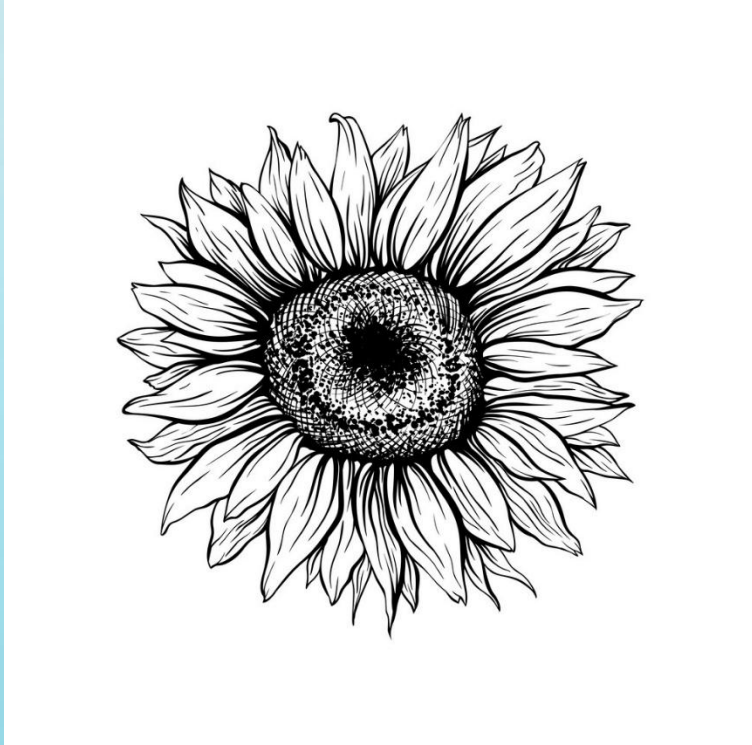
- When needing to conserve water in the landscape, follow the priorities listed below to protect your investment.
 - 1) Water your trees deep.
 - 2) Then water your shrubs and other woody plants
 - 3) Next, water your perennials.
 - 4) Then, water your annual flowers
 - 5) Last water your lawn.
- These 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.)

Where to Plant?

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



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



Pots/Containers: 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



Soil Media

- Drains well and holds moisture
- Plant type (ex.-succulents do well with high drainage, sand mixtures)
- Use only potting soil media
- Potting Soil with fertilizer, up to 6 weeks
- Mix your own
 - Coconut coir + Perlite + Sunshine mix



Fertilizing Containers

- N P K percentages
 - N = Nitrogen – Growth and development
 - P = Phosphate – Root and Flower development
 - K = Potassium – Overall health and development
- “Up – Down – All Around”
- Spring: 14-14 -14
- Late Spring & Summer: 15-30-15
- Slow-release Fertilizer
- Chelated Iron is sometimes needed



Flower Beds: 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. Osmocote.
- Roto-till for ease in planting
- Set up irrigation system for annual flowers
 - Can use in-line drip hose.
 - If possible, set up different zone for annuals.



What To Plant: Right Plant in the Right Place



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

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

Thank you for attending this class!

Please take a minute to fill out this survey and sign up for our newsletter.

Survey



Newsletter

