

ANNUAL PLANT SALE OFFERS SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office

Old favorites, hard-to-finds, newcomers—these are the terms to describe the plant selections highlighted in upcoming Annual Ornamental & Perennial Plant Sale on Saturday, October 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Wayne Johnson Community Center at Carbide Park (4102 Main Street) in La Marque.

Fall is the ideal time to plant many ornamentals and perennials. The Upper Gulf Coast has several months of cooler temperatures and dependable moisture from October through March or April.

Plants have time to establish a good root system during these more moderate conditions. This head start supports strong growth, long-term health and overall plant vigor.

The fall and winter seasons present fewer pest problems as well. All in all, there are fewer sources of stress (such as heat, fluctuations in soil moisture levels, and insect pressure) on specimens planted in the fall. As one of my gardening friends commented: "Gardening with perennials is like painting with a full palette of colors, textures, forms and fra-

grances." Think of your home landscape as a canvas—then create your perennial garden of color that pump outs beautiful foliage and flowers for years to come

The selections that will be offered at this year's event promise to be exciting. They represent an amazing variety of color, texture, size, shape and versatility in the landscape. Many of the selections are suitable for habitat gardens to attract and support birds, butterflies and hummingbirds. Examples of the variety of plants to be available include the following:



PHOTO BY Heidi Sheesley

- 'Tangerine Beauty' Crossvine: A strong, vigorous semi-evergreen to evergreen native vine that produces a spectacular display of bright orange-red trumpet flowers in spring. Crossvine grows well in full sun or light shade and has petite tendrils that cling tightly to walls, fences, trees, and

other surfaces. This vine tolerates drought conditions and attracts hummingbirds.



PHOTO BY Heidi Sheesley

- Blue Potato Vine. A nearly perpetually blooming vine with large, showy clusters of one-inch blue flowers from spring to fall, followed by nail-polish-red berries. Blue Potato Vine is fast growing, responds well to pruning, and likes a moist, well-drained soil. Goes dormant in winter.



PHOTO BY Heidi Sheesley

- 'Little Volcano' Lespedeza: A graceful, deciduous shrub that erupts with bright rosy wine flowers in the fall (and normally a surprise bloom cycle in the spring). Upright, clumping branches are covered



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with small, dark green leaves. Forms a mound 5 feet high and 8 feet wide.

Horticulture Demonstration & Research Garden located in Carbide Park.



PHOTO BY Heidi Sheesley

- 'Giant Pink Dancing Lady' Ginger: This stunning addition to the Dancing Ladies family produces a much showier bloom than its delicate sister (Yellow Dancing Girl). This ginger produces long, gracefully arching panicles of pink bracts and tiny yellow flowers that seem to dance in the air! They bloom all through the summer into fall. Grows 2 feet tall with long, lance-shaped leaves on short stems. Will go dormant in winter and reappear each spring. Part shade to shade.

The Annual Ornamental & Perennial Plant Sale is sponsored by the Galveston County Master Gardeners and many will be on hand to help you with your questions, selections and purchases.

To obtain a hard copy listing plants and plant descriptions, visit the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office (4102-B Main St. in La Marque; phone 281-534-3413, ext. 12) and our website (<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>).

Proceeds from plant sales are used toward development and maintenance of the Extension

