



Perennials for Texas Landscapes

Perennials are defined as those plants which endure or persist from the same root part year to year. Most perennials are easily propagated by division, seed or cuttings. Division is particularly successful since it not only provides new plants but is often necessary for the continued vigor of plants. They often persist for many years and usually require less maintenance than annuals. They can provide long seasons of color and cut flowers while enhancing overall landscape development. If a perennial border is more than you care to attempt as your initial experience with perennials, try adding a few to existing plantings. Many perennials have attractive foliage and are an asset even when not in flower.

Division is an important cultural requirement of many perennials. Without an occasional thinning, most of these plants will slowly lose their vigor. Most will tolerate relatively poor growing conditions but respond very favorably to well-prepared planting areas containing high percentages of organic materials and moderately high fertility rates.

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*): available in red, pink, or white (white form is weedy); fern-leaved foliage; blooms spring and fall; drought tolerant; good groundcover; excellent cut or dried flowers; full sun to part shade; 1 foot.

Hinkley's Columbine (*Aguilegia Hinkleyana*): exotic yellow flowers, delicate foliage; Texas native; moist organic soil; susceptible to spider mites; shade to part shade; 18 inches.

German Red Carnation (*Dianthus carophyllus*): fragrant red flowers; ever-blooming; good cut flower; cool weather plant; sun to part shade; 1 foot.

Hardy Ageratum (*Eupatorium coelestinum*): blue flowers; fall blooming; invasive; Texas native; hardy; drought tolerant; shear in summer to promote bushiness; sun to part shade; 2 feet.

Summer Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*): magenta pink flowers; blooms in summer; hardy; drought tolerant; 3 feet.

Mexican Butterfly Weed (*Cuphea hyssopifolia*): small, lavender flowers; compact foliage; tender; sun; 6 inches.

Rock Rose (*Pavonia lastopetala*): pink, mini-hibiscus flowers; shrubby; ever-blooming; shear occasionally; drought tolerant; sun; 3 feet.

"New Gold" Lantana (*Lantana camara*): many flower colors; shear occasionally; ever-blooming; heat and drought tolerant; sun; 2 feet.

Blue Shade (*Reuellia "squarrosa"*): lavender flowers; ever-blooming; shear occasionally; excellent groundcover; drought tolerant; sun to shade; 8 inches.

"Indigo Spears" Salvia (*Salvia Hybrid*): purple flowers; shear occasionally; very vigorous; sun; 3 feet.

Firebush (*Hamelia patens*): red-orange, tubular flowers; prized by hummingbirds; red fall foliage; ever-blooming; drought tolerant; shear occasionally; sun to part shade; hardy; 2 feet.

Mexican Mint Marigold – "Yerba Anise" (*Togetes lucida*): yellow flowers; fragrant "licorice" scented foliage; blooms in fall; shear occasionally; drought tolerant; hardy; sun; 2 feet.

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Mexican Honeysuckle (*Justicia spicigera*): orange, tubular flowers; ever-blooming; drought tolerant; shear occasionally; sun to part shade; hardy; 2 feet.

Mexican Petunia (*Ruellia Brittoniana*): purple flowers; ever-blooming; invasive; shear occasionally; drought tolerant; hardy; sun; 2 feet.

Mexican Oregano (*Poliomintha longiflora*): lavender flowers; aromatic; foliage; shrubby; ever-blooming; shear occasionally; drought tolerant; hardy; sun; 3 feet.

Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*): pink flowers; blooms in fall; hardy; sun; 2 feet.

Pink Autumn Sage (*Salvia greggii*): pink flowers; aromatic; shrubby; ever-blooming; shear occasionally; drought tolerant; sun; 3 feet.

“Texas-Tuff” Verbena (*Verbena hybrid*): pink, purple or red flowers; ever-blooming; shear frequently; excellent groundcover; drought tolerant; susceptible to spider mites; sun; 8 inches.

Cigar Plant (*Cuphea micropetala*): orange-yellow, cigar-shaped flowers; prized by hummingbirds; blooms in fall; drought tolerant; heat loving; sun; 2 feet.

Fall Aster/Michalmas Daisy (*Aster sp.*): lavender-colored flowers; blooms in fall; shear during summer; drought tolerant; sun or partial shade; 2 feet.

Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*): hot pink flowers; blooms spring, summer and fall; excellent cut flowers; drought tolerant; full sun; 2 feet.

Dwarf Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia grandiflora*): red-yellow, bi-color flowers; ever-blooming; remove spent blooms to extend bloom time; heat and drought tolerant; full sun; 1 foot.

Oxalis (*Oxalis crassipes*): pink flowers, clover like foliage; blooms in spring and summer; great border plant; sun to partial shade; 8 to 10 inches.

Shrimp Plant (*Justicia Brandegeana*): yellow or red-brown flowers; blooms in summer, fall; great cut flowers; sun to partial shade; 3 feet.

Trailing Lantana (*Lantana montevidensis*): lilac flowers; blooms spring, summer, fall; very drought tolerant; great as a groundcover, in containers or hanging baskets; sun or partial shade; 1 to 2 feet.

Blue Plumbago (*Plumbago auriculata*): clusters of baby blue flowers; drought tolerant; well-drained soil; full to part sun; 2 to 3 feet.

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*): grayish-green, fleshy, needlelike foliage with pale blue flowers; blooms spring, fall and winter; both upright and trailing forms are available; 1 to 4 feet.

Mealy Cup Sage (*Salvia farinacea*): blue, white or purple flower spikes; blooms spring, summer, fall; shear occasionally; full sun; 2 to 3 feet.

Ox-Eye Daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*): white flowers; blooms in spring; hardy; sun to part shade; 3 feet.

Coreopsis (*Coreopsis grandiflora*): yellow flowers; blooms late spring to early summer; excellent landscape plant (Baby, Sun and Early Sunrise are dwarf forms); 2 feet