

Annuals or Perennials or Both?

By Joe Covington

Most veteran gardeners and landscape designers will tell you to plant both so you can take advantage of the benefits that each provides.

Annuals deliver greater flower power but must be planted seasonally. This isn't necessarily a bad thing since it allows you to experiment with new colors, varieties, and groupings. Most homeowners plant warm-season flowers in the spring for bright beautiful color through the summer, then replace them with cool-season flowers early in the fall.

Annuals are easy to grow, generally cost less than perennials, and are available in a rainbow of vibrant colors and varieties. Annuals are the divas of dramatic landscapes...they give your home the wow factor!

Gardening with perennials is rewarding because they are planted once and then return each year bigger and better. It's exciting to see fresh new growth pop up on your perennial plants in the spring, with no effort on your part. Perennials come in huge array of sizes, as well as flower and foliage shapes and colors, but for the most part they don't sustain their blooms as long as annuals do, and the flower size and quantity on many of them don't give quite the profusion of color we really want!

Mixing perennials and annuals in your garden gives you the best of both worlds! It reduces the number of annuals needed, and allows you to intermittently enjoy the successful partnership of your annual and perennial combinations. And if you aren't able to plant your annuals for some reason, you'll still have some perennial color in your landscape.

It's time to accentuate your existing evergreen shrubs and flowerbeds with bright splashes of spectacular color and our nursery professionals can guide you to the best annuals and perennials for your landscape.

Joe Covington is the owner of Covington's Nursery & Landscape Co. at 5518 President George Bush Hwy @ SH66 in Rowlett.

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