

# This presentation premiered at WaterSmart Innovations

[watersmartinnovations.com](http://watersmartinnovations.com)



# Landscape Trends: Reducing Water while Growing Food for People and Pollinators

*Daniel Cunningham, Horticulturist and Co-Owner at ROOTED IN*

@RootedInTX







## Who We Are, What We Do

Consultants focused on Urban Water Issues

Water-centric environmental education, demos

Cities

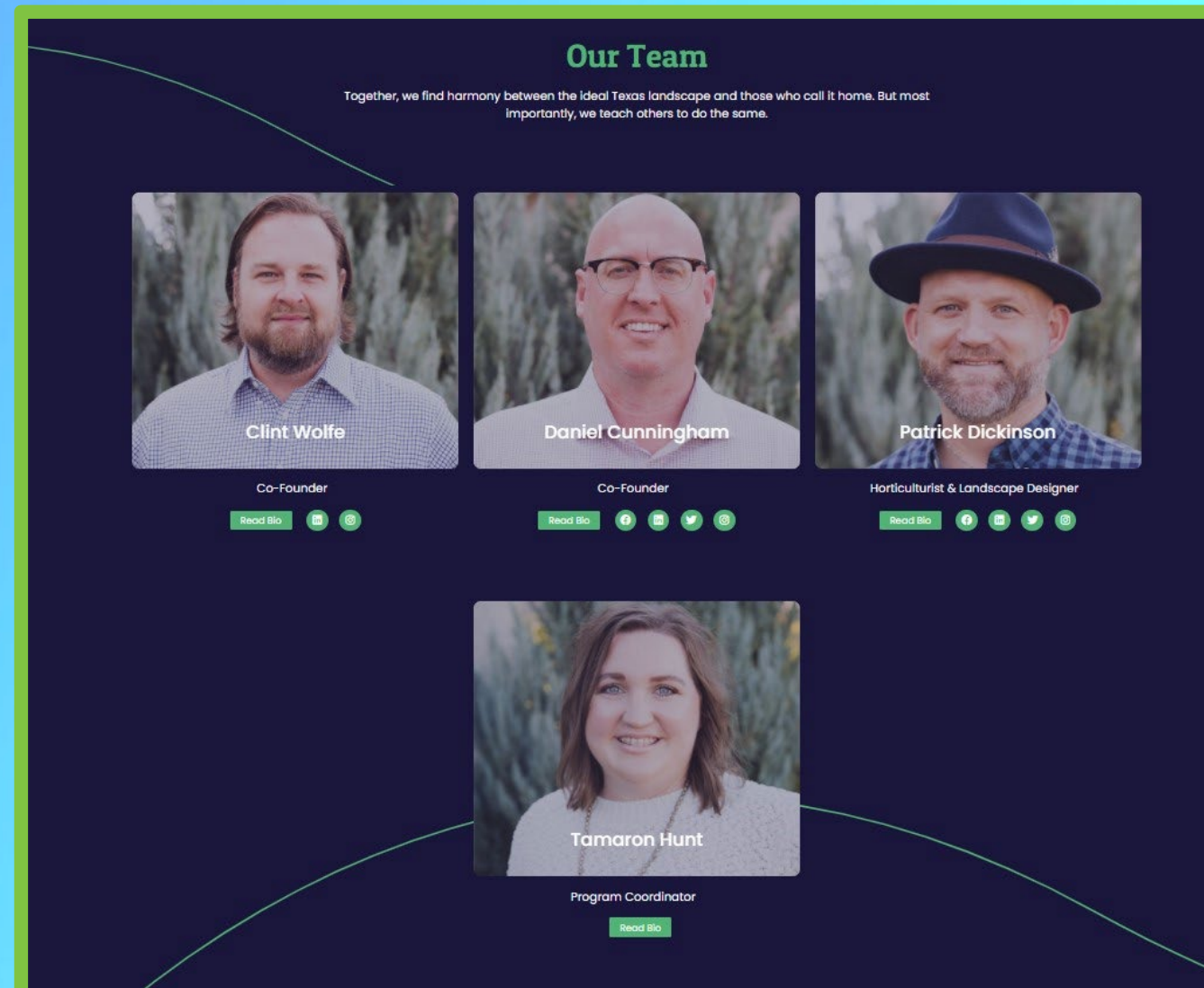
4 Major Water providers

Professional CEUs

Homeowners

Public Outreach Events

Help shape misconceptions about water use  
and change behavior



# Traditional Classes: *(virtual and in-person)*

- 15-500 attendees (pre-COVID)
- 1-2 hours long
- 20+ subjects ranging from
  - Native and Adapted Plants
  - Edible gardening
  - DIY Irrigation and Rainwater Harvesting
  - Wildlife Gardening

## All with a water “hook”

- i.e. efficient irrigation, reducing stormwater pollution
- Where does our water come from?, etc



**7.6 MILLION PEOPLE**

# 35% in U.S. Are Growing Their Own Food

(42 million households)

- Millennials- 63% increase in edible gardening
- Solution to:
  - Social and environmental issues?
  - Food waste?
  - Food security?
  - Food transport miles?
  - Wasted water?
  - Depletion of arable land?



# Landscape Trends

## Outdoor living spaces-

- Environmentally sustainable
  - Reduce water costs
  - Lower maintenance

**88% Rainwater Harvesting or Graywater Harvesting**

**86% Native plants/Adapted Plants**

**77% Pervious Paving**

**75% Edible Landscaping**

**73% Rain Gardens**

**72% Drip/ Efficient Irrigation**

**72% Reduced Lawn Area**



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Sunset

A weight loss  
resolution you'll  
want to keep.

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or it's a [terrarium](#), a livinby of [Gardenfix](#) in Toron

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ill winter indoors or eve

FOOD &amp; WINE

GARDEN

HOME

TRAVEL

BLOG

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Top 10 gar

These trends and  
the way we live, e

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Photo by Andrea Góme

GARDENING JAN 12

## 5 Texas garden t see in 2018



Daniel Cunningham, Special Contributor



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## COMMENTARY



By Daniel Cunningham

# Thought for Food: More Americans Are Eating Their Yards



RECENTLY, GREEN INDUSTRY gardening reports and magazine articles have focused on garden trends and an increased interest in food gardening in America. Last year's survey by the American Society of Landscape Architects found 70.5 percent of its customers desired food/vegetable garden elements in their home landscapes. As a horticulturist with Texas A&M AgriLife's Water University program, one of my main duties is interacting with the public, providing environmentally sound education for those wanting to grow lush lawns, heathy landscapes, and productive vegetable gardens in an urban setting.

This past year, we've taught more than 240 classes (reaching more than 20,000 homeowners), and some of the most popular programing involves edible gardening. Not only has there been increased interest in traditional vegetable gardening and fruit production classes, the popularity of attractive plants that have food value seems to be growing.

Herbs aren't just for kitchen gardens anymore. Many herbs look great, in addition to providing fresh flavors. With a variety of cultivars, rosemary, lavender, sage, thyme, and chives are perennial and adapted to the tough Texas climate. And they offer multiple uses.

Last summer at Texas A&M AgriLife's horticulture field day in Overton, the new ornamental basil was a favorite of the pollinators and the people.

isn't new, being practiced in some way for thousands of years. The limited space in urban areas and the desire to

A 2014 report by The National Gardening Association found one-in-three households is now growing some

fabulous," she says. She brought the seeds back to the United States, to be grown by small, local farmers for

# 20-26 Million New Gardeners!

- *Help them to be successful*
- *Help introduce the importance of water conservation / stormwater protection*

# Eat the Yard:

- *FoodScaping One of the hottest trends in garden design pairs plants that both look and taste great! Learn pro tips to design your landscape into a space that produces fresh food for your table and a fun project for the whole family. We'll also dig into specific herbs, fruits and vegetables that can add to the colors and textures of your permanent landscape with Rooted In's top 100 edible plants list*



# Grow Your Own Vegetables

- *Whether you're trying to eat healthier, want to know where your food comes from, or just love the idea of growing delicious vine-ripened vegetables at home, this class is for you. "Lettuce" talk vegetables! Learn proper soil preparation, garden design and layouts, disease and insect identification, as well as the proper planting times for getting the most production out of your favorite vegetables in the challenging climate of North Texas*

# Fruits, Nuts and Berries: Growing Your Urban Orchard

- *Whether you're trying to grow (or planning to grow) fruits, nuts and or berries at home for their superior flavor, to save money, or just want to know where your food comes from, this class is for you! This program gets to the core of how you can become more sustainable in your "urban orchard" from the beginning, what plants and varieties work best in our area, the basics of pest control, proper pruning methods and other practical ways to increase production. Branch out and join us for a fruitful program!*

# Herb Your Enthusiasm: Herb Gardening Essentials

- *Get the most out of your landscape and kitchen garden by choosing from the assortment of tasty and beautiful herbs adapted to Texas. We'll talk about everything from design and plant selection, proper soil prep and planting techniques, and transition to the many uses of our favorite herbs inside and outside the home. This class is sure to be a great thyme*

# Time for Tomatoes

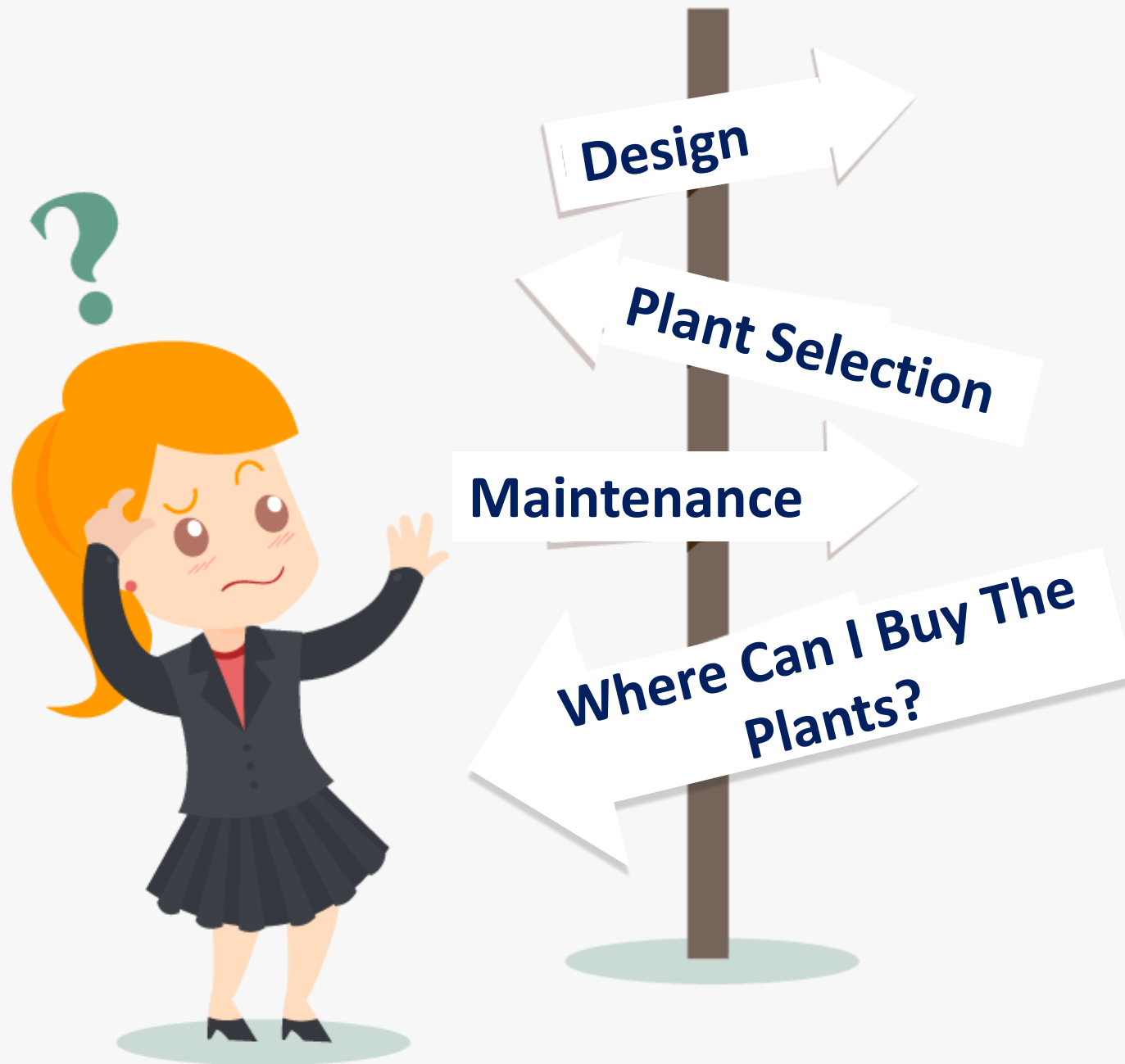
- *Every vegetable garden wants a bumper crop of this delicious fruit! But, the most sought-after garden treasure can be challenging to grow in the extreme climate and soils of North Texas. We'll go into depth, providing tips on how to get the most production out of your tomato plants covering everything from variety selection, proper planting, best irrigation practices to pest and disease control. No matter (or 'mater) your gardening skills, this class is sure to be sweet*

# Flitter, Flutter, Flowers: Butterfly Gardening

- *Are you interested in butterfly gardening-- but have just been winging it?! Butterflies are welcomed visitors that bring our landscapes to life with activity in addition helping to pollinate our favorite plants. Learn easy and practical tips to create butterfly habitat in your landscape. We'll also cover resources for selecting the right plants as host species for caterpillars. Plus you'll learn all about our favorite native and adapted flowers that provide long lasting blooms as nectar sources to help your garden take flight!*

# Gardens That Give Back: Wildlife Friendly Landscapes

- *Native and adapted plants are not only beautiful, low maintenance additions to the garden; they can be useful tools to attract beneficial wildlife as well! Learn ways to attract and provide habitat for butterflies, songbirds, hummingbirds, bees, and other beneficial animals that bring your landscape to life with activity! If you'd like to keep your landscape well-manicured, or if you take a more naturalistic approach, we have tips to meet your needs, suit your taste and capture your imagination*



**Design**

**Plant Selection**

**Maintenance**

**Where Can I Buy The  
Plants?**



**JUST TELL US WHAT TO  
PLANT!**



# SPONSORS





# Digging Deeper into



# and how we can help YOU get growing!





# Shop Our Products



**Texas Tough Native Garden**

\$75.00



**Home Harvest Edible Garden**

\$75.00



## GARDEN DETAILS

- 24 starter plants in 3-inch pots
- Boxed gardens are 2 ft. x 1 ft. in size,  
(they will easily fit in your vehicle)
- 3 plant by number layout options  
(5' x 25' rectangle; 16' x 16' triangle; and 14' circle)
- Covers: up to 125 sq. ft.
- Mature Height: 1 to 5 ft.
- Exposure: Full Sun to Part Shade
- Duration: Colorful blooms from Spring to Fall
- Benefits: Locally grown, all native and adapted varieties,  
• and pollinator supporting species!!!

# Easy to Follow Instructions PLUS GARDEN DESIGNS!





# GO GROW

*gardening made easy*

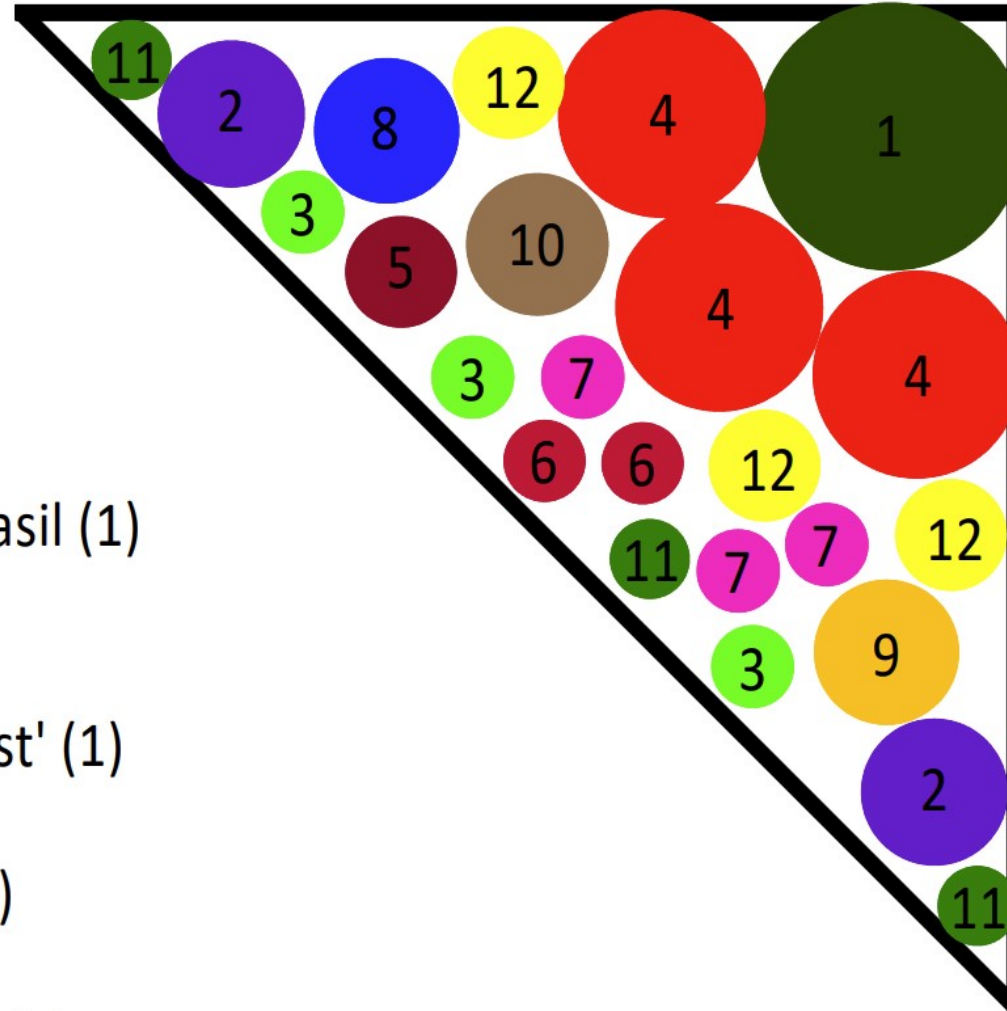
## THE PLANTS

- ① Rosemary (1)
- ② Tricolor Sage (2)
- ③ Greek Oregano (3)
- ④ Pineapple sage (3)
- ⑤ Balsamic Blooms Basil (1)
- ⑥ Cardinal Basil (2)
- ⑦ Garlic Chives (3)
- ⑧ Spearmint 'The Best' (1)
- ⑨ Pineapple mint (1)
- ⑩ Chocolate mint (1)
- ⑪ Lemon Thyme (3)
- ⑫ Mexican Tarragon (3)

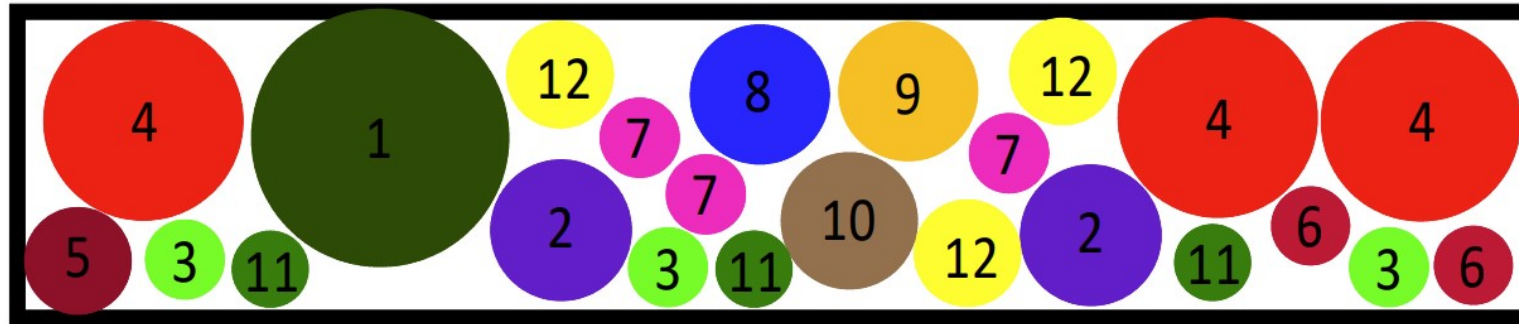
## HOME HARVEST EDIBLE GARDEN



1. Rosemary (1)
2. Tricolor Sage (2)
3. Greek Oregano (3)
4. Pineapple Sage (3)
5. Balsamic Blooms Basil (1)
6. Basil spp. (2)
7. Garlic Chives (3)
8. Spearmint 'The Best' (1)
9. Pineapple Mint (1)
10. Chocolate Mint (1)
11. Lemon Thyme (3)
12. Mexican Tarragon (3)

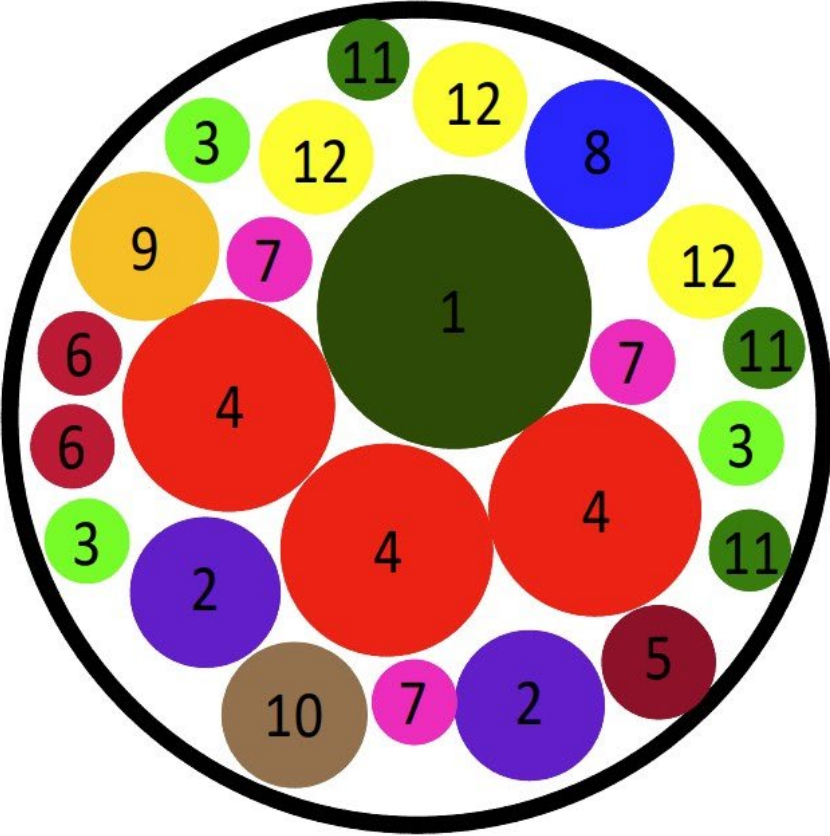






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## ROSEMARY

Plant Type	Herbaceous Perennial	Bloom Time	Spring to Fall
Mature Height	3'-4'	Character	Evergreen
Plant Spread	3'	Light Requirement	Full Sun to Part Sun
Flower Color	Blue	Water Requirement	Low

### Description

'Arp' Rosemary is a bushy growing cultivar with stiff upright stems and soft blue densely blooming ornamental flowers. It requires well-draining soils and doesn't like supplemental irrigation once established. More cold-hardy than most, it quickly forms a hedge of aromatic needle-like foliage that has a very good flavor for culinary use in any recipe that calls for rosemary and is especially favored in French breads and potatoes dishes. Fun Fact: Originally found in Arp, Texas in 1972 by Madalene Hill, of which two other rosemary cultivars are named.





## TRICOLOR SAGE

Plant Type	Herbaceous Perennial	Bloom Time	June to July
Mature Height	1.5'-2'	Character	Evergreen
Plant Spread	1.5'-2'	Light Requirement	Full Sun
Flower Color	Purple	Water Requirement	Low to Medium

### Description

This compact woody-stemmed, semi-shrubby perennial produces striking wrinkled, variegated gray-green leaves with cream edges and splashes of purple . It thrives in well-drained soil and is as tasty as it is ornamental. Leaves are strongly aromatic and are frequently used fresh or dried in cooking as a seasoning in any recipe that calls for sage. Will produce violet flower spikes in late spring to summer that are attractive to bees and butterflies. Avoid late fall pruning to aid in frost protection.



## GREEK OREGANO

Plant Type	Herbaceous Perennial	Bloom Time	July
Mature Height	1'-1.5'	Character	Semi-evergreen
Plant Spread	1'-1.5'	Light Requirement	Full Sun to Part Sun
Flower Color	White	Water Requirement	Low

### Description

Oregano, is a bushy, spreading, woody-branched perennial with good heat and drought tolerance. Small pinkish to white flowers rise above the foliage in summer. It is best to shear plants back regularly before flowering to keep the plant full and to induce growth of new leaves. Leaves with good flavor may be clipped fresh as needed or dried for year-round use. Oregano is used in sauces, tomato dishes, pizza, Mexican dishes salads and soups. Best leaf flavor usually occurs just prior to flowering.





## PINEAPPLE SAGE

Plant Type	Herbaceous Perennial	Bloom Time	August to October
Mature Height	3'-4'	Character	Tender Perennial
Plant Spread	2'-3'	Light Requirement	Full Sun to Part Sun
Flower Color	Red	Water Requirement	Low

### Description

Named for the uncanny pineapple scent of its edible foliage when crushed, this sage is highly ornamental with tubular scarlet-red flowers that are also attractive to hummingbirds. The plants die back to the ground after a hard frost, but in mild winters will grow back the following spring. Pineapple sage is fairly fast growing, so it can also be grown as an annual in colder winters when it does not survive freezing temperatures. Clip pineapple sage leaves to use in herbal teas or cocktails (muddled with lime juice) or chopped on to a fruit salad that includes its namesake, the pineapple. The deep red flowers are also edible and can be eaten fresh or also be added to liven salads or cocktails.



## 'BALSAMIC BLOOMS' BASIL

Plant Type	Warm Season Herb	Bloom Time	June to November
Mature Height	1.5'-2.5'	Character	Tender Annual
Plant Spread	1.5'	Light Requirement	Full Sun to Part Sun
Flower Color	Magenta	Water Requirement	Medium to Low

**Description** 'Balsamic Blooms' basil is the most sought after ornamental basil on the market, but is often hard to come by. The former "Texas Super Star" exceptional edible herb with ornamental qualities that make it a great addition to any garden. The large green leaves grow in compact mounds, with a sweet taste similar to Italian cultivars. But the long-lasting and densely clustered pink blooms with purple sepals are the real star of the show! The entire plant is edible, with young mint-flavored flowers sprinkled onto salads to provide a nice color contrast or foliage used for traditional culinary uses.





## 'CARDINAL' BASIL

Plant Type	Warm Season Herb	Bloom Time	June to November
Mature Height	1.5'-2.5'	Character	Tender Annual
Plant Spread	1.5'	Light Requirement	Full Sun to Part Sun
Flower Color	Magenta	Water Requirement	Medium to Low

### Description

'Cardinal' basil is a taller ornate variety with a deep burgundy-colored stem from which sprouts bright green, thick, oval leaves. The mature plant produces tightly packed, spiky blossoms with sepals ranging in color from magenta to deep red. The leaves are slightly spicier than traditional basil, with a mild licorice taste. The entire plant is edible, with flowers sprinkled onto salads to provide a nice color contrast or foliage used for traditional culinary uses. The long-lasting purple blooms make this basil an excellent edible ornamental!





## GARLIC CHIVES

Plant Type	Bulbous Perennial	Bloom Time	August to September
Mature Height	1'-1.5'	Character	Evergreen
Plant Spread	1'-2'	Light Requirement	Full Sun to Part Shade
Flower Color	Creamy White	Water Requirement	Low to Medium

### Description

This clump-forming member of the onion family is great for both culinary and ornamental purposes. Its gray-green leaves grow up to 12" long and are used in cooking in the same manner as onion chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*) but with more of a garlicky kick. The small clusters of star-shaped, white flower umbels rise above stems in late summer into fall. Because it seeds readily, small plantings expand rather quickly. Deadhead after blooming to keep them in check. All parts of the plant are edible and have an oniony, garlicky smell when cut or crushed. The leaves can be used any way chives or green onions are used to add mild garlic flavor in uncooked dishes where raw garlic would be too overpowering. Try adding to salads, pesto, egg dishes, or into soups and stews --at the end of cooking to preserve the mild flavor. The flowers are also edible, so can be used as a garnish or added to salads.



## SPEARMINT

Plant Type	Herbaceous Perennial	Bloom Time	July to August
Mature Height	1'-1.5'	Character	Semi-evergreen
Plant Spread	1'-2.5'	Light Requirement	Full Sun to Part Shade
Flower Color	White to Pink	Water Requirement	Medium to Low

### Description

Spearmint is spreading, perennial herb which is most commonly grown for culinary use. It typically grows up to 2' tall and spreads by rhizomes to form an attractive ground cover. As its name implies, 'The Best' is one of the most sought-after cultivars, featuring dark green leaves and terminal spikes of small lilac to pink to white flowers in summer. Leaves have a strong spearmint fragrance and fresh green mint taste. It is often used to flavor teas, in salads, as an ingredient in Mediterranean or Asian cuisines, as a garnish in cocktails, or even for its strong minty smell in potpourris.





## PINEAPPLE MINT

<b>Plant Type</b>	Herbaceous Perennial	<b>Bloom Time</b>	July to August
<b>Mature Height</b>	1'-1.5'	<b>Character</b>	Semi-evergreen
<b>Plant Spread</b>	1'-2'	<b>Light Requirement</b>	Full Sun to Part Shade
<b>Flower Color</b>	Pink	<b>Water Requirement</b>	Medium

### Description

Pineapple mint is a spreading variegated version of apple mint, commonly grown as a culinary or medicinal herb and ground cover. Typically, it grows 1 to 2 ft. tall and wide but can spread further by rhizomes to form an attractive ground cover. It has dark green leaves with ornate white to cream colored edges. The spikes of small pink to lavender flower during summer and are a favorite of bees and butterflies. Pineapple mint is highly aromatic, with sweet tropical notes and minty citrus finish and may be used to flavor teas, as a garnish for cocktails or as an aromatic in potpourris.



## CHOCOLATE MINT

Plant Type	Herbaceous Perennial	Bloom Time	July
Mature Height	.5'-1'	Character	Semi-evergreen
Plant Spread	1'-1.5'	Light Requirement	Full Sun to Part Shade
Flower Color	Lavender	Water Requirement	Low to Medium

### Description

When crushed, the dark green leaves of Chocolate mint are reminiscent of the famous girl scout cookie. Like other mint species, this sprawling plant makes an attractive edible and vigorous growing groundcover but it is usually not hard to control. Its lavender blooms are also an appetizing treat for many beneficial pollinators. In cooking, chocolate mint is an amazing addition for flavoring desserts and drinks.





## LEMON THYME

Plant Type	Herbaceous Perennial	Bloom Time	July
Mature Height	.5'-1'	Character	Semi-evergreen
Plant Spread	1'-1.5'	Light Requirement	Full Sun to Part Shade
Flower Color	Lilac	Water Requirement	Low to Medium

### Description

Lemon thyme is primarily grown as a culinary herb for its rich, lemon-scented leaves, but its whorls of tiny lilac flowers are also attractive to people and pollinators alike. The dark green leaves with cream-colored margins reach their aromatic peak just before flowering. Leaves are frequently used fresh or dried as a seasoning in a variety of culinary applications, including as a seasoning to brighten chicken or fish. Fresh sprigs may also be used as a garnish in tea or cocktails.



## MEXICAN TARRAGON

Plant Type	Herbaceous Perennial	Bloom Time	July to October
Mature Height	3'	Character	Semi-evergreen
Plant Spread	3'	Light Requirement	Full Sun to Part Sun
Flower Color	Yellow	Water Requirement	Low to Medium

**Description** This marigold relative produces show-stopping fall color from small, golden-yellow marigold-like flowers whose ornamental value may rival its culinary benefits. Narrow, smooth dark green leaves have a strong scent and flavor of tarragon and can be substituted for French tarragon in equal proportions. The flavor breaks down more quickly when heated, so it is best to add it at the end of cooking. Also fantastic in chicken salad or when muddled into your favorite cock-tail. Extremely tolerant of heat and drought but prefers well-drained soil.





# GO GROW

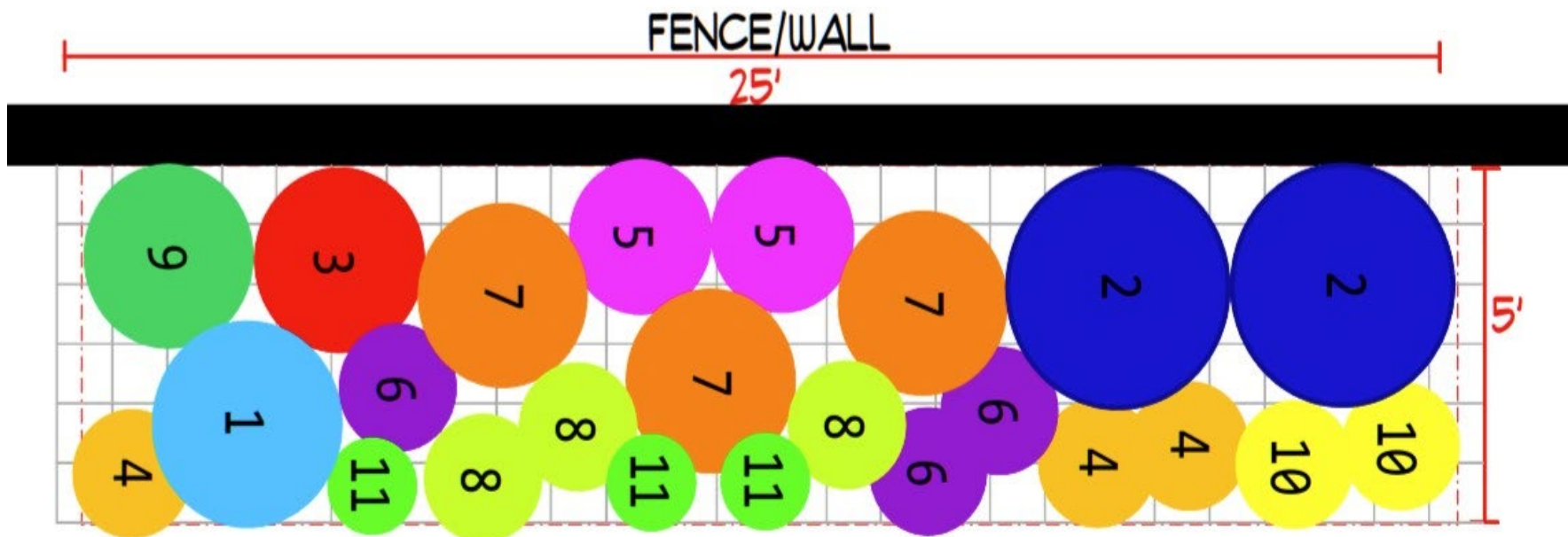
gardening made easy

## Pollinator Pack

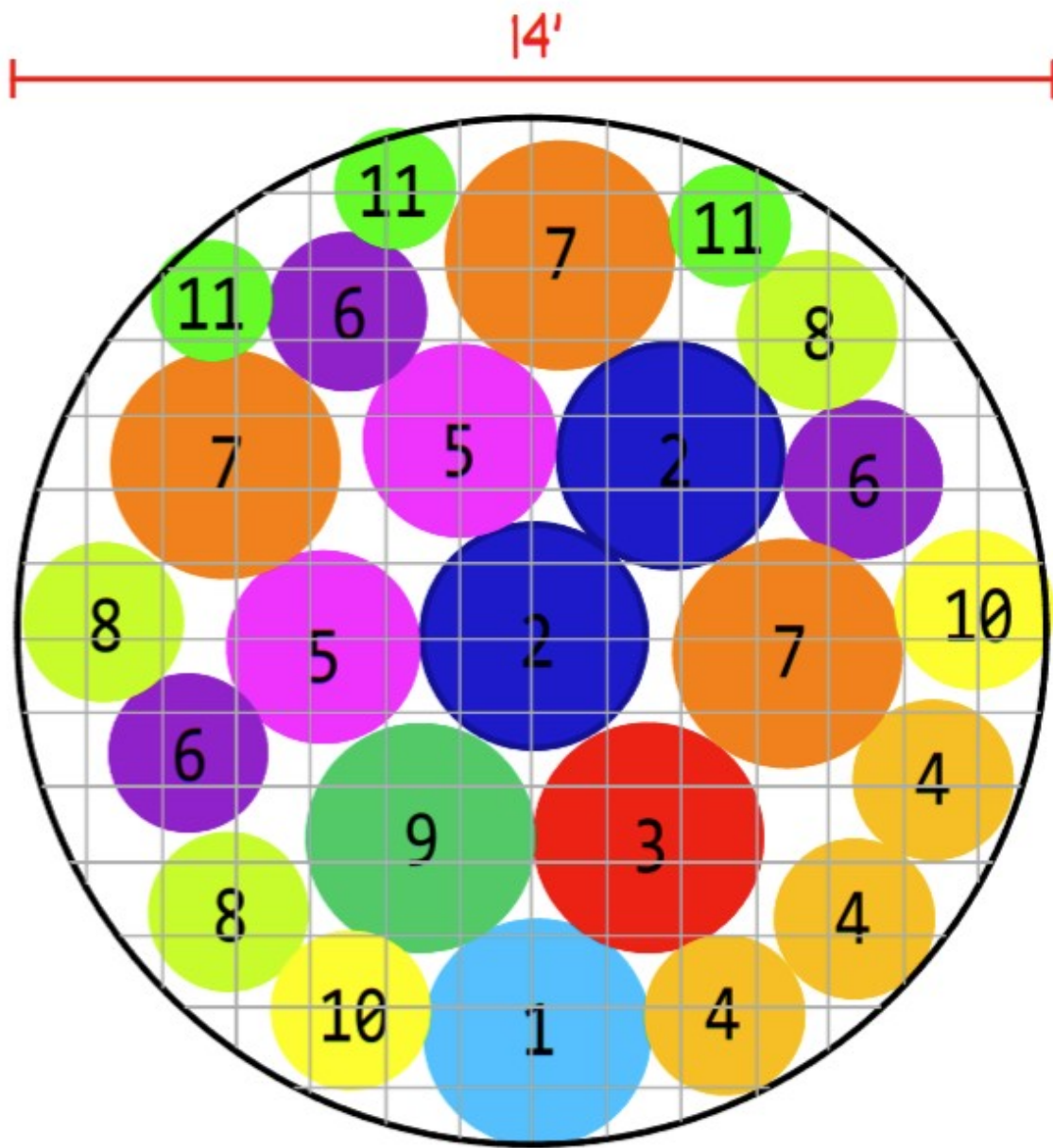
### THE PLANTS

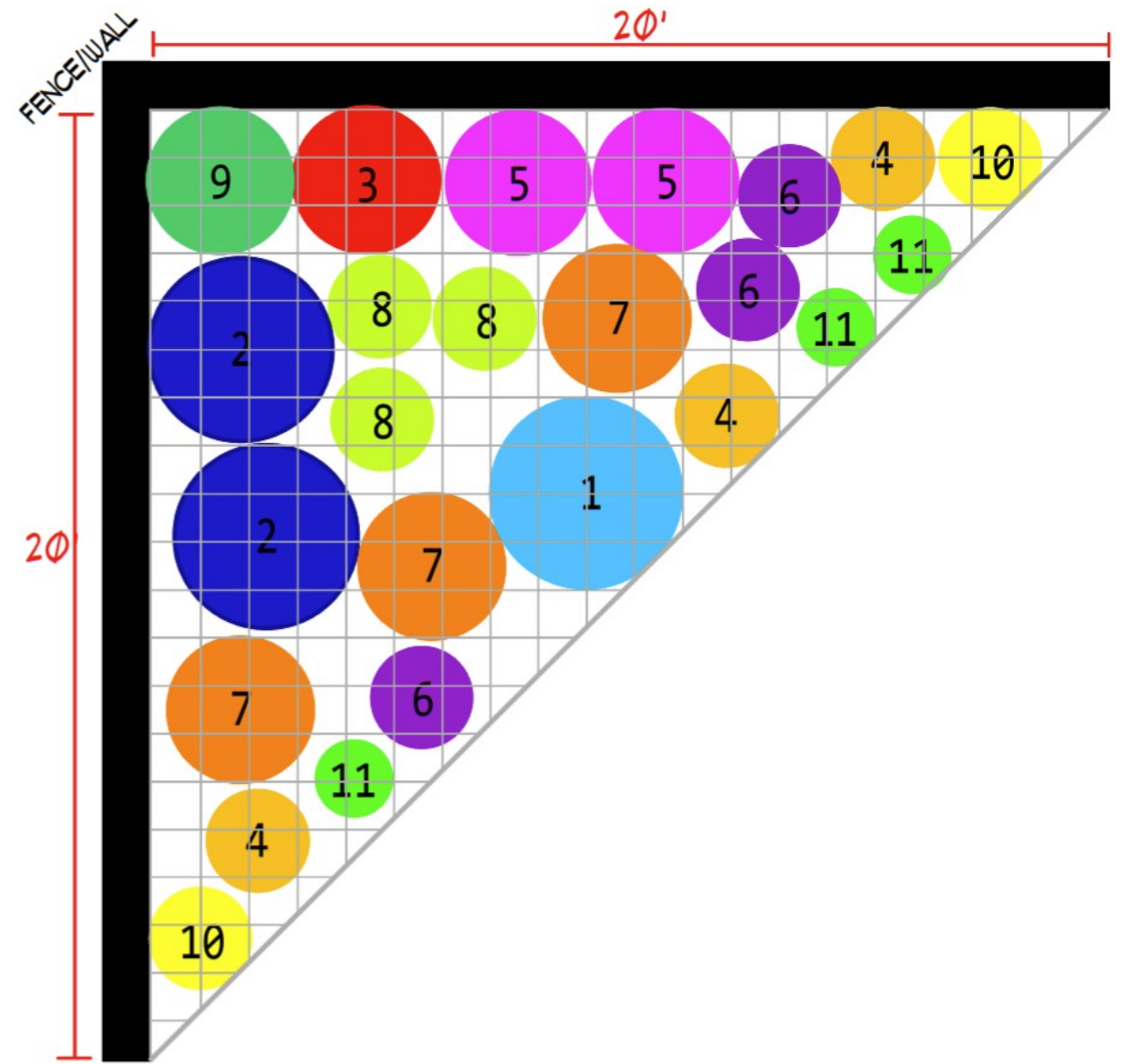
- ① Gregg's Mistflower (1)
- ② Black and Blue Salvia (2)
- ③ Turk's cap (1)
- ④ Lanceleaf Coreopsis (3),
- ⑤ Wild Bergamot (2)
- ⑥ Purple Coneflower (3)
- ⑦ Sundance Rudbeckia (3)
- ⑧ Green Milkweed (3)
- ⑨ Rattlesnake Master (1)
- ⑩ Purple Prairie Verbena (2)
- ⑪ Sinaloa Blue Sage (3)













## GREGG'S MISTFLOWER

*Conoclinium greggii*



Plant Type	Perennial	Bloom Time	Summer, Fall
Mature Height	1-2'	Character	Deciduous
Plant Spread	2-3'	Light Requirement	Full Sun, Partial Shade
Flower Color	Blue	Water Requirement	Low

### Description

If you were to choose one plant for attracting butterflies and native pollinators, Gregg's mistflower is hard to beat! Summer through fall powdery blue flower clusters almost completely cover the tops of its lacey green foliage. It is so adaptable and easy to grow, it often forms a tall groundcover which works as a virtual stop sign for fall migrating Monarchs.





## BLACK AND BLUE SALVIA

*Salvia gauranitica*



Plant Type	Perennial	Bloom Time	Summer, Fall
Mature Height	2-5'	Character	Deciduous
Plant Spread	2-5'	Light Requirement	Full Sun, Partial Shade
Flower Color	Blue	Water Requirement	Low
Description	Tall and mounding light green foliage gives rise to black stems and calyces which hood and contrast the vibrant electric blue flowers. A favorite of hummingbirds, bees and butterflies.		



## TURK'S CAP

*Malvaviscus arboreus*



Plant Type	Perennial	Bloom Time	Spring, Summer, Fall
Mature Height	3-4'	Character	Deciduous
Plant Spread	2-3'	Light Requirement	Full Sun, Partial Shade, Full Shade
Flower Color	Red	Water Requirement	Low

**Description** A Texas native shrubby perennial that produces flushes of red blooms in sun or shade. Its so easy to grow that it is often self spreading forming a tall groundcover in spots where other plants struggle.





## LANCELEAF COREOPSIS

*Coreopsis lanceolata*



Plant Type	Perennial	Bloom Time	Spring, Summer
Mature Height	1-2'	Character	Semi-evergreen
Plant Spread	1-2'	Light Requirement	Full Sun
Flower Color	Yellow, Red	Water Requirement	Low
Description	This prolific flowing native perennial is adapted to a number of sites and soil conditions and is a favorite of many bees and butterflies. Clumps of lance-shaped leaves give rise to bright yellow daisy-like flowers which can bloom spring to fall.		





## WILD BERGAMOT

*Monarda fistulosa*



Plant Type	Perennial	Bloom Time	Spring, Summer, Fall
Mature Height	2-3'	Character	Deciduous
Plant Spread	2-3'	Light Requirement	Full Sun, Partial Shade
Flower Color	Pink, Lavender	Water Requirement	Low

### Description

Also known as bee balm, this native perennial is highly adaptable and produces long blooming whorls of pink to lavender flowers that attract a number of pollinators and hummingbirds.



## PURPLE CONEFLOWER

*Echinacea purpurea*



**Plant Type** Perennial

**Mature Height** 2-3'

**Plant Spread** 1-2'

**Flower Color** Purple

**Bloom Time** Summer, Fall

**Character** Deciduous

**Light Requirement** Full Sun, Partial Shade

**Water Requirement** Low

### Description

An easy to grow adaptable perennial that produces showy flowers consisting of pink to purple drooping rays surround a spiny central cone. A favorite of bees butterflies and hummingbirds.





## SUNDANCE RUDBECKIA

*Rudbeckia grandiflora*



Plant Type	Perennial	Bloom Time	Summer, Fall
Mature Height	3-4'	Character	Deciduous
Plant Spread	2-3'	Light Requirement	Full Sun
Flower Color	Yellow	Water Requirement	Low
Description	A striking native coneflower that produces large and showy yellow blooms from summer to fall that are a favorite of people and pollinators alike.		





## GREEN MILKWEED

*Asclepias viridis*



Plant Type	Perennial	Bloom Time	Spring, Summer
Mature Height	1-3'	Character	Deciduous
Plant Spread	1-2'	Light Requirement	Full Sun
Flower Color	White, Yellow, Green	Water Requirement	Low

### Description

A native, perennial forb that serves as a host plant for Monarch butterflies. Has a spreading, open growth form with cluster forming whitish yellow flowers with purple centers that also provide nectar for a number of native butterflies and bees.



## RATTLESNAKE MASTER

*Eryngium yuccifolium*



Plant Type	Perennial	Bloom Time	Spring, Summer, Fall
Mature Height	3-5'	Character	Evergreen
Plant Spread	2-3'	Light Requirement	Full Sun
Flower Color	White	Water Requirement	Low

### Description

Often hard to find in nurseries, this striking native perennial is a bit of an enigma with its unusual yucca-like foliage and showy white thistle-like blooms. Spring, summer and fall this tough Texas native provides a striking show for both people and pollinators.





## PURPLE PRAIRIE VERBANA

*Verbena bipinnatifida*



Plant Type	Perennial	Bloom Time	Spring, Summer, Fall
Mature Height	1'	Character	Deciduous
Plant Spread	1-2'	Light Requirement	Full Sun, Partial Shade
Flower Color	Purple	Water Requirement	Low

### Description

This low-growing native perennial produces small clusters of purple to pink flowers above trailing finely cut, hairy green leaves. A number of bees and butterflies love this tough Texas native.





**SINALOAN BLUE SAGE**  
*Salvia sinaloensis*



Plant Type	Perennial	Bloom Time	Spring, Summer, Fall
Mature Height	1'	Character	Deciduous
Plant Spread	1.5'	Light Requirement	Full Sun, Partial Shade
Flower Color	Blue	Water Requirement	Low

**Description** A compact, spreading sage with slender vibrant blue spikes flowering from spring until fall. The blooms are attractive to bees and butterflies and its lovely, lance-shaped foliage takes on a purple-red tinge in cool weather.



# Picking the Right Spot

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Choose a location that works with your favorite design or use the same principals to come up with your own custom design based on your specific site conditions.

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## Pitfalls to Avoid

Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for landscapes to be over-watered, over-fertilized or over-applied with pesticides. These practices can be harmful to your landscape, our water resources, and the beneficial wildlife that call our community home. Once established, your new garden is well adapted to the climate and soils of our region and will probably need less care than you might think.

### BONUS

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Your GO N GROW garden was also designed to help provide ecological benefits in addition to helping you create a relaxing outdoor space for entertainment and recreation.

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# Selecting the Proper Location

## SUNLIGHT

The first step is to identify the spots with the proper corresponding sun or shade conditions on your property:

- The Edible Box is designed to thrive in Full Sun to Part Sun conditions.
- The Native Plant Box is designed to thrive in Full Sun to Part Sun conditions.
- The Shade Box is designed to thrive in Part Shade to Full Shade conditions.
- The Pollinator Box is designed to thrive in Full Sun to Part Sun conditions.
- Don't worry, we'll help you find the right spot in YOUR landscape!

Summer



Spring & Fall



Winter



*Avoid planting the Edible, Texas Native or Pollinator gardens in spots that receive less than 5 hours of sunlight per day. This, however, might be the perfect spot for a Shade garden!*

**When you plant your GO N GROW garden in the right spot,  
your established plants will thrive with little effort!**

## LAYING OUT YOUR GARDEN

Picking and understanding a design



### **Tools Needed for Best Results**

Tape measure, wooden stakes and string, garden hose, shovel or hand trowel, spade fork or tiller. (optional)



**Make Sure you Have Access to Water**

## COMPOST

Should be added to your soil to ensure the richest growing environment for your plants by improving your planting beds drainage, soil fertility, and pH levels.

### What Is It?

Compost is a nutrient rich soil conditioner consisting of broken-down organic material. It's not a fertilizer per se, but it works like fertilizer insurance. It's also a cure-all for many soil issues.

### How to Apply

For new beds, incorporate up to 1-2 inches of compost into the top 3-6 inches of your parent soil with a spade, shovel or tiller to improve drainage and increase your soil's nutrient availability. (If you have a sandier soil, compost can also serve to improve your soil's ability to hold water and prevent excess nutrient leaching.)

For existing landscape beds, consider topdressing with ¼ inch of compost before applying mulch.

### Purchasing

High quality finished compost can be purchased locally in bags or in bulk, but the composting process can (and should) be replicated at home! For more info on the right composting method for you, sign up for a composting class at [RootedIn.com](https://RootedIn.com)



## When

For best results, plant within 1-4 days after receiving your plants. Planting in the early morning or when temperatures cool in the evening is easier on the plants and the planter!

## Plant Spacing

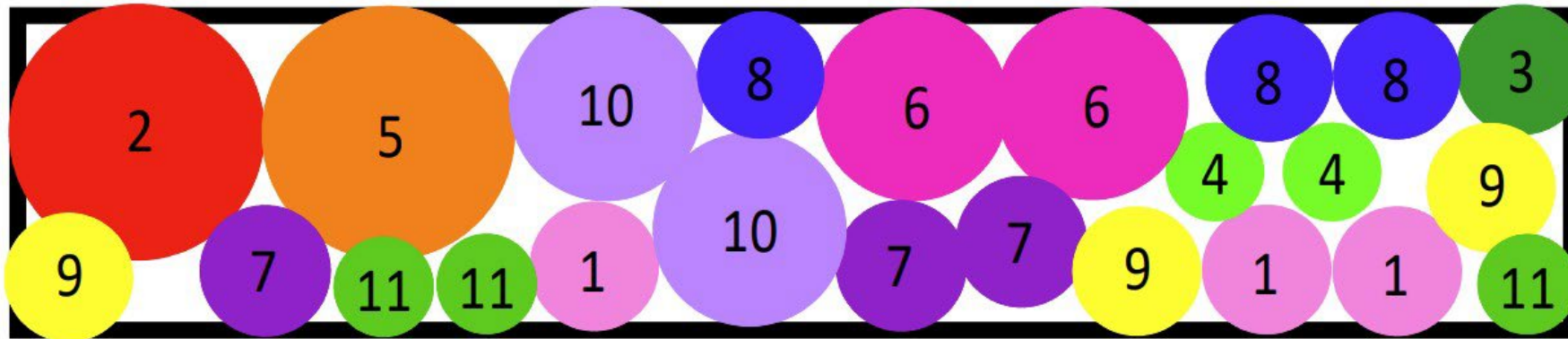
Leaving the plants in their container, first lay out each plant in their correlating spot in your design, based on the colors and numbers on each plant tag. This allows flexibility to make small adjustments as needed before they are placed in the ground. Remember, that although these plants are small now, many will grow to be 2-5 foot wide at maturity. Make sure to stick to the planting designs as much as possible to give your plants plenty of room to grow!





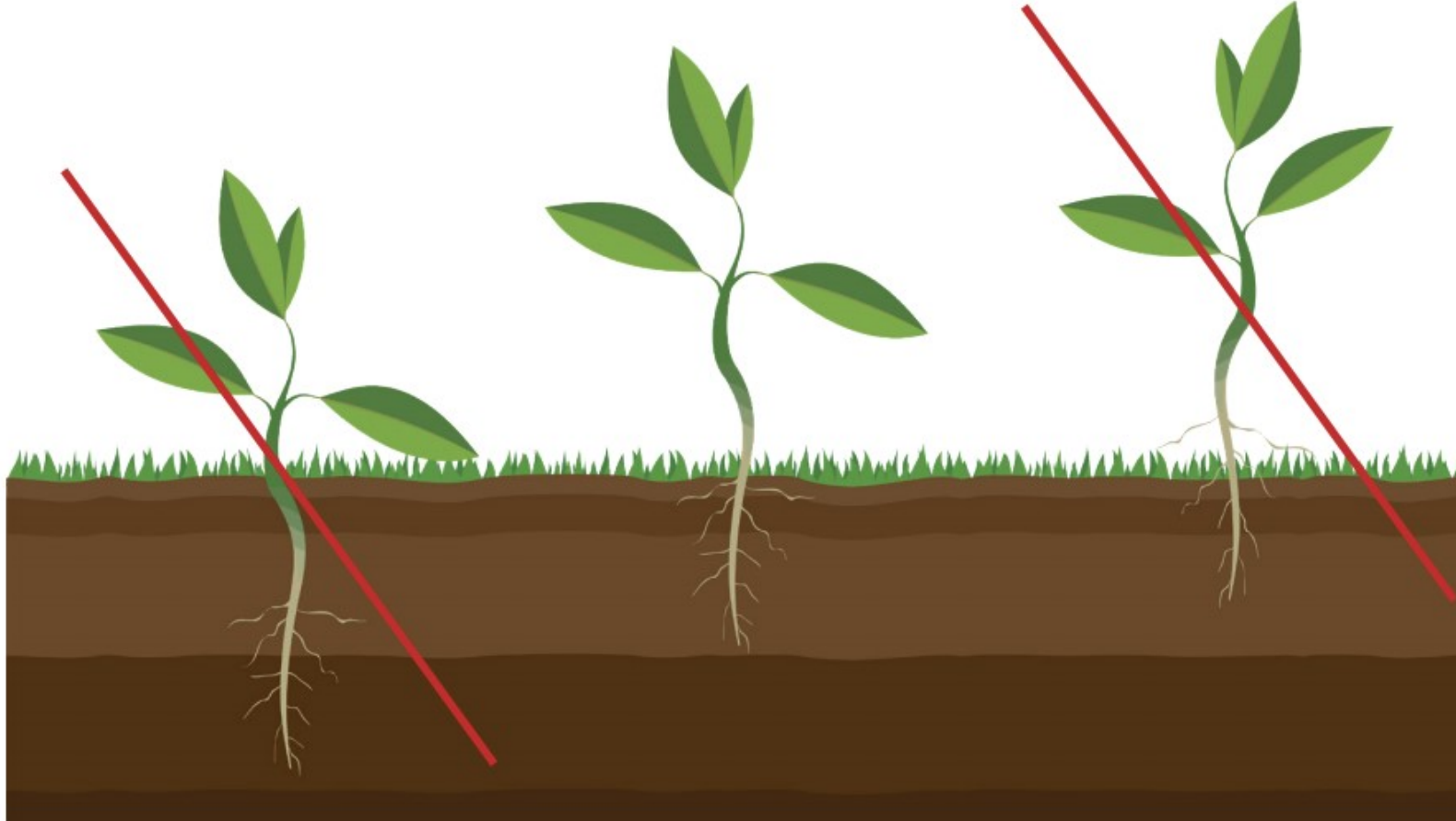
# Proper Planting

Each of the plants in your GO N GROW box contains plant tags with colors and numbers that correspond to your chosen design. The “planting by number” garden designs are easy to follow and install, but a few simple steps will help you get growing in no time.



## How to Plant

For best results, dig your holes only as deep as they are planted in the containers. Avoid planting too deep or too shallow. The holes should be dug 2 to 3 times wider than the diameter of the plant. Don't break the root ball! Simply unwrap any roots circling around in the pot.





## PLANTING TIPS

- When removing the plant from the container, squeeze the base of the container to release the plant and avoid pulling plants from their stems.
- Once your plant is placed into the hole, backfill with the native soil (previously removed from the hole) and gently push down to ensure good root to soil contact-- but avoid compacting the soil.
- Be sure to water each plant in thoroughly, ensuring adequate moisture to a depth of about 6-8 inches or about 1 inch of water.



# 2' - 4' MULCH

Incorrect



Correct



Suppresses weeds  
Buffer soil temperatures  
Help retain moisture



# Watering During Establishment

Even highly adapted and water efficient flowers and shrubs need special care during the first few months after planting. But, once your garden is established it will provide long lasting benefits to people and pollinators, with little maintenance, for years to come!



## After Planting

Soak the root zone surrounding each new plant. Hand watering works well, but any method that evenly distributes water until the soil around your plants is wet (to about 6 inches deep) is ok, too.

## Check the Moisture

Check every 3-4 days by using your finger, or better yet, a soil moisture probe to make sure that there is adequate moisture. (Or more frequently during hotter, dry weather)



# Long-term Irrigation

While it's important to pay special attention to watering your young plants for the first few seasons, one of the main benefits of the plants that have been chosen for your GO N GROW garden is that after establishment, they are each well-adapted to the unique climate of North Texas, including our sometime sporadic rainfall patterns and excessive heat!



They will still need some water from time to time, so we've got some simple watering tips to make sure your garden looks great for years to come!



WATER DEEPLY AND INFREQUENTLY

## HOW MUCH?

In general, a good rule of thumb is to irrigate with no more than 1/2" of water per week for established native and adapted perennial flowers and shrubs, like the plants included in your GO N GROW garden. When it rains, you won't need to water at ALL!

-  In-ground irrigation systems, hose-end sprinklers, hand watering and drip irrigation or soaker hoses each put water out at different rates.
-  To find out how long it takes for your system to put out 1/2" of water try the catch can test! This easy one-time step will prevent you from over (or under) watering your garden and will ensure that the water stays in the root zone where the plants can use it-- without running down the sidewalk or driveway!

WaterIsAwesome.com

# *Go N Grow Boxed Garden Fall 2021*

- 600+ Boxes in North Texas/ Round Rock
  - 2 acres of turf/less adapted plants removed?
  - Essential Needs of People and Pollinators met
  - Bare soils covered, reducing erosion
- 
- Proper planting/plants introduced
  - Watering BMP's Introduced



# Landscape Trends: Reducing Water while Growing Food for People and Pollinators

*Daniel Cunningham, Horticulturist and Co-Owner at ROOTED IN*

## Questions?

@RootedInTX

