

Some of My Favorite Plants by Karen E. Brown, PPCMG

Everything is sprouting. Spring is here. We all need something to do to get us out of the house and still be at a distance from others. What a great time to work on flower beds. The local nursery would love your business. If you are unable to get out, then grab a pencil and paper and start planning some improvements or changes in your bedding choices. We all have our favorites but it is always good to experiment with some you haven't tried before. I have been trying out more evergreens and some cactus or desert plants. Since we don't know how wet the upcoming summer will be, let's try to zero in on drought tolerant plants. That generally does not include shade plants, so we will save those for another discussion. Split your plants into categories. Perennials come back each year and usually die to the ground for the winter. Annuals are just good for the year you plant them. And then there are shrubs and plants that stay green all year, evergreens. It is a good plan to have some of each category in your landscape. Here are some of my favorites:

Perennials

salvias of all kinds but mainly *Salvia greggii*, comes in many colors of bloom

Zexmenia

4 nerve daisy

Turk's cap, comes in three colors

Lantana, comes in several types. Trailing (purple) comes back the best.

Texas gold columbine, which is more of a shade plant but is very tough and will take some sun, just not west sun.

Iris, which is a bulb but does come back, so I am putting it here. They make a nice change of texture for your beds. Bearded is my favorite.

Annuals

Prairie verbena, which may come back from seed.

Petunia and its miniature cousin *Calibrachoa*

Gerber daisy, which comes in lots of colors

Gaillardia, which is a type of native wildflower but comes in numerous hybrids that look great.

Basil, several types

Evergreens

Low growing junipers or spruces

Rosemary, comes in a prostrate form or the standard ones. Some types get very large.

Creeping one will die in a bad cold snap.

Santolina, comes in a green or gray variety. Has a small yellow flower. A good border plant

Dwarf yaupon

Yaupon holly

Nellie R Stevens holly if you want something huge

Herbs

Mint, lots of varieties

Mexican mint Marigold

Deciduous

Vitex

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Desert Willow, comes in several sizes and types
Red bud, comes in several varieties
Crape Myrtles, which come in many sizes and colors

Cactus type
Yucca, several types
Agave, which comes in various sizes

That is just a brief list of my favorites right now. I have many more that are not listed but need another article to list. Questions? Call the Palo Pinto Co. Extension office at 940-659-1228. If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener, call and find out about the class coming up.