

# Welcome to Plant Selection 2025



# Agenda

Plant what you like

- Sun
- Space
- Soil
- Zone
- Maintenance requirements
- Color and time of year for blooms
- Native or Exotic
- Annual or Perennial
- References

# Plant what you Like

- Select a variety that is adapted to your conditions
  - Some ornamental varieties have varieties that can do well in different environments
  - An example are hydrangeas panicle hydrangea are full sun, Annabelle hydrangea do well in partial shade and oak leaf hydrangea tolerate shade well.
  - Knockout and playboy roses do well in partial shade.
- Some shade plants do well in full sun if they are well watered

# Light Levels I

- Full Sun
  - Minimum of six hours of direct sun light, more is better
- Part shade
  - Four to six hours of direct sun
- Full Shade
  - Less than four hours of full sun

# Light Levels II

- Additional Thing to keep in mind
- Light levels change during the year
  - Short days in winter
  - Angle of the sun changes, higher in the summer
  - As trees leaf out sun patterns can change
- Tree growth over a few years may reduce summer sun



# Space Requirements

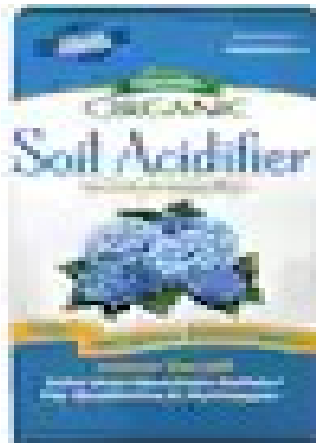
- When planting think ahead to what the mature size will be, some trees and shrubs labeled dwarf are actually slow growing and will reach the same size as regular tree just takes several years
- Don't plant too close to buildings, sidewalks or driveways. Roots reach out as far as the drip line
- Be aware of the shade created, may affect nearby plants





# Soil Considerations

- Soil test strongly recommended
  - Take soil sample to extension office
  - Complete information indicate what kind of plant sample is for
- Ph optimal Ph will vary depending on plant species
- Type of soil
  - Soil can be amended by adding:
    - Compost or mulch for organic matter and to loosen clay
    - Fine tree bark also loosens soil and may lower Ph
    - Lime lowers Ph sulfur compounds raise Ph
    - Clay to increase water retention.



# Plant Zone

- We are in zone 8a
- The higher the zone number the warmer the weather the plant needs
  - Applies to both annuals and perennials
- Most plants are labeled with zones in which they will grow
- Perennial plants for warmer zones will need to be taken indoors for the winter



# Maintenance

- Plants require different levels of maintenance
  - Maintenance tasks include pruning, weeding, disease control, insect control, fertilizing and proper watering
- Example of high maintenance plant are roses
- A plant that requires a low level are daffodils
- Generally native plants require less maintenance than exotics



# Color and Bloom Season

- Different varieties of the same plant may have different bloom colors
  - Generally bloom color is on the label or listed in the description for on line sellers
- For year round color plant plants that bloom at different time of the year
  - In our zone plants can be selected that will bloom year round





# What is an Invasive Plant

- A plant species that is non-native to a specific geographic area, was introduced intentionally or unintentionally, and does or can cause harm to the environment, economy, or humans.
- Most non native or exotic plants are not invasive
- Some common invasive plants in this area are
  - English ivy, privet, kudzu, Japanese wisteria and bamboo.



# Native Plants

- Pro

- Generally easier to grow
- Cheaper to maintain
  - Less fertilizer and water
- Provide food for pollinators and birds
- Preserve biodiversity
- Available for both shade and sun

- Con

- Limits choices
- Can look unkempt
- May attract unwanted wildlife

# Exotic Plants

- Pros

- Increase choices
- May not be as inviting to unwanted wildlife
- May have resistance to local disease

- Cons

- May be invasive
- May require additional maintenance
- May not attract beneficial insects and birds
- May carry disease and parasites damaging to native plants

# Annuals

- Pros

- Allow change of plants seasonally
- Bloom quicker
- Easier to plant
- Tend to bloom longer, if deadheaded and more profusely than perennials
- Easier to grow
- Cost less initially

- Cons

- Need to be replanted every season
  - Some self reseed.
- More sensitivity to improper watering
- More prone to pests



Marigold



Zinnia



Begonia



Sunflower

# Perennials

- Pros

- Last for several years
- A perennial garden can be planned to bloom year round
- Easier to maintain
  - Especially if mulched
- Can be propagated from cuttings
- Protect soil from erosion

- Cons

- Cost more to start
- Take more time to establish
- Can spread to unwanted areas
  - Even some native perennials can spread aggressively
- Can require more space



Black-Eyed  
Susan/ rebecca



Milkweed



Hosta



Aster



# References I

- The following references include both sun and shade plants
- Specific Plants
  - <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/>
- For small spaces
  - <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C999&title=great-plants-under-20-feet-for-small-spaces>
- Annuals
  - <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B954&title=flowering-annuals-for-georgia-gardens>

# References II

- Perennials
  - <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B944&title=flowering-perennials-for-georgia-gardens>
- Trees, Shrubs and Vines
  - <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B625&title=landscape-plants-for-georgia>
- Native plants
  - <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B1339&title=native-plants-of-north-georgia-a-photo-guide-for-plant-enthusiasts>

# Thank You

- Questions