

Weekly Column for this week: 01-11-10
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Annual Flowers in the Landscape

In last week's article, I discussed perennial flowers for the landscape. This week I would like to address annual flowers. They are certainly a great possibility for the yard and come in a variety of colors and shapes. As your garden planning continues, you may want to consider including some annuals, or using all annuals depending on the types of flowers you desire for your yard.

Annuals complete their entire life cycle in one year, unlike the perennial that will go dormant and then come back into bloom for 3 years or longer. Despite this shorter life span, annuals come in so many varieties and can add tremendous color and effect to the yard. For this reason, they are still sought after for landscaping and gardening projects.

When working with annuals, many factors need to be taken into consideration such as location, soil preparation, and watering to name a few. Flowering annuals usually do best in an area that has full sun. Also, well drained soil that does not pool water would also be ideal. There are some annuals that do better in shade, so be sure to know what type of annuals you have because too much sun exposure for some plants can cause the leaves to scorch.

Annuals can provide many possibilities for the lawn and garden. They can be planted among perennials or used to fill in spaces between other plants. You can find a list of annuals on the web at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-080.pdf>. You can also go to <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-99W.pdf> to find information on the proper care of annuals such as fertilizer use, watering, and soil preparation.

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