

Easy Care Flowers for Kansas Resources

Why plant flowers? Increase perceived home value, create habitat for wildlife, improve physical and mental health

Utilize plants that do well in Kansas

- K-State Extension Plant Trials
 - [Prairie Star Annuals – MF2769](#)
 - [Prairie Bloom Perennials – MF2772](#)
- [Kansas Roots](#)
- [Planting Natives in Northeast Kansas](#)
- [Shawnee County Extension Master Gardeners Demonstration Gardens](#)

Plant Life Cycles

- Annuals – must replant annually
- Perennials – come back for more than one growing season

Native Plants

- “A plant that is a part of the balance of nature that has developed over hundreds or thousands of years in a particular region or ecosystem...”
- Grow with minimal help and support native wildlife

Sun Exposure

- Full Sun – 6+ hours of sun
- Part Sun – 4-6 hours of sun
- Part Shade - <4 hours of sun
- Full Shade – no direct sun

At the nursery, find plants that are compact, well-branched, and free of pest or disease sign

Planting

- Annuals – after danger of frost
- Perennials and Native Plants – spring or fall

Mulching

- Conserves moisture and keeps soil temperature consistent
- 2-3” layer is plenty
- Organic is best

Watering

- Deep, infrequent irrigation
- Drip tubes and soaker hoses

Fertilizing

- Annuals – fertilize every 2-4 weeks, 8-20% nitrogen, 3-1-2 nutrient ratio
- Perennials – annually with a balanced fertilizer, avoid over fertilization
- Native Plants – generally not needed
- [Conduct a soil test to learn what nutrients are needed](#)

Dividing Perennials and Native Plants

- Reduces crowding and keeps them where you want
- Generally every 3-5 years
- Usually do this in spring after new growth emerges
 - Iris – late summer
 - Daylily – late summer/early fall
 - Peony – early fall
- Dig around the clump, remove as much soil as possible, cut or pull apart into 3-5 growing point sections, replant and share with friends

Other Maintenance

- Weeding
 - Mulch will help with weed pressure
 - By hand once plants are established
- Deadheading
 - More important on annuals
 - Forces plant to focus on producing more flowers

Thank you for your attendance, happy gardening!

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