# Right Plant in the Right Place

Planting Annual Flowers For Water Conservation



### Goals and Focus

• Learn How To Use Annual Flowers As Part Of Your Water Conservation Plan



# Water Conservation Priorities in the Landscape

• When needing to conserve water in the landscape, follow the priorities listed below to protect your investment.

1) Water your trees deep.

- 2) Then water your shrubs and other woody plants
- 3) Next, water your perennials.
- 4) Then, water your annual flowers
- 5) Last water your lawn.
- These priorities are based on value added to your property, investment of time needed to reach maturity, and cost/ease of replacement.



# Benefits of planting annual flowers

- Provide striking color for majority of the growing season.
- Allow your yard to differ from year to year.
- Effective weed control
- Great for pollinators





### What Is An Annual Flower?



- Any plant that will not survive for one full year is considered an annual plant
- Any plant that you do not want to keep in the same place for more than one year
- Perennials (Just not here.)

# Planning, Prepping, and Planting

- Use plants with differing heights, colors textures and be intentional about plant placement.
- Flower catalogs are your best friend
- Decide on a color palette
- Design Principles
  - Balance
  - Repetition
  - Emphasis/Dominance
  - Contrast
  - Proportion
  - Movement
  - Negative/white space



# Planning, Prepping, and Planting

- In pots, use "Thrill, Fill, Spill" method
- Plant high density
- Pots require A LOT of attention in the heat

Thrill plants:	Fill plants:	Spill plants:
Grasses Angelonia Snapdragon Dracena Canna Lilies Bananas Amaranthus Cleome Coleus Salvia	Petunias Verbena Lantana Osteospermum Euphorbia Bidens Coleus Geraniums Begonia Salvia	Fuschia Verbena Ipomea Creeping Jenny Dichondra Ornamental Mint Ornamental Oregano



# Planning, Prepping, and Planting

- Compost is your friend
  - Supplement with fast release garden fertilizer
  - Be careful with "hot" composts and those with higher salt content. Plant based are best.
- Fertilize with a balanced slow release fertilizer. Osmicote.
- Roto-till for ease in planting
- Set up irrigation system for annual flowers
  - Can use in-line drip hose.
    - Make sure to be able to remove.
  - If possible, set up different zone for annuals.



# Where to Plant?

- Best to plant annuals as accents.
  - Draw attention to what you want seen in your yard.
  - Border plantings.

• Pots





# What To Plant: Right Plant in the Right Place



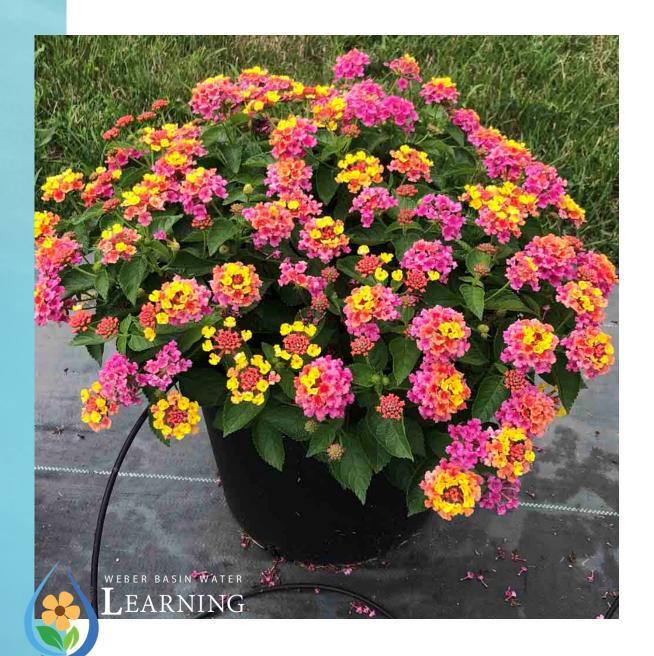
- Plant drought tolerant annuals
- Perennials as annuals
- Some non-typical plants can be used ornamentally.

Shown here: Marigold, Celocia and Bulls Blood Beet



# EXAMPLES





### LANTANA

2 types: Mounding and Trailing

Perennial woody shrub in tropical areas. Can winter indoors in very sunny conditions.

Fragrant flowers (Passion fruit) and crushed leaves (Citrus)

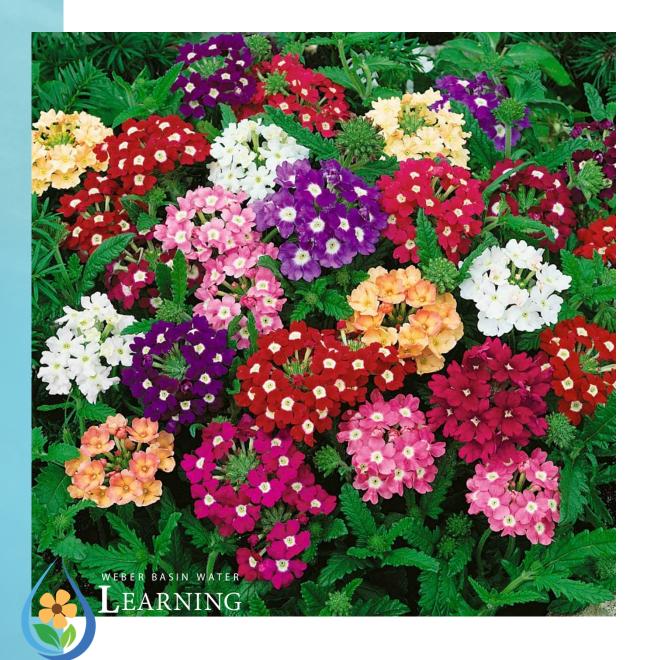
Multiple colors: Y, R, Pi, Pu, O, B



#### AMARANTHUS

- Very tall (5') generally narrow multi-stemmed plant
- Can reseed easily
- Grown for foliage





### VERBENA

- Commonly found as a low growing prostrate plant
- Great alternative to petunias
- Deadhead for prolific blooms
- Pinch back 1/3 of plant before July 15<sup>th</sup>.



### EUPHORBIA

- Mounding plant with wispy white flowers
- No problems. Plant and forget



### GOMPHRENA

- Upright habit.
- Fun continuous bloom
- No deadheading required
- Dwarf varieties and tall varieties
- White, Pink, Purple, Red





### CLEOME

- Upright habit.
- No deadheading required
- Dwarf varieties and tall varieties
- White, Pink, Purple



#### Scaevola

- Inverted mound habit.
- No deadheading required
- Native to the Outback of Australia
- White, Pink, Purple

# Thank you for attending this class!

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