Starter Plants

These tried-and-true plants are perfect for first-time gardeners and sure to be show stoppers!

Annuals:
Marigold, Zinnia (post-1860), Four O’Clock, Heart’s Ease (Johnny Jump-Up), Poppies, Nasturtium, Sweet Pea

Perennials:
Peony, Oxalis, Chrysanthemums, Sweet William, Rudbeckia (Black-Eyed Susan), Hollyhock (bloom bi-annually)

Bulbs:
Narcissus, Daffodils, Crinums, Hyacinths, White or Light Blue Irises, Tiger Lilies, Oxblood Lilies (post-1870)

Hardy Vines:
Cypress Vine (Can Take Over), Purple Hyacinth Bean, Honeysuckle, Passion Flower (Native - But Takes Over)

Contact Us

Laura Fisher
Educator/Interpreter
Barrington Plantation SHS
laura.fisher@thc.texas.gov

Nicole Shadle
Lead Educator/Interpreter
San Felipe de Austin SHS
nicole.shadle@thc.texas.gov

Developing a Landscaping Plan for Your Historic Site

Elegant Authenticity
Starter Questions

To help start your journey developing a landscaping plan, answer the following questions:

1. What time period am I representing?
2. Are there any historic sources related to how my specific site looked?
3. If not, what are similar sites doing? What is fashionable in my time period and how might that translate to my site’s story?
4. What can I or my team reasonably maintain?
5. Will critters such as rabbits or deer be a problem for me?

Once you have an idea of what’s possible, take into consideration your Plant Hardiness Zone, sunniness/shadiness of your planned garden space, and budget for the project. This will help determine flowers and plants that will successfully grow in your space!

Helpful Resources

Primary Sources

Hovey & Co.’s Illustrated Guide to the Flower and Vegetable Garden, 1874

A Treatise on Domestic Economy - Catherine Beecher, 1845

American Woman’s Home - Catherine Beecher Stowe, 1869

Every Woman Her Own Flower Gardener - S.O. Johnson, 1874

The Young Gardener’s Assistant - Thomas Bridgeman, 1847

The Family-Kitchen Gardener - Robert Buist, 1847

The Ladies’ Magazine for Gardening - Jane Wells Webb Loudon, 1842


Secondary Sources


Gardens and Plants of the Antebellum South - James Colhoun, 2003

Yesterday’s Plants for Today’s Gardens: Heirloom Gardening in the South - William C. Welch and Greg Grant, 2011

The Victorian Garden - Allison Leopold, 1995

Restoring American Gardens - Denise Adams, 2009

Gardening with Heirloom Seeds - Lynn Coultier, 2006

Seed and Plant Companies

Seed Savers Exchange
seed savers.org

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds
tareseeds.com

Select Seeds
selectseeds.com

Southern Exposure Seed Exchange
southernexposure.com

Antique Rose Emporium
antiqueroseemporium.com