

Fall Color

By: Melinda Sperl

Fall in the South is filled with gray overcast days and brown yards. We don't get a lot of color changes and adding a splash of color can provide a cheery spot for dreary winter days. Some choices are listed here but are certainly not limited to these.

Dianthus is a staple in Houston landscapes for areas with sun or light shade. These plants come in many varieties of colors, from light pink, bright red, purple, white and variegated. Normal height ranges from 6-12" but the Amazon series is my current favorite and comes in bright neon colors and grow to 24" tall.

Chrysanthemums are perennial in our area which means they can be left in the ground to live year round. They are acid lovers and grow well with azaleas and pecan trees. They give you a good spring and fall bloom full of pink, purple, orange or yellow.

Pansies and their smaller versions, Viola's, are a great cool weather plant. They require bright sun, well drained soil, and a good soluble fertilizer. They can be prone to fungus to watch for brown or yellowing leaves. Alyssum has a small white flower that is great for borders and grows about 8" tall. White is a great garden accent and reflects light making it the only plant you can see in your flowerbeds at night.

Don't be shy about adding fall color as many of our plants will last until through most freezes and last until early spring or more.

Melinda Sperl is the owner of Dream Landscape Design, Inc., a full service landscape and irrigation company. You can reach Melinda at 281-744-2669 or www.dreamlandscapedesign.com