



How to choose plants for your garden

What to look for when choosing plants at a nursery:

- **Disease and signs of stress** – Avoid plants with wilt, yellow or misshapen leaves, leaves with spots, drooping or dried out leaves, and obvious signs of insects.
- **Variety in size** – This ensures that plants were not treated with regulating growth hormones.
- **Soil moisture content** – Make sure the plants you are purchasing are not bone dry or soaking wet.
- **Soil requirements** – Make sure the plants you are purchasing are suitable for your planting location.



What to consider when choosing plants:

- **Seasons** – Consider the bloom time and select different varieties to enjoy flowers all season.
- **Sensory plants** – Not only do they smell good; they are also edible and can be used in recipes and teas. Some examples include rosemary, oregano, basil, aloe, lemon balm and lavender.
- **Pollinator plants** – Not only are they visually appealing, they attract hummingbirds, butterflies and bees, which are critical in the flower-pollination process. Some examples include bee balm, salvia, verbena, echinacea, milkweed, butterfly bushes and trumpet vines.
- **Sun or shade requirements** – Plants that can tolerate the sun include lemon verbena, cosmos, marigolds, geraniums, sedum and salvia. Shade-loving plants include ferns, hostas, astilbe, dead nettle and bleeding heart.
- **Perennials** – Unlike annuals, perennial flowers, shrubs and trees don't have to be replanted every year. Perennials can be divided and planted in other areas or traded with family and friends for other varieties.

