

Plants with year-long interest for NE Louisiana

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In my gardening experience, I have come to learn there are some plants that just perform their hearts out, year-long, with little care or attention from me. That is my kind of plant: tough, attractive & low maintenance. Here is a list of a few plants that meet at least 3 of the below 4 criteria for outstanding performance in our region:

Plant	Frost tolerant	Long/numerous blooming periods	Heat tolerant	Low maintenance	Notes:
Blue Salvia	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Blanket Flower	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Homestead Purple Verbena	✓	✓	✓		Requires cutting back/thinning
Flax lily	✓		✓	✓	Foliage plant
Gaura	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Purple Coneflower	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lemon Sedum	✓		✓	✓	Foliage plant
Coral Bell	✓		✓	✓	Foliage plant
Creeping jenny	✓		✓	✓	Foliage plant
Stokes aster	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Asparagus fern	✓		✓	✓	Foliage plant
*snapdragon	✓	✓		✓	Not tolerant of summer heat
*petunia	✓	✓		✓	Not tolerant of summer heat

**I will say this about snapdragons & petunias: although they are technically annuals in our region, when planted in the right microclimate, they will act as short-lived perennials. So, if you have one or two that are performing exceptionally well at the start of the summer, and you just cannot bear to pull them up, just leave them. Dead head old blooms, fertilize lightly, water heavily, and if it survives the intensity of the summer, it will most definitely survive the winter. Enjoy watching it spring back to life when everything else is going into dormancy.*



Figure 1. blue salvia



Figure 2. blanket flower

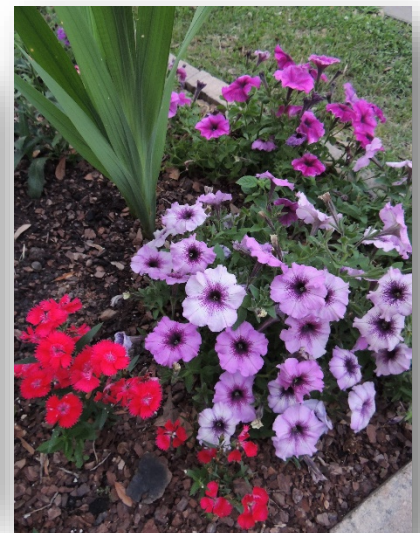


Figure 3. petunias



Figure 4. verbena



Figure 5. pink gura



Figure 6. coral bell



Figure 7. purple coneflower

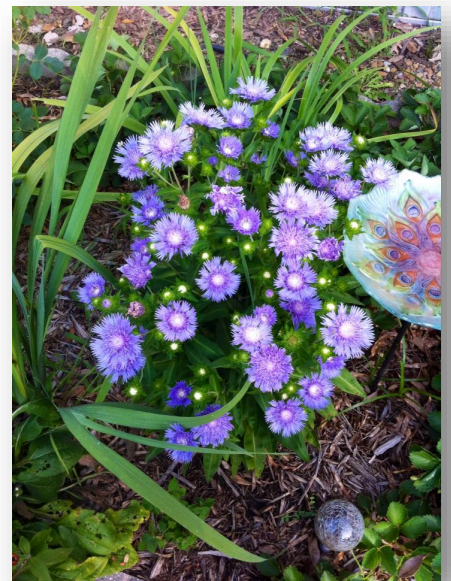


Figure 6. Stokes aster



Figure 9. snapdragon



Figure 10. creeping jenny