

Timely Tip for May Gardeners

This month is a good time for planting ground covers either as a lawn or in other locations of your landscape. Now is the time for planting seed or sod for your lawn grasses. Bermuda grass has the best traffic tolerance, and requires full sun to prosper. It is very drought tolerant. St. Augustine grass has the most shade tolerance, but is the least drought tolerant and is most susceptible to diseases, insects and iron chlorosis.

Other ground cover plants should be used where grass is difficult to grow or maintain. These can range from low growing evergreen shrubs, vines, grasses, perennials and even annual color. Groundcovers can provide solutions to a landscaping challenge or just add a bit of much needed texture and color. They help to define space and create various moods. Small leaved, smooth textured groundcovers used in broad curved plantings can convey a feeling of spaciousness. Whereas large leaved coarse textured groundcovers create a feeling of closeness.

Selection of a suitable plant for ground cover depends on the area where it will be grown. Some ground cover plants prefer partial shade, others thrive in deep shade or full sun; a few grow well in either sun or shade. Some, however, prefer moist soil while others need dry or well-drained soil.

Check out our collection of STEPABLES® which are tough, earth-friendly, easy-to-maintain perennials that take foot traffic. You can find the perfect plant for your needs within this group!

Join us in May for a variety of free clinics. In keeping on topic, our clinic for **Saturday, May 16th** is titled, “**Covering Ground with Ground Covers.**” Visit www.mytexasgarden.com for a complete listing and details of our free clinics. Have a wonderful May!