

Ready! Set! Grow!

By: Lindsey Rosenbalm

Imagine coming home after a long day and being greeted by bright, cheerful flowers blooming in your yard or beautiful pottery. Envision planting a rainbow; Hues in your garden can reflect an alluring beauty for entire seasons, even years!

Spring is a great time for preparing beds and planting your flowers because it allows an entire growing season to root and establish before facing harsh summer months. Spring's gentle warmth, frequent showers and mild temperature create an environment of perfection for your new plants.

Consider transforming your garden with an ever-changing display of color using annuals and perennials. Annuals, which can be used to fill beds, containers or borders, provide brilliant shades and can last for multiple seasons. Perennials, which are perfect for low-maintenance gardens, can be planted once and left to grow for coming years without replanting.

The array of flowers available to gardeners now is greater than ever. Since south Louisiana has its own unique weather patterns, ask your local home and garden center specialists for LSU Ag Center's Louisiana Super Plants. These are varieties well established for our Acadiana temperatures!


When you're equipped for planting, consider stimulating root growth and flowering with bone meal. To stimulate foliage for all plants, consider blood meal. Both require only a handful. For a slow, seasonal release of plant food and nourishment for any greenery, use Osmocote. Organic fertilizers are also positive because they breakdown and replenish the soil for the next year's planting time. Using mulch in your flowerbed will help keep moisture in and weeds out. Always utilize mulch for seasonal planting. An easy way to ensure easy planting is to lay down mulch first then dig in and plant in your rainbow.

The new 2013 year is showcasing appealing new themes to add inspiration to your space. Consider integrating pottery pieces into your



garden and/or landscaping. A new popular shape this season is square pottery and can add character among traditional round pots. Feel imaginative? Mix-match your pots with your plants.

Disappearing fountains are also trendy and can be a great focal point for your area. You can purchase your ideal shape/size/color "disappearing" water fountain, and plant it so that the bottom area is buried. This leaves only the circulating water visible to create an interesting focal point.

Whether you are preparing for your first gardening area or refreshing your existing space, make it memorable, lasting, and "blooming" with inspiration! 

About the author: Lindsey Rosenbalm is the Marketing Coordinator at All Seasons Home & Gardens Showplace, located at 2974 Johnston Street in Lafayette.

Shown above, left to right: Pottery Display - A popular 2013 trend is to incorporate square pottery pieces into your landscape. Mix and match shapes, sizes and textures to create your eye-catching vision.

Louisiana Super Plants - Your local home and garden center should carry Louisiana Super Plants, such as the Shishi Gashira Camellia, which flourish in our Acadiana weather.

Fertilizers - Consider nourishing, stimulating flowering, foliage and/or root growth, and replenishing the soil using blood and/or bone meal Osmocote, and organic fertilizers.