



Seasonal Color: More Than a Great Color Scheme

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When you drive or walk by a beautiful bed of annuals in front of a business or neighborhood, you may assume the great color scheme was the first decision in the planning process. Guess again.

With the primary objective of planting beds that will prosper April through October, the first consideration is hardiness of the plant. Plants that look great in April with spring showers and moderate temperatures need to survive the hot and dry conditions of July, and still look great in October. Sun exposure and water supply are also important in supporting the hardiness of the plant.

The second consideration *is* color, as well as texture. Admittedly, color can be a personal preference; however if getting noticed is a priority, some combination of chartreuse, yellow, red and blue will be in your design. Bold blocks of color are striking in drive-by beds while mixes are more appropriate around walkways. Also important in color selection is blending plant color with permanent color around the bed, such as a building.

Plant height also plays an important role in adding visual interest in a colorful bed and is the third consideration. Careful thought has to be given to how tall a plant may grow so at its peak it does not block signage or the view of drivers. Shape goes with height. The more structure a plant has, the more formal it looks. However, many drought-resistant plants have less structure, less formality.

Lastly and arguably most importantly, is an aspect of seasonal color you don't see – the soil. What is below ground is as important as what is above ground. If the soil isn't prepared properly, the planting may not produce the size plants, blooms or color desired.

All of these elements play important roles in the design of a healthy bed full of fabulous color, and as you might guess again, can transform a tired property into an award-winning landscape.

To learn more about adding shots of annual color to your landscape, contact NatureScapes today at (770) 923-7023.