

BCMGA Spring Plant Sale  
By: Jackie Sledge  
Member of the Big Country Master Gardeners

It is officially spring, and that means the Big Country Master Gardener Association Spring Plant Sale is almost here! The Master Gardeners have been busily preparing for this annual event.

We came through the record-breaking high temperatures and extremely dry conditions in the summer of 2022, and many trees, shrubs, and plants that had been weakened by the previous couple of winters were unable to survive the heat and drought. BCMGA will be ready to help with plants that will survive – and thrive – in the Big Country so your landscape will be beautiful and enjoyable again.

All the plants available for the Spring Plant Sale will be advertised online, allowing you to see and learn about the plants, make your selections, and pay for the plants. You can place your order online April 12, April 13, and until noon on April 14. You will be given a time to pick up your order on the afternoon of April 14 between 2:00 and 6:00 at the Modern Living Mall on the Expo Center grounds.

On Saturday, April 15, we will have an in-person sale from 8:00-12:00 in the Modern Living Mall – like we have had for years. During the sale on Saturday, you will have the opportunity to shop in person to purchase plants left after the online sale ends.

We will have plants in all categories available for purchase – annuals, perennials, vines, shrubs, succulents, grasses, herbs, vegetables, etc. The plants selected for the sale are cultivars that do well in our hot, dry West Texas climate, but we also looked for plants that survived the freezing temperatures we had the last couple of years.

Here are some of the plants we will have:

- Flame Acanthus – Anisacanthus. This is a familiar and hardy perennial; we will have the Dark Orange/Red variety.
- Daylily – Hemerocallis. These are wonderful additions to the landscape, we will have the Happy Returns Yellow, Purple D'Oro, and Stella D'Oro Golden Yellow varieties available for sale.
- Salvias – *Salvia greggii*, *Salvia farinacea*, *Salvia microphylla*, *Salvia romeriana*, and *Salvia nemerosa*. There will be the varieties listed and various colors of salvias available to provide you with hardy, easily grown pollinator plants for your landscape.
- Bee Balm – *Monarda*. These plants add a lot of color to the landscape, and the flowers attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.
- Yarrow – *Achillea*. There will be several colors available in this low-maintenance plant. It loves full sun, doesn't need to be fertilized, and has an extremely low water requirement.

- Hosta. The varieties that will be available include red, yellow with green edge, green with yellow edge, tall green, and dwarf.
- Turk's Cap – Malvaviscus. We will have both red and pink Turk's Cap.
- Jerusalem Sage – Phlomis fruticosa. This is a great perennial for our area.
- Lantana – Lantana montevidensis. This is another very hardy plant, and we will have New Gold, Trailing Lavender, and Trailing White varieties.
- Annuals. There will be a variety of annuals to provide lots of color in your landscape during the spring, summer, and into the fall. Some examples are dianthus, geraniums, impatiens, pentas, and vinca.
- Vegetables. We will have a variety of vegetable plants ready to be put in your garden.

Please watch the Big Country Master Gardener Association Facebook page for the list of available plants as well as online and in-person sale information. There will also be a link to the Spring Plant Sale on our website at [bcmgtx.org](http://bcmgtx.org). This is a great opportunity to purchase plants that will do well in our area.

The Big Country Master Gardener Association will have two free educational programs this month. There will be a program on irrigation on April 14 at 10:00 at the Abilene Public Library main location. We will have the Master Gardener Saturday Seminar on propagation from 9:00 to 12:00 on April 29 in the Taylor County Extension Office Conference Room, and there will be a hands-on project in addition to the training.

If you have any questions, call the Taylor County Extension Office at 325-672-6048 or email us at [mgardeners@yahoo.com](mailto:mgardeners@yahoo.com). We hope you will visit our Facebook page as well as our website at [bcmgtx.org](http://bcmgtx.org) for all Big Country Master Gardener information and events.