Plants to Grow Confidence

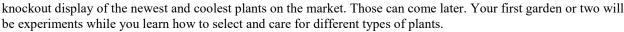
BENEFICIAL LANDSCAPES

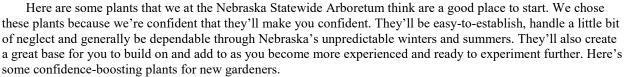
Sarah Buckley

If you want to learn how to garden, plants are the best teachers and the best way to start is to just go ahead and plant. Choose your space carefully, you will want to plant it where you will visit often and where you will enjoy working. Observation throughout the year is a good way to really understand plants and what they need.

Start small and buy enough plants to get the ground covered so weeds don't overwhelm you. Space your plants so that when they are mature they will be touching, or even overlapping a little, and covering the ground. In the meantime, use mulch to slow down weeds and keep the soil from drying out too quickly.

Your first garden doesn't need to be perfect, it needs to bloom, bring you joy and grow your confidence as a gardener. Don't worry about planting a picture perfect native garden, a brilliantly designed landscape or a





PERENNIALS

Aster or Symphyotrichum (sun)

Beebalm, Monarda (sun)

Black-eyed Susan, Rudbeckia (sun)

Coneflower, Echinacea (sun)

Coreopsis (sun)

Daylily, Hemerocallis (part shade)

Golden Alexander, Zizia (part shade)

Hosta (shade)

Salvia (sun)

Sedum (sun)

Yarrow, Achillea (sun)

GRASSES

Blue grama, Bouteloua gracilis

Feather Reed Grass, Calamagrostis

Sedge or Carex, especially fox, Pennsylvania and palm

Switchgrass, Panicum

Meanwhile, for experienced gardeners and plant collectors wanting something new for their gardens, all the plants listed above plus 700 more will be available at the largest plant sale in the Midwest, Spring Affair April 26-27 in Lincoln. See full plant list at https://plantnebraska.org/connect/events/spring-affair.html

Sarah Buckley, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

CUTLINE: Golden alexander is a rarely used native with deep green foliage and bright yellow flowers May into June. It adapts to a wide range of soil types, sunshine and moisture and will slowly spread.

