

Griffin's Greenhouses

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Tips for Business Beautification

Plants to Use:

Geraniums - long lasting bloom, vibrant colour, once-a-week deadheading
Petunias - trailing varieties are showy and require little care; heavy fertilization is required
Dragon Wing Begonias - great bloom, does not show drought, sun or shade, little maintenance
Diamond Frost Euphorbia - drought and heat tolerant, lots of soft white bloom
Red Star Dracena - different and great for height
Foliage Plants - Coleus, Potato Vines, Iresine - all are showy and colourful with no worry of bloom
Swedish Ivy - trailing plant that is vigorous, keep trimmed at base if too aggressive
Gazania - drought and heat tolerant, daisy-like flower, easy care, deadhead weekly
Celosia - box plant, good value in the area it will cover, long-lasting blooms, little care required
Lantana - bright and colourful, no deadheading needed, fills a bed or container nicely
Vinca - bedding plant, heat tolerant, shiny leaf, very attractive
Sunpatiens - give good coverage in shady or partial sun locations, need a light soil and good watering
Fibrous Begonias - good in mass planting, sun or shade
Diascia - trailing plant, requires no deadheading, lots of bloom all summer
Potato Vine - great impact; does show when watering is necessary
Diplodena/Mandevillia – a fun tropical plant that can take a lot of sun
Meezoo – a succulent-like variegated plant that trails far in pots and planters

Plants Not to Use:

Bedding Plant Petunias - get too tall and lanky mid summer
Pansies - not heat tolerant for the summer (good in spring and fall applications)
Verbena - need a lot of deadheading and are susceptible to mildew
Bacopa - tends to go off bloom in humidity
Lobelia - seed variety dies off mid summer

Suggestions:

- *Less is More* - fewer flower beds done nicely (full and lush) are more effective than a lot of them done skimpy and weedy
- the flower beds you do choose to do should be mass planted or have a focal point (see below)
- Gravel or small rock can fill in a flower bed; add a bench for relaxing and a patio pot
- Mulch is useful for flower beds and containers - it prevents weeds and retains moisture; provides a professional, finished look too; can also use moss
- Soil is very important in both flower beds and in containers. It should be amended to each year with Triple Mix, Compost or Container Soil
- *Use Pots as Big as your Space and Budget will Allow* - big pots with lots of soil hold water well and provide opportunities for the plants to grow well; can be focal points - fill them generously
- Weekly deadheading and care are integral to success
- Fertilization is a must - use both Slow Release and Water Soluble
- Have one staff member responsible for the maintenance of your flowers; provide a checklist

Making your clients/customers/guests feel welcome and important is the best way to make an impact and a fabulous first impression!