

## **Landscape Reference Guide**

**Plantings** – We are fortunate to live in a climate that allows a wide variety of plant material to thrive under average conditions (Hardiness Zone 10B). Extremes in weather patterns such as frost or drought do occur and affect the plants that are borderline for our area. It is wise to consider plants and trees for the majority of your landscape that will survive these possible extremes and introduce more sensitive plantings on a smaller scale for additional interest.

**Bedding Plants** – In choosing annual flowers for your landscape, please consider the following:

- What is the desired timetable for maximum color?
- Is the location in heavy sun, shade, or medium light and heat?
- Is there a maximum height desired for your chosen location?
- Is there adequate water for the variety being considered?

Below is a list of some dependable varieties available for your consideration in the winter season:

- Low water use – medium to full sun: Lantana, Penta
- Medium water use – medium to full sun: Wax Begonias, Salvia, Petunias, Pansies and Geraniums.
- High water use / low to medium sun: Impatiens, New Guinea, Impatient and Double Impatiens.

Choosing the correct variety to match you location is paramount to a successful installation.

**Mulching** – The use of mulch is very beneficial to your landscape. Mulch conserves moisture by protecting the soil surface from water loss helping to reduce the need for additional irrigation. Mulch also maintains soil temperatures for better root production and helps reduce weed growth, which competes with your plants for moisture and nutrients. Maintaining a six inch area free of mulch along the foundation of your home for better termite detection and control is advised.

**Irrigation** – all homes have automated irrigation systems that can be set to provide adequate water for the lawn and planting areas. Daytime watering should be avoided because of increased evaporation rates during sunlight hours. The best times to water are from 10:00 PM to 8:00 AM.