

FBMG Help Desk

Question of the Week

My trees have turned my sunny spot into a shady spot. I would like to have a shade garden.

Where to begin, what to do and what to plant?

Lets take a look....



Planning a New Garden

A Healthy Garden has Healthy Soil!

A soil Analysis Report will show the current levels of nutrients and provide fertilizer recommendations of N-P-K.

*Applying the proper nutrients save time and money.
Applying the correct amount help save the environment.*

*It is quick and easy to do. If you have questions call or email the helpdesk.
fortbendmg@ag.tamu.edu
281-341-7068*

Follow these simple directions.

- 1. Go to soiltesting.tamu.edu*
- 2. Print the Urban Soil Submittal Form (1 form per sample)*
- 3. Fill it out and follow the instructions on page 2 of the form*
- 4. You can also prepay the fee online using the same web page*



Know The Amount and Type of Shade

The Degree of Shade Varies From Light Shade to Total Shade

Spend some time in your garden observing the area. Which way does the sun come from, how many hours of sunlight a day reach the area?

There are different levels and types of shade;

- Dappled Shade is when there is some light that comes through the leaves of the tree.
- Partial Shade is usually three to six hours of sun each day. Preferably morning or early afternoon.
- Full shade is normally less than three hours of sunlight each day.
- Deep shade means little to no sun throughout the day.



Consider A Texas Superstar *Already Tested and Proven!*

Tested throughout Texas for years in different conditions.

Approved by the Texas Superstar® Executive Board.



- Download the brochure [TexasSuperstar-Brochure-2023.pdf](https://texassuperstar.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/TexasSuperstar-Brochure-2023.pdf)
<https://texassuperstar.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/TexasSuperstar-Brochure-2023.pdf>
- Texas has Multiple Regions and Zones, always check to see which zone you are in
- Visit the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners Demonstration Gardens
<https://fbmg.org/demonstration-gardens/texas-superstar-garden/>
- Visit the Earth Kind plant selector to check by zip code <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/plant-selector/>

Consider the Critters

A place to eat, drink, live!

Your reward may be a flurry of activity.

Enjoy the show that nature has to offer!

- *Pollinators and other insects welcome puddling stations.*
- *Birds enjoy dirt and water baths.*
- *Rabbits take advantage of thick cover.*
- *People often enjoy a quiet respite.*

The possibilities are endless!

Consider a bench or a seating area to enjoy!!!



Spend a few days observing

Earth-kind Plant Selector

Makes it easier!

Visit the Earth Kind plant selector to check by zip code

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/plant-selector/>

It helps remove the guess work.



Make sure to match water and light needs of plants in the same planting space area. Space according to instructions and make sure to put the taller plants in the back so they allow light to the shorter plants.

REGISTER FOR OUR UPCOMING CLASS ON SHADE GARDENING

<https://fbmg.org/events/landscape-success-shade-gardening-ideas-and-tips/>

***Do you have questions
about your home
landscape and plants?***

***Contact the Fort Bend
Master Gardener Help Desk***

***Email:
FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu***

***Phone:
281-341-7068***

***The Help Desk is manned
Monday thru Friday,
9am-Noon***

***<https://txmg.org/resources/texas-superstar>
“Texas Superstar” is a registered trademark of
Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Texas A&M
System***

exassuperstar.com

***[Texas Superstar: Strong & Stunning Plants for
Texans brochure](#)***

<https://aggie->

horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/plant-selector/

<https://txmg.org/resources/texas-superstar>

[SELECTING SUPERSTARS® - Texas](#)

[Superstar® Plants](#)

[TexasSuperstar-Brochure-2023.pdf](#)

[TX Superstars Overview.mov - YouTube](#)

[Texas Superstar® Garden \(fbmg.org\)](#)

[Texas Superstar® Garden \(fbmg.org\)](#)

<https://cdn->

[de.agrilife.org/extension/departments/scsc/sc-sc-pu-043/publications/files/testing-your-soil-](http://de.agrilife.org/extension/departments/scsc/sc-sc-pu-043/publications/files/testing-your-soil-how-to-collect-and-send-samples.pdf)

[how-to-collect-and-send-samples.pdf](#)

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horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/plant-selector/

[https://fbmg.org/events/landscape-success-](https://fbmg.org/events/landscape-success-shade-gardening-ideas-and-tips/)

[shade-gardening-ideas-and-tips/](#)

