



\*\*This news release from K-State Research and Extension is available online at <https://ksre-learn.com/selecting-garden-plants>

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### **In the Garden: New plant selection**

Before planting, understand plant characteristics at maturity, says K-State expert

*By Maddy Rohr, K-State Research and Extension news service*

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Choosing the right plant for the right place is crucial to introducing new plants in the garden this spring.

“Know the water needs of the plant and the water availability of your landscape,” Kansas State University horticulture expert Cynthia Domenghini said.

Understanding the growth characteristics of the plant -- such as height and spread at maturity, rate of growth and thorns or fruiting habit -- helps set the plant up for success, Domenghini added.

“Determine if those qualities will fit with the space you have available,” Domenghini said. “A small, young tree may look nice planted in front of your home, but as it grows, will it block your view out the window? Will this still be a desirable location?”

As you select new plants for the landscape, making informed decisions early in the landscaping process will save time and money.

Domenghini and her colleagues in K-State's Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources produce a weekly [Horticulture Newsletter](#) with tips for maintaining home landscapes and gardens. The newsletter is available to [view online](#) or can be delivered by email each week.

Interested persons can also send their garden and yard-related questions to Domenghini at [cdom@ksu.edu](mailto:cdom@ksu.edu), or contact your [local K-State Research and Extension office](#).

K-State Horticulture Newsletter, <https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/info-center/newsletters/index.html>

K-State Research and Extension local offices, <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/about/statewide-locations.html>

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