

## Flowering Annuals for the Cool Season Landscape

by Paul Winski, Harris County Extension Agent, Horticulture

Your summer annuals are probably starting to look a bit tired. With the anticipation of cooler weather on the horizon, it is time to think about changing out the summer annuals for the cool season. Here are some suggestions to help you plan for landscape color this fall and winter.

### Sweet Alyssum – *Lobularia maritima*

- Groundcover-like flowering annual
- Landscape size: 6-10" tall X 12-14" wide
- Flowers have a sweet fragrance
- Prefers full sun



### Dianthus, Pinks – *Dianthus* sp.

- Available in many colors and sizes, depends on the species
- Landscape size: low growing 8-10"; cut flower types 18-24" tall.
- Prefers full sun

### Pansy – *Viola x wittrockiana*

- A cool season favorite
- Single color and bicolor varieties are available
- Landscape size: 8" tall X 8-10" wide
- Prefers full sun.





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## Snapdragon – *Antirrhinum majus*

- Dwarf varieties can be used as an edging plant, while the taller varieties make great cutflowers.
- Landscape size:
- Dwarf varieties: 6-10" tall X 10-12" wide
- Tall varieties: 16-24" tall X 12-16" wide
- Prefers full sun



## Viola – *Viola cornuta*

- Smaller flower than a pansy, but more flower power
- Landscape size: 6-8" tall X 6-8" wide
- Does well in full sun to part shade

## Other annuals to consider for cool season landscape

- Ornamental cabbage or kale
- Petunia
- Calendula-English Marigold
- Matthiola-Stock
- Osteospermum-African Daisy

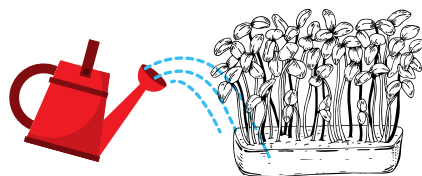


# Can You Grow Microgreens? Yes You Can!

by Brandi Keller, Harris County Extension Agent, Horticulture



How do we eat them?



Why do they look like clovers?



What are microgreens? Microgreens are very young seedlings of vegetables and herbs typically planted in various shallow trays. They are planted densely with the intent to harvest at a certain stage to be used in salads and various dishes.

Why grow microgreens? Microgreens are easy enough to grow indoors, close at hand to be practically used in dishes. They grow quickly, in small spaces with appropriate light, and tend to be more nutritionally dense than the mature plant.

Anyone can grow them! Special equipment is not needed for beginners. Clean, recycled containers (salad, takeout, etc.) are perfect as you only need an inch to three inches of soil. Use fresh potting soil or soilless medium (free of mold), seeds, good light by a window or non-direct sun outdoors, water, and scissors to harvest.

Watch the lecture below to learn more about: supplies needed, how to grow, what can and cannot be grown, potential problems, when to harvest, and how to eat.



## Sunlight

Plants will tell you if the sunlight provided is sufficient, as they will lean toward the window reaching for more light.

Counteract that by rotating the container or increasing intensity of light.



## Great Kid's Activity

Harris County Master Gardeners conduct microgreen activities with children by reusing 2-liter soda bottles. The kids look forward to harvesting and eating their microgreens after caring for them.



## Resources:

[A Guide to Growing Microgreens at Home](#)

[Growing Microgreens at Home](#)

[Vegetable & Microgreen Salad with Plum Vinaigrette](#)

[5 Easy-to-Grow Microgreens and Recipes to Use Them](#)



Watch "Growing Microgreens at the Windosill" - Click [HERE](#).



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## How Do You Eat Microgreens?

Since most microgreens are harvested after the first true leaves appear, the taste of the mature plant comes through mildly, yet remains earthy, nutty, or slightly sweet. This allows them versatility in many recipes.

They can serve as nutritious toppings to salads, toasts and pastas, but also play the role of main ingredient. Substitute for basil in pesto, serve as the primary greens in a salad, or add a handful with equal parts cold cuts for a funky wrap.

### Strawberry Microgreen Salad

Salad ingredients:

3 cups microgreen

1 cup sliced strawberries

Strawberry Dressing:

6 strawberries

1 Tbs balsamic vinegar

1 tsp honey

2 Tbs olive or sunflower oil

dash of salt and pepper

Whisk all dressing ingredients together, incorporate into salad.

From: [buylocalnebraska.org](http://buylocalnebraska.org)

### Turkey, Cheese, Avocado, with Greens Sandwich

Ciabatta bread

2 Tbs pesto

pepper jack cheese

sliced green apple

oven roasted turkey

1/4 avocado, sliced

1/4 cup microgreens

Spread pesto on inside of bread, add cheese, apple, turkey, avocado, microgreens. Top and enjoy!

From: [lifeisbutadish.com](http://lifeisbutadish.com)



Smoothies



Toasts



Salads



Rice



Sandwiches



Pastas



# The Home Grown Podcast!

The Home Grown podcast is presented by the Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR) Unit of the Harris County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office. The series provides information on urban agriculture / horticulture / gardening and ag literacy. The program focuses on topics that are relevant to the urban gardener.

## Episode #1

In Episode 1 we'll be talking to the Harris County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agents: Paul, Brandi and Shannon.

## Episode #2

A visit with Bill Barr - mentor, friend and plant propagator/plantsman extraordinaire.

## Episode #3

In this episode, Brandi Keller visits with Harris County Master Gardener, William Isbell.

## Episode #4

In this episode, Shannon talks with Janna Roberson, the executive director of Urban Harvest in Houston, TX. Urban Harvest is a non-profit working in the community to bring fresh produce through their farmers markets, community gardens and educational outreach.

## Episode #5

In this episode, Paul talks with Robert Grove the general manager of the greenhouse operation at the Brookwood Community in Brookshire, Texas. Robert provides insight into greenhouse and nursery growing from his years of experience, and how the Brookwood Community residents contribute to the growth and production of the plants that are produced there.

## How do you access the podcast?

Click anywhere on the image or logo below or go to <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1791415>. You can also search "Home Grown" where ever you find your podcasts.



**Harris County**  
**Extension Agents**  
**Horticulture**  
Paul Winski  
Brandi Keller  
**Ag/Natural Resources**  
Shannon Dietz



TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION  
HARRIS COUNTY

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2021

ALL LECTURES ONLINE

REGISTER AT:  
[HOMEGROWN2021Q4.  
EVENTBRITE.COM](https://homegrown2021q4.eventbrite.com)

## CREATING A COMBINATION PLANTER

Paul Winski - Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension  
Agent-Horticulture

October 7, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

## SAUSAGE MAKING 101

Shannon Dietz - Texas A&M AgriLife County  
Extension Agent-Agriculture & Natural  
Resources

October 21, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

## CITRUS TREES FOR YOUR LANDSCAPE

Brandi Keller - Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension  
Agent-Horticulture

November 4, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

## RAINWATER HARVESTING

Teresa See - Harris County Master  
Gardener

November 18, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

## SO YOU WANT TO BE A RANCHER?

Shannon Dietz - Texas A&M AgriLife County  
Extension Agent-Agriculture & Natural  
Resources

December 2, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

## MAKING HOLIDAY PLANTS LAST

Brandi Keller - Texas A&M AgriLife County  
Extension Agent-Horticulture

December 16, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

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# Upcoming In-Person Programming

## Lifescaping Series

**GRILLING LIKE 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. \$25**  
**A TEXAN October 08, 2021**

Shannon Dietz - Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent - ANR

**BRAIN GAMES 10:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M. FREE**  
**FOR MENTAL ACUITY October 15, 2021**

Amanda Krippel - Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent - FCH

**ART FROM 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. \$25**  
**THE GARDEN October 22, 2021**

Brandi Keller - Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent - Horticulture

**FALL COMBINATION 9:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M. \$25**  
**PLANTER WORKSHOP October 29, 2021**

Paul Winski - Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent - Horticulture

**For more details and to register, please visit**  
**<https://lifescaping2021.eventbrite.com>**

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# Contact Us

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## Social Media/Websites

Harris County Horticulture Facebook

Horticulture YouTube Channel

Harris County Master Gardeners Facebook

Harris County Ag & Natural Resources Facebook

Harris County AgriLife Website

If you would like to **unsubscribe** from the Home Grown newsletter, please email Susan Hubert at [susan.hubert@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:susan.hubert@ag.tamu.edu)

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