

Every spring I receive several calls requesting assistance with recommendations for plants that will grow in shaded areas where turf continues to fail. While there are a few turf varieties that will do ok in some circumstances here in the panhandle, I typically recommend redesigning that area to something completely different for long-term success.

It is also important to consider the changing position of the sun throughout the year. The distance from the sun to the earth changes throughout the year and causes the sun to hold different positions in the sky as the seasons change. The changing positions will cause trees and other structures to cast shade at varying angles throughout the year. I would recommend you keep this in mind as you select plants for shaded areas of your landscape. It can also be helpful to take a photograph from the same place in your yard around 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. This will show you where shade covers your landscape at different times of the day.

Ornamental trees, shrubs, ferns, ornamental grasses, groundcovers, mulch pathways, rock gardens, and even sitting areas are great solutions for replacing turfgrass in the shade. There are lots of great options that are just as beautiful, use less water, and are less maintenance when compared with turf. If you'd like help, please don't hesitate to contact the office.

Happy planting,

Megan Eikner

CEA – Ag/NR

806-373-0713

