Pentas

Today on Gardening in a Minute: pentas.

When other plants fade in Florida’s hot and humid summers, pentas truly shine.

These attractive plants produce red, pink, or white flowers throughout the warm months and attract hummingbirds and butterflies. The name comes from the fact that each tubular flower has five lobes, like a star.

In many areas of Florida, pentas grow as perennials, though they’ll die back after freezes if not protected. Pentas are great plants for container gardens and also work well in mass plantings.

Plant your pentas in the late spring in a site with full sun and well-drained soil.

Most pentas will reach over a foot in width and two to three feet tall, so make sure to leave them plenty of room. Pinch back early growth to encourage bushier plants.

For more information about pentas and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.