



GARDEN PLANNING 2012



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Garden Planning 2012

Your garden will be what you make it.

To make it exceptional and beautiful, begin by considering your goals. What do you want it to do? What kind of garden will it be? Begin by designing the garden. Don't just plant without a plan.

The "Whys" of Your Garden.

Before you start with anything, ask yourself:

- What size and shape will the garden area be?
- Will you want to include low green plants as well as color?
- Should you use annuals? You'll have to replace them every year, but they can be very colorful all summer long.
- Want to consider perennials? They'll not give you flowers all summer, but they'll be there for you every year.
- If you mix annuals with perennials, how many of each? Have you made a design/layout with plant selections on graph paper?
- How much sunlight will the garden get? Unobstructed southern exposure will result in the most growth. West is next, then east—with north the least productive. Select plants based on the amount of sunlight they'll get.

Have you tested your soil for drainage, pH and other chemical levels? Fertilizer and other additives can be used to enhance the garden's productivity.

While looking extraordinary, do you want your garden to enhance a section of your house or hide a view that you don't want to see? Large plants like viburnums, conifer trees and ornamental grasses can be used to hide unwanted views. Have you considered how the garden will look from different locations—including looking out from the windows of your house? If your garden is in a shady area, should you use low light plants?



Garden Choices

After considering where your garden will be, imagine what it will look like while factoring in what's practical based on sunlight and irrigation conditions.

Front Garden with Curb Appeal

- Four season color
- 60-70% evergreen
- Accent architecture of house
- High-impact annuals at the front door

A Patio Garden

- Summer color and texture
- Fragrant plants
- Privacy screening
- Unique and interesting

A Weekend Escape Garden

- Soothing to the senses
- Carefree
- Enjoyable to view and be in
- Put your mind in another place

Low-Maintenance Garden

- The right plant in the right place
- The right cultivars
- Avoid over-planting
- Consider alternative mulches



Planting Tips

Trees

Make the hole twice as wide as pot or root ball. When it's in place, fill the hole with one-third of soil, then water.

Shrubs

Plant in a hole twice the diameter of the root ball. The top of the ball should be slightly higher than the surrounding soil level. Run water slowly from a hose at the shrub's base for about 20 minutes.

Annuals/Perennials

Set the plants in soil at the same level they were growing in the pot. Firm soil around them and then water.

Mulching

Mulch after planting. It conserves moisture, cools the soil and protects against water runoff and erosion.

Aftercare

The first season of growth is the most critical. Water thoroughly every other day for two weeks. Then give it one inch of water a week for the rest of the season.

Ongoing Maintenance

Prune spring-flowering shrubs and lilacs immediately after flowering. If you need to prune trees or shrubs to maintain their shape or size, do it in late winter before growth has started.

A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE PLANTS

Boxwood

Itea "Henry Garnet"

"Miss Kim" Lilac

Echinacea

Salvia

Sedum

Rozanne Geranium

Liriope

Begonia

Supertunia® Petunia

"*Mariesii*" Viburnum

Serviceberry

Dwarf Fountain Grass

Daylily

Autumn Blaze Maple

"Goldmound" Spirea



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NEXT?

It's your garden. If you want it to be hardy and beautiful, plan it out, plant it carefully and really care for it. The results can be just dazzling!

If you have questions, one of the best places to get answers is at your local garden center.

If you're in deep, deep trouble, contact me.

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