Fun with Foliage

Aileen Barclay RMSi and Frankie Flowers Inc.

Starting your Garden

- Start with good soil
- Choose the right plant for the right location.
- Don't take on too much, start small!
- Be realistic about how much time you have to commit and cut that in half.
- Start weed free!
- Choose species over cultivars
- Use mulch!
- Break down the maintenance

Design Considerations:

- Three seasons of interest
- Three at a time (at least)
- Three different forms per grouping: spike, trail, round etc.



Choosing Different Forms

- Vase shaped
- Umbrella shaped
- Columnar
- Globular
- Pyramidal
- Spreading
- Creeping
- Weeping
- Pendulous
- Climbing



Try to avoid this...

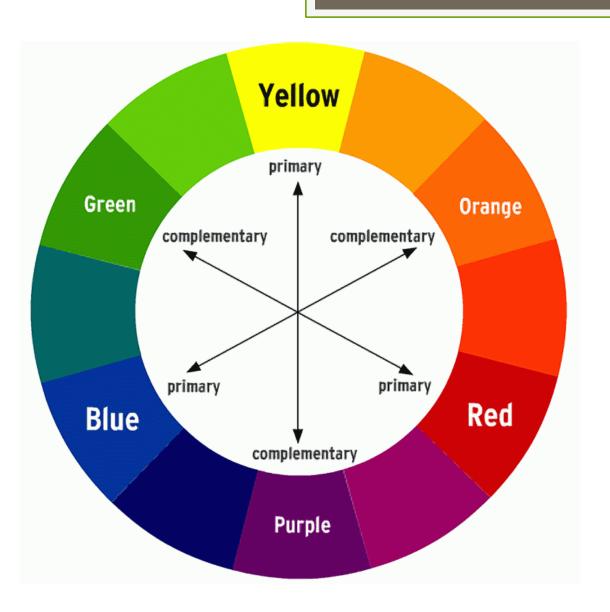












Mulch

- Mulch reduces weeds up to 90%
- Reduces water loss from soil by up to 70%
- Moderates soil temperatures for better plant performance
- Natural products decompose, just like in nature, which means better soil in the long term.











When to Water?

Do the Finger Test



Feel moisture here? No water needed

Feel dry here? Add some water

Coral Bells - Heuchera

- May June to August November!
- Partial shade to full shade (ish)
- Grow well in drought conditions
- Produces dainty plumes of bell-shaped red flowers in early and late summer
- Very easy maintenance

















Varigated Iris

Iris pallida 'Variegata'

- Late Spring (foliage April to November)
- Full sun to part sun
- Doesn't clump like other irises
- The sharp contracting spikes add a great aesthetic value to any garden
- The flowers smell like grape candy.
- Needs direct sun and well drained soil
- Expose tubers for blooms





Sedums and Succulents

- Many new varieties
- All very drought tolerant
- Prefer full sun to part sun
- Not all succulents are winter hardy











"Tigereye" Sumac

Rhus Typhina "Tigereye Bailtiger"

- Full sun to partial shade
- Well drained soil
- Cultivar of the Staghorn Sumac
- Does great is well-drained soil, slopes, sand and clay, Not likely to spread as much as its cousin
- Lime/chartreuse leaves
- Fall colour is brilliant orange/red
- Slow growing





Ninebark

Physocarpus opulifolius

- Full sun to partial shade
- Tolerant of almost every condition including shade, sun, wet, dry, acidic or alkaline soils
- Clusters of white flowers change to brown grapelike clusters of fruit through the winter
- Varieties include leaf colours of burgundy, copper and gold-green (Summer Glow, Diablo, Coppertine, Dart's Gold, Summer Wine)











Cedar

Thuja Occidentalis – Emerald and Golden Globe

- Full sun to partial shade
- Adds year round green to your garden.
- Prefer wet soils but do not have to have them.
- Very adaptable, but do not like salt or extreme sun and sandy soils.
- Emerald Cedars are tighter than the native version, growing upright and narrow but are not as hardy as the native cedar.
- Golden Globes, small bush, easily keeps its round shape.





Junipers "Blue Star" "Sky Rocket"

- Many varieties of junipers, cultivars tend to be better behaved
- All shapes and sizes, including groudcover
- Drought tolerant
- Year round colour









Smoke Bush Cotinus coggygria 'Royal Purple'

- Full sun to part shade
- Drought tolerant
- Flowers are plumes that resemble smoke
- Care in reported to be easy...but





Black Lace Elderberry Sambucus "Eva"

- Pink clusters of flowers in late spring
- Berries in the fall loved by birds!
- Ugly structure in winter if not pruned properly
- Prefers rich , cool soils



Japanese Forest Grass Hakonechloa Macra

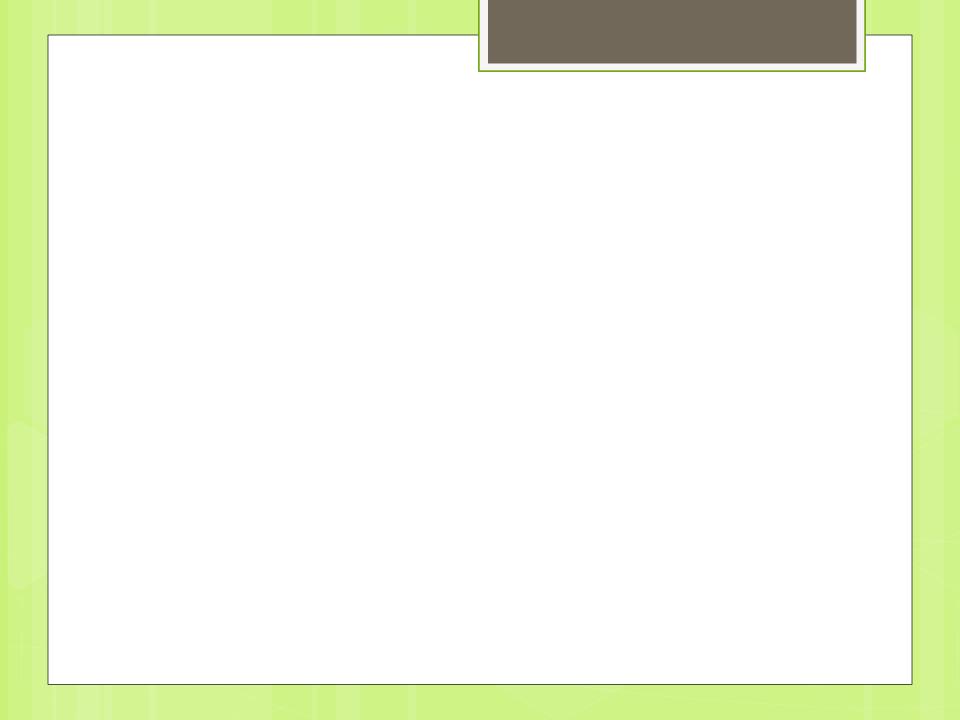
- Part to full shade (part sun?)
- Rich organic soils, well drained with mulch
- Grows more golden in full sun
- Slower growing and can be divided in spring or fall
- Great for edging in shady areas.











Hostas

Hosta spp

- Summer to fall
- Partial sun to full shade
- The 'go-to' plant for shade
- Many varieties: low-growing groundcover to 'monster-sized' species
- Divide larger ones every 2-3 years
- Water properly to avoid slugs
- Look for slug resistant varieties (thick waxy leaves)













Coleus

- Annual
- Offset water needs with rich organic soil and mulch
- Cultivars vary from full sun to part shade
- Good or containers and gardens, but containers will need more watering.







2014 Sawaya Plant Trails...













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