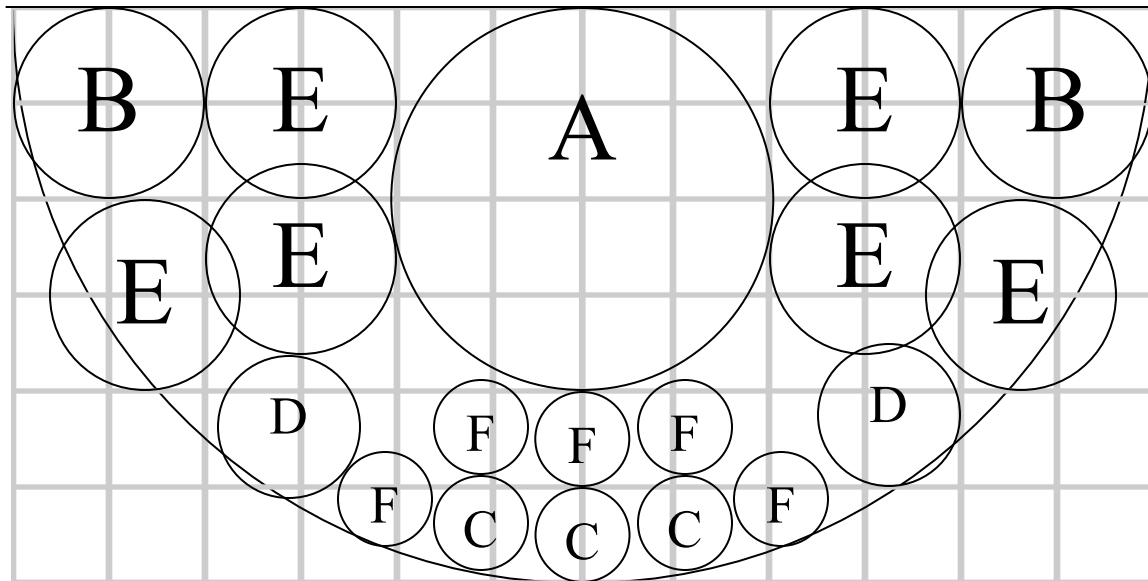


Putting It All Together

When putting a final design together, it can be almost overwhelming with all of the various design considerations. Included in this brochure is an example of how all of these features can work together to help you in your own design process.

Remember, these are just guidelines, the final design should be pleasing to you.



Each square = 1 ft x 1 ft

Sun Garden 12 ft x 6 ft

- A—'Bergeson Compact' Redtwig Dogwood
- B—'Karl Foerster' Feather Reed Grass
- C—'Blue Clip' Campanula
- D—Silver Mound Artemesia
- E—Purple Coneflower
- F—Missouri Primrose

Plant an assortment of spring blooming bulbs in the garden for early spring color.

For more information on gardening
please visit:
<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state/horticulture/index.php>

or
call University of Illinois Extension
Knox County Office
309-342-5108

Other information brochures can be found
online at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/hkmw/hort.html>

Developed and Written by
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Basic Garden Design



Garden Tips
from
Knox County
Master Gardeners



Planning a flower bed can be an intimidating experience. However, understanding some basic design principles can help you decide what plants to choose and where to put them.

Location

If you're starting a new bed and are unsure of where to put it consider the views from different parts of your yard as well as from inside the house. Evaluate the site conditions such as soil, water availability, and light which will effect what plants can be chosen for the new design. Make sure to take include any existing plants such as trees and shrubs and incorporate them into the design plan. However, if plants are in poor condition or overgrown, consider removal.

Prior to choosing plants or developing a design, it's necessary to measure the size of the garden or flower bed. Plants chosen will need to have enough room to grow to maturity in their new home.

Before you dig, make sure to call JULIE to have utility lines marked.

Style

There are many choices for styles of garden beds. They can be symmetrical (straight lines, balanced, orderly) or asymmetrical (flowing lines, unbalanced but still appealing), circle, rectangular, or even thematic (cottage, woodland, native, wetland, edible, etc.)

When choosing a garden style and plants to include, understand how much maintenance it will take and if the time is available to do so.

Color

Color does not just refer to flower color, but colors throughout the growing seasons be it flowers, foliage, fruit, etc. When selecting plants for the design, give consideration to the following color concepts.

Warm colors, such as red, yellow, and orange, tend to appear as if they are closer or stand out more.

Cool colors, such as pink, blue, and purple, tend to recede into the background.

White is considered a neutral color and can be used with any of the colors mentioned above.

Plants listed in the following sections are provided as examples. Next to each plant name will be a designation indicating what type of plant it is.

T = Tree S = Shrub P = Perennial

Form

Plants have different shapes or forms. Examples include: upright, rounded, and spreading. By mixing these various forms within the landscape, the design becomes more varied and interesting. This does necessitate finding a balance between the forms.

Upright: Delphinium (P), Emerald Green Arborvitae (S), Ornamental Pear 'Chanticleer' (T)

Rounded: Coral Bells (P), Spirea (S), Ornamental Crabapple 'Prairifire' (T)

Spreading: Cotoneaster (S), Creeping Phlox (P)

Texture

Texture is the appearance of the plant and not how the plant feels to the touch. Plants can be regarded as fine, medium, or coarse, or in between those categories. Finding a blend between textures of plants in the design, makes the final appearance more appealing.

Fine: Silver Mound Artemisia (P), Rockspray Cotoneaster (S), Weeping Willow (T)

Medium: Astilbe (P), Redosier Dogwood (S), Tulip Tree (T)

Coarse: Hollyhock (P), Hydrangea (S), Sycamore (T)

Seasonality and Interest

There are many aspects of seasonality and interest to consider when choosing plants for a design: bloom time, length of bloom, fall color, winter interest, fragrance, etc. Foliage of plants, even when not in bloom or those that do not bloom, can also provide interest in the garden.

Bloom Time

The plants listed below do not necessarily bloom the entire season under which they are listed. The bloom times are based on plants grown in Central Illinois, Zone 5.

Spring (February-May)

Perennials: Bergenia, Bleeding Heart, Columbine, Spring Blooming Bulbs, Helleborus, Iris, Lupine, Peonies

Shrubs: Forsythia, Korean Spice Viburnum, Lilac

Trees: Ornamental Crabapples & Pears, Magnolia

Summer (June-August)

Perennials: Astilbe, Black-Eyed Susan, Coneflower, Corydalis, Daylilies, Delphinium, Gallardia

Shrubs: Hydrangeas, Japanese Beautyberry, Smokebush, Spirea, Weigela,

Fall (September-October)

Perennials: Asters, Goldenrod, Ornamental Grasses, Sedum, Sweet Autumn Clematis

Interesting Foliage

Perennials: Ajuga, Coral Bells, Hostas, Jacob's Ladder

Shrubs: Smokebush, Spirea

Fall Color

Shrubs: American Cranberry Bush Viburnum, Blueberry, Serviceberry

Perennials: Amsonia, Ornamental Grasses, Perennial Geranium, Plumbago

Winter Interest

Winter interest can refer to bark, structure, or other interesting features of the plant that add to the winter garden.

Shrubs: Harry Lauder's Walking Stick, Holly, Red Chokeberry, Redosier Dogwood, Yellowtwig Dogwood,

Perennials: Ornamental Grasses

Trees: River Birch, Concolor Fir