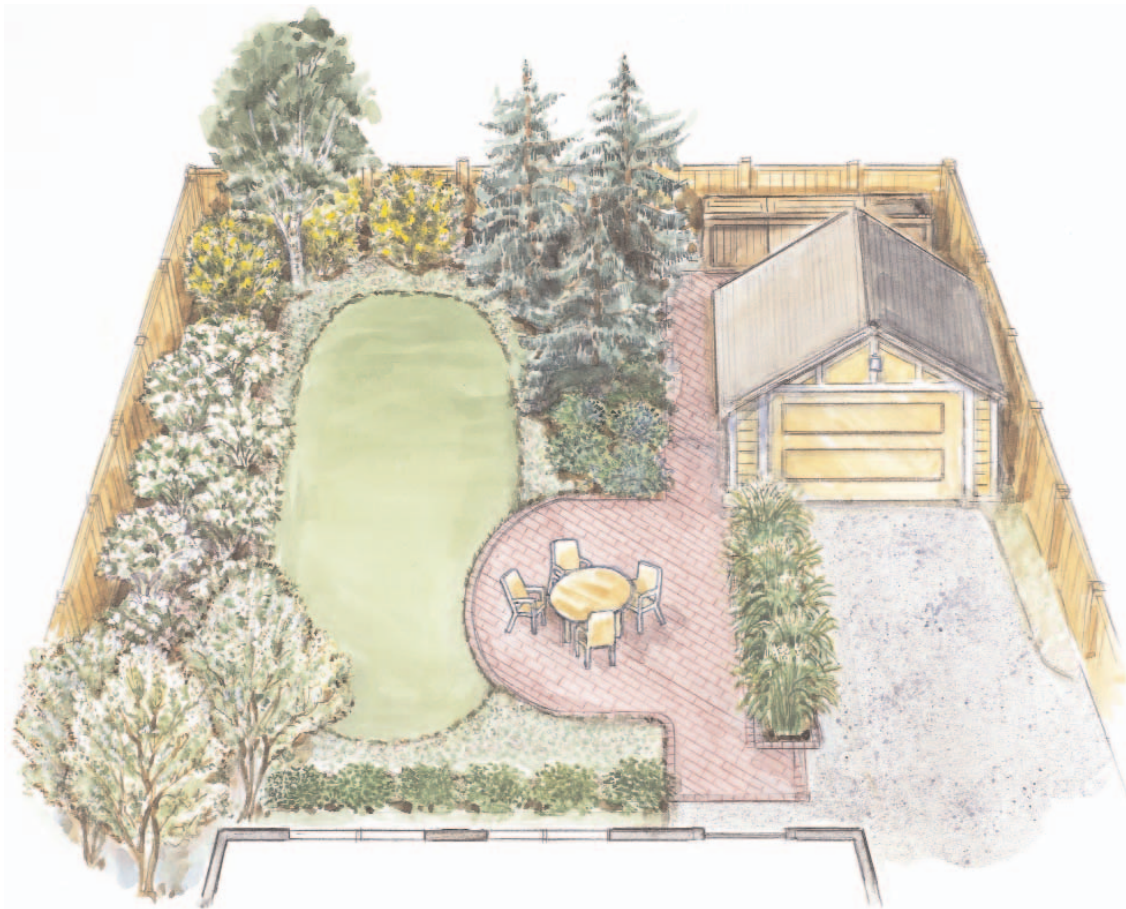


## LANDSCAPE PLANS



## A Small Backyard

A BACKYARD IS A MORE INTIMATE SPACE THAN THE FRONT. IT SHOULD BE COMFORTABLE AND ENLIVENED WITH SEASONAL DISPLAYS OF COLOR AND FRAGRANCE.

The backyard also often includes workspaces for composting, parking, storage, and family entertaining. This design provides a comfortable seating area that is incorporated into traffic patterns to the garage and house, hides compost, potting, and storage areas which are still easy to get to, plus has a great patio for the weekend barbecues or morning coffee.



### Key to Planting Plan

This garden plan has been designed for maximum flexibility. The base plan includes general recommendations for plant types. This allows you to select trees, shrubs, and other plants that are suited to your location and your personal preferences. We have also included a set of suggested varieties for five regions. See below for more details.

Note: Dimensions are approximate mature height.

**A Large shade tree reaching 40-60', preferably oval form, 1**

**B Smaller evergreen tree with upright habit, 15-40' with spread about 10', 3**

**C Tall flowering deciduous or evergreen shrub, 10-20' tall and 5-8' across, 3**

**D Medium to large shrub that will grow in part to full shade, 5-10', 3**

**E Showy medium shrub, 4-8', 9**

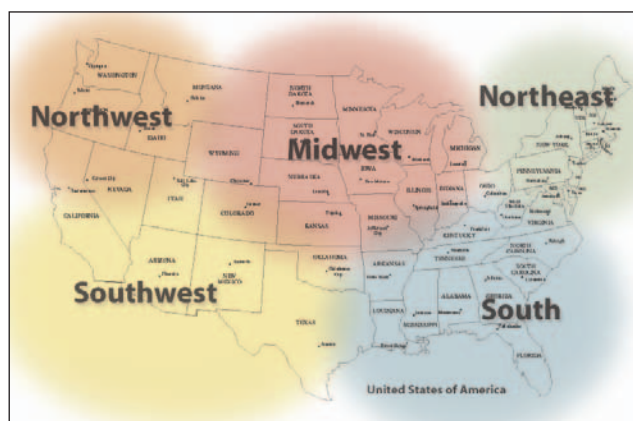
**F Evergreen or flowering shrub 3-5' tall and across, 11**

**G Tall grass or upright perennial, 3-6', 7**

**H Spreading ground cover with foliage, flower, or fruiting interest**

### Plant Recommendations by Region

The plants suggested below are arranged by general region of the country. Use the map as a general guide to the plant lists that might be best suited to your location. Because climate can vary substantially within each region, we suggest that you verify your plant choices with a local nursery or garden center professional. If a particular variety we list is not available in your area, your garden professional should be able to suggest a substitute.



## MIDWEST

**A Acer platanoides 'Deborah'** (*Norway Maple*) 40', oval, foliage emerges reddish before turning green and then bronze in fall, 2004 Tree of the Year; Zones 4-7

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Acer saccharum 'Green Mountain'** (*Green Mountain Sugar Maple*) 50-75', upright to oval, thick leaves turn orange scarlet in fall; Zones 3-7

**Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis 'Shademaster'** (*Shademaster Honeylocust*) 50-60', fruitless and thornless, rapid grower; Zones 4-7

**B Tsuga canadensis** (*Canadian Hemlock*) 35', green lacy evergreen; Zones 4-7

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Pinus strobus 'Columnar'** (*Columnar White Pine*) 50' narrow upright evergreen with long soft needles; Zones 3-8

**Picea pungens 'Fat Albert'** (*Fat Albert Spruce*) 15', dense upright with blue needles; Zones 3-7

**C Amelanchier laevis** (*Allegheny Serviceberry*) 15-25', white flowers in spring, sweet black fruit, bronze cast to foliage; Zones 4-8

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Cornus alternifolia** (*Pagoda Dogwood*) 15', horizontal branching, cream flowers in late spring; Zones 4-7

**Viburnum lentago** (*Nannyberry Viburnum*) 20', upright vase form, white flowers, blue-black fruit, glossy dark green foliage; Zones 2-8

**D Aesculus parviflora** (*Bottlebrush Buckeye*) 8', wide-spreading, white flowers in large panicles in summer, seed capsules; Zones 5-8

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Hydrangea quercifolia** (*Oakleaf Hydrangea*) 4-6', pleasantly course textured, white changing to pink and finally brown flowers, leaves resemble oak leaves; Zones 5-8

**Corylus americana** (*American Hazelnut*) 6-8', early spring catkins, 1/2" nuts in fall; Zones 4-9

**E Cephalanthus occidentalis** (*Buttonbush*) 6' rounded, creamy white globes in late summer, rounded nutlets hold on into winter; Zones (4)5-9

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Aronia arbutifolia 'Brilliantissima'** (*Brilliant Red Chokeberry*) 6-9', white spring blooms, bright red berries into winter, red fall foliage; Zones 4-8

**Ilex glabra 'Chamzin'** (*Nordic Holly*) 3-4', rounded, dark green foliage, white flowers; Zones 5-9

**F Taxus media** (*Spreading Yew*) 3', dark green soft evergreen; Zones 4-8

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle'** (*Annabelle Hydrangea*) 4', large clusters of white flowers through summer; Zones 4-8

**Syringa meyeri 'Palibin'** (*Dwarf Korean Lilac*) 3-5', fragrant lilac blooms in spring; Zones 4-7

**G Andropogon gerardi** (*Big Blue Stem*) 5-8', bluish foliage turns red in fall, 3-parted seed head resembles a turkey foot; Zones 4-10

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Miscanthus sinensis 'Gracillimus'** (*Fountain Grass*) 4-5', fine textured blades, creamy plumes in fall; Zones 4-9

**Calamagrostis acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'** (*Feather Reed Grass*) 5', vertical habit, golden blooms; Zones 4-9

**H Euonymus fortunei** (*Wintercreeper Euonymus*) 6-12", evergreen ground cover, dark green with purple underside; Zones 4-10

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Vinca minor** (*Periwinkle*) 3-6", low-growing ground cover, shiny green foliage, blue flowers in spring; Zones 4-9

**Pachysandra terminalis** (*Spurge*) 6-12", evergreen ground cover, white flowers in early spring; Zones 4-9

**Note:** Scatter Narcissus (Daffodil) bulbs throughout the ground cover

## NORTHWEST

**A** *Betula papyrifera* (*Paper Birch*) to 100', mature trees have white peeling bark, heart-shaped leaves turn bright yellow in fall; Zones 2-7

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**A** *Acer macrophyllum* (*Big-Leaf Maple*) 100' at maturity, creamy yellow blossoms in spring, bright gold and yellow fall color; Zones 5-9

**A** *Alnus rhombifolia* (*White Alder*) 50', often forms clumps, smooth gray bark, catkins; Zones 4-7

**B** *Tsuga mertensiana* (*Mountain Hemlock*) 10-80', outstanding and slow growing, native to mountains, gray-green foliage; Zones 5-9

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**A** *Abies lasiocarpa* (*Rocky Mountain Fir*) 80', slow grower with narrow conical shape, good for small gardens; Zones 4-10

**A** *Abies amabilis* (*Pacific Silver Fir*) 50', silvery and soft, purple cones, likes wet area but not drought; Zones 4-10

**C** *Amelanchier alnifolia* (*Serviceberry*) 6-10', deciduous, white flowers, blue-green foliage turns red and yellow in fall, purple fruit; Zones 3-8

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**C** *Cornus sericea* (*Creek Dogwood*) 10', distinctly veined leaves, showy red twigs, white flowers followed by blue-white berries; Zones 7-10

**G** *Garrya elliptica* (*Silk-Tassel*) 8', dense evergreen, glossy green leaves have gray undersides, 10" spring catkins are followed by purple-gray flowers; Zones 7-10

**D** *Mahonia aquifolium* (*Tall Oregon Grape*) 5-10', large clusters of yellow flowers in spring, shiny green holly-like foliage; Zones 4-10

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**C** *Ceanothus sanguineus* (*Red Stem Ceonathus*) 5-10', clusters of fragrant white flowers in spring, loosely branched, purple-red stems; Zones 8-10

**M** *Myrica californica* (*Pacific Wax Myrtle*) to 15', glossy green leaves, purple nuts; Zones 7-10

**E** *Philadelphus lewisii* (*Mockorange*) 4-10', open branching, large snow white fragrant flowers; Zones 5-10

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**C** *Ceanothus velutinus* (*Sticky Laurel*) 2-8', dark green sticky leaves and fragrant white pom-pom flowers; Zones 7-10

**R** *Rhododendron macrophylla* (*Pacific Rhododendron*) 4-8', oblong evergreen foliage, large clusters of rose-purple/white flowers; Zones 7-10

**F** *Pachistima myrsinites* (*Myrtle Boxwood*) 3', dark leathery leaves, tiny red flowers; Zones 3-9

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**P** *Potentilla fruticosa* (*Shrub Cinquefoil*) 3', small downy leaves, masses of yellow flowers for much of summer, small berries; Zones 3-9

**D** *Daphne x burkwoodii* '**Briggs Moonlight**' (*Burkwood Daphne*) 3-4', creamy yellow leaves are edged with dark green, pink flowers; Zones 4-7

**G** *Miscanthus sinensis* '**Gracillimus**' (*Maiden Grass*) 4-5', upright, arching, fine-textured blades, creamy plumes in fall; Zones 4-9

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**C** *Chasmanthium latifolium* (*Northern Sea Oats*) 3', pale green to deep green depending on sun, copper oat-shaped seed heads; Zones 3-9

**M** *Miscanthus sinensis* '**Morning Light**' (*Maiden Grass*) 4-5', upright arching, fine-bladed grass with white stripes, silvery plume in fall; Zones 4-9

**H** *Vaccinium caespitosum* (*Dwarf Blueberry*) 6", tiny white-pink flowers, blue berries, needs acid soil so add elemental sulfur and peat; Zones 6-10

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**P** *Pachysandra terminalis* (*Spurge*) 6-12", dark green evergreen leaves, white flowers in early spring; Zones 4-9

**V** *Vinca minor* (*Periwinkle*) 3-6", evergreen ground cover with blue flowers in spring; Zones 4-9

**Note:** Scatter Narcissus (Daffodil) bulbs throughout the ground cover

## NORTHEAST

**A *Betula lenta* (Sweet Birch)** 40-55', shiny reddish brown to black bark, dark green leaves turn yellow in fall, catkins in winter; Zones 3-10

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

***Betula nigra* (River Birch)** 40-70', light peeling bark, medium green bark turns yellow in fall, small nutlets; Zones 4-8

***Celtis occidentalis* (Common Hackberry)** 40-60', arching branches, dull green leaves have bright green fall color; Zones 2-7

**B *Tsuga canadensis* (Hemlock)** 35-70', lacy green foliage, small slender cones; Zones 4-7

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

***Tuja occidentalis* (White Cedar)** 15-30', bright green scale-like foliage; Zones 3-8

***Pinus strobus* 'Columnare' (Columnar White Pine)** 30-50', soft long-needled pine; Zones 3-8

**C *Cornus amomum* (Silky Dogwood)** 6-10', rounded and multistemmed, reddish purple stems, yellowish white flowers, bluish fruit; Zones 4-8

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

***Lindera benzoin* (Spicebush)** 6-12', light green foliage is yellow in fall, yellow spring flowers, bright scarlet fruit; Zones 4-9

***Myrica pennsylvanica* (Bayberry)** 5-10', semi-evergreen, gray waxy fruit, deep green foliage; Zones 4-6

**D *Vaccinium corymbosum* (Highbush Blueberry)** 6-12', upright multistemmed, dark blue-green foliage, white-tinged pink flowers, blue fruit; Zones 3-7(8)

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

***Viburnum trilobum* (American Viburnum)** 8', lustrous green foliage turns yellow and then red-purple in fall, white flowers, bright red fruit; Zones 2-7

***Ilex verticillata* (Winterberry Holly)** 6-10', oval form, dark green leaves, white flowers, bright red fruit; Zones 4-9

**E *Amelanchier stolonifera* (Running Serviceberry)** 4-6', develops thickets of upright branches, white flowers, purple fruit, orange to red fall color; Zones 3-8

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

***Aronia melanocarpa* (Black Chokeberry)** 3-5', fragrant white flowers in spring, black fruit into winter, bright red fall color; Zones 3-7

***Symphoricarpos orbiculatus* (Indiancurrant Coralberry)** 2-5', arching branches, cream flowers are tinged pink, purple-red fruit most of winter; Zones 3-7

**F *Taxus cuspidate* 'Dense' (Japanese Yew)** 4', dark green evergreen; Zones 4-8

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

***Rosa rugosa* 'Marie Bugnet' (Rose)** 3' x 2 1/2', fragrant semi-double white blooms; Zones 3-7

***Rhododendron mucronulatum* (Korean Rhododendron)** 4', earliest of hardy rhododendrons to bloom, pink, rose, and magenta blooms; Zones 4-7

**G *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Huron Sunrise' (Maiden Grass)** 5-6', silver blades, full burgundy flowers; Zones 4-9

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

***Miscanthus sinensis* 'Gracillimus' (Maiden Grass)** 4-5', upright, arching, fine-textured blades, creamy plumes in fall; Zones 4-9

***Chasmanthium latifolium* (Northern Sea Oats)** 3', pale to deep green depending on sun, copper oat-shaped seeds; Zones 3-8

**H *Pachysandra terminalis* (Spurge)** 6-12", dark green evergreen, white flowers; Zones 4-9

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

***Vinca minor* (Periwinkle)** 3-6", shiny dark green foliage, blue flowers in spring; Zones 4-9

***Lamium galeobdolon* 'Herman's Pride' (Yellow Archangel)** 12", yellow flowers in spring, silver variegated foliage; Zones 3-8



## SOUTHWEST

**A Pistacia chinensis** (*Chinese Pistache*) 30-35', oval to rounded, dark green leaves are orange in fall, greenish flowers, clusters of blue and red fruit; Zones 6-9

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Catalpa speciosa** (*Western Catalpa*) 40', upright and narrow habit, ruffled white flowers in early summer, broad green leaves; Zones 4-7

**Celtis occidentalis** (*Common Hackberry*) 40', upright form, dull green leaves turn bright yellow in fall; Zones 2-8

**B Juniperus scopulorum 'Cupressifolia Erecta'** (*Rocky Mountain Juniper*) 20', pyramidal, rich green with silvery blue undertones, needle-like foliage; Zones 3-7

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Juniperus virginiana 'Hillspire'** (*Eastern Redcedar*) 15', pyramidal habit, bright green foliage; Zones 3-9

**Pinus aristata** (*Bristlecone Pine*) 8-20', dwarf and shrubby look, bluish green foliage, will succeed in poor soils; Zones 4-7

**C Weigela florida** (*Old Fashioned Weigela*) 6-9', rose-pink to red flowers in early summer and again in fall; Zones 4-8

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Hibiscus syriacus** (*Rose of Sharon*) 8-12', upright form, large white, red, or purple flowers July through September; Zones 5-10

**Kolkwitzia amabilis** (*Beautybush*) 6-10', upright and arching, pink flowers in spring, gray bark; Zones 5-9

**D Arctostaphylos pungens** (*Pointleaf Manzanita*) to 6', pinkish-white bells in spring, red bark and gray-green foliage; Zones 3-8

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Berberis x gladwynensis** (*William Penn Barberry*) 4-6', showy yellow flowers in spring, dark green foliage turns bronze in fall, arching branches; Zones 5-9

**Euonymus kiautschovica** (*Manhattan Euonymus*) 4-6', rounded, dark glossy foliage, greenish-white flowers; Zones 5-8

**E Cowania mexicana** (*Cliffrose*) 5-10', white fragrant flowers, upright form, semi-evergreen; Zones 6-9

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Hibiscus syriacus** (*Rose of Sharon*) 8-12', upright form, large white, red, or purple flowers all summer; Zones 5-10

**Lonicera fragrantissima** (*Winter Honeysuckle*) 5' slender recurving branches, creamy white-tinged pink flowers are extremely fragrant; Zones 6-10

**F Genista tinctoria** (*Woodwaxen*) 2-3', low nearly vertical shrub, yellow flowers, pods; Zones 4-10

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Salvia greggii** (*Cherry Sage*) 3', reddish spiked flowers, treat as shrub or perennial; Zones 5-8

**Caryopteris x clandonensis** (*Blue-Mist*) 2', low mounded habit, bright blue flowers in late summer; Zones 5-9

**G Nolina microcarpa** (*Sawgrass*) 5', creamy blooms in spring, narrow green blades have sharp edges; Zones 5-10

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Salvia greggii** (*Cherry Sage*) 3', reddish spiked flowers, treat as shrub or perennial; Zones 7-9

**Yucca elata** (*Yucca*) 5', spiked foliage, creamy bell-shaped flowers on 5' stalk; Zones 6-10

**H Anacyclus depressus** (*Mount Atlas Daisy*) 3-12", white flowers all summer; Zones 4-10

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Thymus ssp.** (*Creeping Thyme*) 2-12", red-purple flowers, fragrant foliage; Zones 4-10

**Veronica prostrata** (*Harebell Veronica*) 3-8", cobalt blue flowers on spikes; Zones 4-8

## SOUTHEAST

**A Quercus hemisphaerica** (*Laurel Oak*) 40-60', pyramidal rounded, thick leathery foliage; Zones 6-9

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Quercus falcata** (*Southern Red Oak*) 6', rounded, copper fall color; Zones 5-9

**Nyssa sylvatica** (*Blackgum*) 30-50', upright oval, dark green foliage turns scarlet-orange in fall, small greenish flowers, blue-black fruit; Zones 5-9

**B Cedrus deodara** (*Deodar Cedar*) 40-70', pyramidal, fine-textured gray-green foliage; Zones 7-9

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Cupressus glabra 'Blue Pyramid'** (*Arizona Cypress*) 20-25', powder blue foliage, reddish bark; Zones 7-9

**Pinus thunbergii** (*Japanese Black Pine*) 20-80', dark green foliage, black grayish bark; Zones 5-8

**C Pittosporum tobira** (*Pittosporum*) 10', fragrant creamy white blossoms, dark green foliage with paler midvein; Zones 8-10

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Nerium oleander** (*Oleander*) 6-12', upright rounded evergreen, white flowers; Zones 8-10

**Ligustrum japonicum** (*Japanese Privet*) 6-12', fragrant creamy white blossoms, black fruit, dark green evergreen foliage; Zones 8-10

**D Camellia japonica** (*Camellia*) 10-15', large colorful flowers, leathery foliage; Zones 7-10

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Rhododendron carolinianum** (*Carolina Rhododendron*) 3-6', white, lilac, or rose flowers, dark green foliage with purple tinge; Zones 6-8

**Elaeagnus pungens 'Aurea'** (*Thorny Elaeagnus*) 8', leaves are edged with gold; Zones 7-11

**E Callicarpa japonica** (*Japanese Beautybush*) 4-6', pink or white flowers, metallic purple fruit, blue-green foliage; Zones 6-8

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Ilex vomitoria 'Nana'** (*Dwarf Yaupon Holly*) 4' if pruned, rounded and dense evergreen; Zones 6-10

**Rhaphiolepis umbellata** (*Indian Hawthorn*) 4-6', white-petaled flowers, blue-black fruit, gray-green leaves mature dark blue-green; Zones 8-10

**F Buxus var. japonica** (*Japanese Boxwood*) keep pruned 3-4', rounded evergreen, dark green oval leaves; Zones 5-9

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Itea virginica 'Little Henry'** (*Sweetspire*) 3-4', compact, fragrant white flowers, red-purple fall color; Zones 5-9

**Hypericum prolificum** (*St. Johnswort*) 1-4', dark green foliage, bright yellow summer flowers; Zones 3-8

**G Cortaderia selloana 'Pumila'** (*Dwarf Pampas Grass*) 3-4', creamy white flowers late summer into winter; Zones 7b-10

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Miscanthus sinensis 'Morning Light'** (*Fountain Grass*) 4-5', narrow band of white along leaf margins; Zones 5-9

**Miscanthus sinensis 'Goldfeder'** (*Fountain Grass*) 3-5', green leaves with gold margins; Zones 5-9

**H Trachelospermum asiaticum** (*Asiatic Jasmine*) Ground cover, dark glossy green foliage with white veins, yellow white flowers; Zones 7-9

## ALTERNATE PLANTS

**Liriope muscari** (*Turf Lily*) 12-18", narrow leaves with lilac-purple flowers in late summer; Zones 5-10

**Hedera canariensis** (*Algerian Ivy*) 2-6", dark green, leathery foliage, salt tolerant; Zones 9-10



**Before You Begin.** Preparation is the key to creating a garden that will offer a lifetime of pleasure. Before you head to the nursery or lift a spade, take the time to review all garden plan materials. Ask yourself the following questions:

- **Do I have a suitable location for this plan?** The layout diagram shows the dimensions for the plan as designed. In general, you can enlarge or reduce the size of the garden by adding or eliminating plants, although the character of the garden may change if you alter the size dramatically.
- **Does my yard offer the right conditions?** Check the plant list carefully to see whether the plan will do best in full sun, partial shade, or full shade. Also make sure that the plants are suited to your USDA Growing Zone. (In many cases, the alternative plants list includes varieties that will grow in other zones.)
- **Does my soil need improvement?** Most plants will survive in a variety of soil conditions, but well-drained, moist (but not soaked) soil is generally best. To test your soil, wet it thoroughly with a hose, wait 24 hours, then squeeze a clump in your hand. If the soil forms a ball that holds together, but breaks up easily when you poke it with your finger, your soil is ideal. If the soil won't hold its shape when squeezed, it is probably too sandy. If the clump doesn't break up easily, the soil may be too clay. In either case, you can improve your soil by mixing in organic matter like compost or peat moss.
- **Is my soil's pH and fertility okay?** Check at your local garden store for a soil test kit, or inquire about testing at a local county extension service office. Follow the recommendations that come with your test results if you need to correct the soil's pH (how acid or alkaline the soil is) or fertility.

**Creating the Bed.** To lay out your bed, use a garden hose to mark the edges. When you are satisfied with the layout, use striping paint (available at many home centers) to mark the outline. (Or, sprinkle flour along the hose for a more temporary mark.) Using a sharp spade, dig along the marked line to set the edge of your bed.

If the garden location is currently covered with lawn, you have a couple of options. For smaller areas, you can strip the sod using a straight-edged shovel. To make this easier, wet the area thoroughly, then use the shovel to cut the lawn into strips that are the width of the shovel and about three feet long. (Expert tip: Sharpen the edge of the shovel frequently with a file.) Use the shovel to pry up and roll back the strips of sod. Once the sod is removed, you can loosen the underlying soil with a shovel or a power tiller.

For larger areas covered by lawn, consider using a heavy-duty garden tiller to grind the sod into the underlying soil. This has the twin benefits of adding organic matter to the soil and eliminating the need to discard or compost sod.

Regardless of how you are preparing your bed, be sure to use this opportunity to mix in organic matter (such as compost, peat moss, or rotted manure) and loosen the soil at least 6 inches deep, or even 8 to 12 inches if you can. Don't mix in fertilizer unless your soil test shows a need; in general, excessive amounts of fertilizer will do more harm than good.

After your bed is prepared, water it thoroughly and wait a week. This will allow some weed seeds to germinate. Remove these seedlings or dig them back into the soil. If you choose to use chemicals to kill the weeds, follow the instructions to the letter, including the time to wait after application before planting.

**Edging.** Most beds are easier to maintain if they have an edging that keeps surrounding grass or vegetation from invading. Choose plastic, metal, stone, or brick -- whatever you prefer. If you have lawn around your bed, consider also including a mowing strip, a 6- to 12-inch-wide swath of masonry or stone set even with the surrounding soil.

**Planting.** Now comes the fun part! If you have all of your plants on hand, keep them in their pots and set them out on the planting bed. This will give you a preview of how the bed will look and allow you to make adjustments. Use the tags that come with the plants to ensure that the spacing is correct. Don't worry that the bed looks sparse; the young plants need room to grow.

When you're satisfied with the arrangement, plant your garden from largest to smallest container (usually trees first, then shrubs, perennials, and finally annuals). Each plant type does best with a specific planting method:

- **Trees.** Dig a hole that is slightly larger than the pot or root ball and deep enough so the top of the root ball or pot is slightly higher than the surrounding soil. For potted trees, remove the tree from the pot, loosen the soil slightly around the roots, then place the tree into the planting hole. For balled-and-burlapped trees, loosen the burlap after the tree is in the hole, cutting away as much of the burlap as possible. When the tree is in place and straight, fill the hole one-third with soil, tamp firmly to make good contact between roots and soil, then water. Repeat twice more until the hole is filled. Make a shallow collar of soil around the hole to catch water and hold it near the root zone. Water the tree thoroughly by letting a hose run slowly for 30 minutes.
- **Shrubs.** Plant shrubs in a hole that's about twice the diameter of the root ball. The top of the root ball should be slightly above the surrounding soil level. Backfill with garden soil, tamping firmly to ensure a contact between soil and roots. Water immediately by slowly running a hose at the shrub's base for about 20 minutes.
- **Perennials and Annuals.** Set these plants in soil at the same level they were growing in the pot. Firm the soil around each plant with your hands, then water thoroughly.

**Mulching.** As you place each plant, it's a good idea to add mulch to conserve moisture, cool the roots of plants, and protect the soil from washing away in the rain. Organic mulches like shredded bark will require periodic additions as the mulch decays. Mulches like crushed stone are more permanent, but may not offer the character you prefer.

**Aftercare.** The first season of growth is the most critical for your garden. A good guideline is to water thoroughly every other day for the first two weeks, then twice weekly for the remainder of the first season. The following year, you can let nature take its course, supplementing dry periods with deep watering.

You should also be diligent about weeding your bed during the first year. As the plants mature and fill in, there will be fewer opportunities for weeds to gain a foothold. A thick layer of mulch will also help keep weeds in check.

**Ongoing Maintenance.** Most plants will thrive with only minimal care. Apply a general fertilizer according to package directions in the spring after growth has started. If you need to prune trees or shrubs to maintain their shape or size, do it in late winter before growth has started. The exception to this general rule is spring-flowering shrubs like lilacs that should be pruned immediately after flowering.