

Design-less Gardening: A Naturalistic Approach



Golden Rule

- Right plant for the right place
- Identify your place prior to choosing your plant
- Find the balance between low maintenance and desired results

Natural design elements

- Repetition of patterns, colors, and shapes
- Natural shapes
- Working with layers
- Blur the lines
- Natural materials
- Be skeptical of symmetry

Soil drainage capacity test

1. Dig a hole 1 ft. deep
2. Fill the hole with water and allow to drain completely
3. Immediately refill the whole and measure the depth of the water
4. Re-measure the water level in 15 minutes
 - Less than ¼" drainage in 15 minutes is poor drainage
 - ¼" to 1 ½" per 15 minutes is average
 - Anything more than 1 ½" is well-drained

Tough Plants for Tough Spots

Sun and Drought Tolerant

<i>Allium cernuum</i>	nodding onion	
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	big blue stem	
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	common milkweed	spreads via seed
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	blue false indigo	nitrogen fixer
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	tickseed	
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	bush honeysuckle	compaction tolerant
<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	purple love grass	
<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>	black huckleberry	sun to shade, dry acid tolerant
<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	shrubby St. John's wort	compaction tolerant
<i>Morella pensylvanica</i>	bayberry	salt tolerant
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	switch grass	compaction tolerant
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia creeper	sun to shade, vigorous
<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	Narrow mountain mint	
<i>Rhus hirta</i>	staghorn sumac	strongly colonizing
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	hairy black eyed Susan	
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	little blue stem	
<i>Solidago canadensis</i> or <i>rugosa</i> ,	goldenrod	strongly colonizing
<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	low bush blueberry	sun to shade, dry acid tolerant
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	blackhaw viburnum	
<i>Xanthorhiza simplicissima</i>	yellow root	sun to shade
<i>Zizia aptera</i>	golden Alexander	compaction tolerant

Sun and Wet Tolerant

<i>Alnus incana</i>	speckled alder	nitrogen fixer
<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	Canada anemone	spreads via rhizomes
<i>Aronia</i> spp.	chokeberry	
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	trumpet creeper	vigorous
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Sweet pepperbush	compaction tolerant
<i>Eutrochium fistulosum</i>	Joe Pye weed	
<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>	Jerusalem artichoke	vigorous colonizer
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	winterberry	
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	blue flag iris	
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia sweetspire	compaction tolerant
<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>	interrupted fern	sun to shade, spreads
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	obedient plant	spreads
<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>	broad leaf mountain mint	
<i>Swida sericea</i>	red twig dogwood	compaction tolerant
<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	gamma grass	colonizer
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	cattail	colonizing into standing water
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	high bush blueberry	shade tolerant

Shade and Dry Tolerant

<i>Actaea racemosa</i>	black cohosh	
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	Pennsylvania sedge	
<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>	hay-scented fern	vigorous colonizer
<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	marginal fern	dry acidic shade tolerant
<i>Eurybia divaricata</i>	white wood aster	compaction tolerant
<i>Heuchera americana</i>	heuchera	
<i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>	dog-hobble	
<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	Canada mayflower	dry acidic shade tolerant
<i>Phlox stolonifera</i>	creeping phlox	compaction tolerant
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	may apple	colonizer
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas fern	
<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	great rosebay	
<i>Symphytotrichum cordifolium</i>	blue wood aster	
<i>Solidago caesia</i>	blue-stem goldenrod	
<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	maple leaf viburnum	

Shade and Wet Tolerant

<i>Caltha palustris</i>	marsh marigold	sun to shade
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	spicebush	sun to shade
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	ostrich fern	sun to shade
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	sensitive fern	sun to shade, vigorous colonizer
<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>	skunk cabbage	sun to shade

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