

GARDEN DESIGN HOW TO

- How do you go about deciding what you want? Before you go to a nursery and look at tags, do some homework.....
- **Sunset Western Garden Book** is usually the 1st reference. The newer versions have a great Specialty Lists up front created for the popular interests such as low water, under oaks, sea shore, beneficial attractants, fragrance etc. Cross reference these lists for your desired themes within a theme. For example... a natives, white flowers, fragrance and bee beneficial garden.

Other Online Resources

- **CA NPS**.... 1000 plants, check out dates of their plant sales
- **UC Davis**...features top 100 spp All Stars for low- water, year round interest, easy care and longevity & their Arboretum, check current date of yearly plant sale
- **WUCOLS**...if you want a list of water requirements only. Data on 4000 plants in Napa alone. Developers must calculate their proposed water needs for new development.
- **Napa County**....check out current dates of their Bay Friendly tours
- **UCMG Public Website** garden resource
- **City of Napa**.....Online Water Wise Gardening galleries of photos (100) and tours ((36) 1000 plants list for planting ideas for lawn substitutes, curb planting, berms, hedges. Take a tour of a community in Napa County, if you like a plant, click on box and plant ID and info comes up. Above all, these plants have adapted well to our climate.

General Plant Characteristics to Note:

- **Form**...width, height
- **Color**....of leaves, flowers, bark and fruit
- **Texture**...density of leaves and flowers.

It is nice to have a mix of things to provide balance, unity, harmony, rhythm, accents and year

round interest.

General Plant spacing Key:

- Keep larger plants in the background
- Don't overcrowd because that leads to competition of water, and ultimately causes an increase need for water and fertilizer.

Number one complaint of homeowners is that their yard is too small

The Renaissance Painters used color, line, scale to create a realistic perspective. Take a page from them and make your yard appear larger.

3 Tips from the Renaissance Painters on how to make a landscape look larger:

- Use round or semi circles instead of square designs in walks and plantings. Your eye will be led around the curve, making it seem larger.
- As you look to the distance of a series of hills (Napa hills to the west) you will notice that the further the hill, the less color and detail is visible. Place the cooler colors (white, grey, blues) in back and the warm (red) in the front.
- Place the finer textures in the back and the coarse textures in the front.

Putting a Landscape Plan together:

TREES will go on plan first, they are the bones or anchor of the plan. Shrubs will fill in spaces.

You have perused a lot of reference material and have come up with a list of trees you might want. Go thru the list again and try to narrow it down. If you have decided on natives, here are some suggestions:

Ceanothus- brilliant color, evergreen screen

Western Redbud _ year round interest (leaf, flower, pod)

Catalpa- UC Davis All Star, 20' tall, white, pink

Dogwoods – Might not be suitable for a full sun garden.

You have decided to go with large spp of ceanothus (Ray Hartman) and the red Bud for a small accent tree.

Put the Tree Symbol on Plan and provide common, botanical names, size pot and quantity

Tulip Trees – Saucer Magnolia (14') vs Liriodendron (100') show the importance of listing the botanical name. To avoid confusion and the planting of a tree too large for the space.

Ceanothus – tree, shrub groundcover, color, and deer resistance.

Again, very important to provide the species on the plant list.

SHRUBS will go on next.

Toyon (Christmas Berry) – love those berries!

Ribes (Flowering Currant) - love the fragrance, many forms but found the plant tends to go into stress easily and that it is deciduous in the summer.

Bush Anemone- nice form but might be too lush for your landscape

Manzanita – attractive red bark, white flowers, fragrant, many forms

Sage – many forms, colors, fragrance

SMALLER SHRUBS

Ca Fuchsia – nice silver but invasive

Penstemon – long lasting color

Buckwheat – nice color, butterfly food, but not very pretty

Hummingbird Sage - love fragrance, beneficial

Woolly Blue Curls – blue flower

Monkey Flower – wide array of colors, hybrids easy care, NPS has several

Manzanita – full green carpet groundcover

Dudleya – ca native succulent for rock garden

Yarrow – low to ground, low maintenance.

Select just a few varieties and mass them into groups. If you choose too many different plants you end up with the Botanical Garden effect, which can create an atmosphere of confusion, without unity or harmony. The way Botanical Gardens can rectify this is to unify the hardscape (the garden of COPIA have a unity in the planting areas, even though there are many different plants filling up the various quadrants)

Make sure both the trees and shrubs/ groundcovers are on the plant list. For Shrubs or groundcovers, you may wish to specify the spacings....and you are DONE !