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Jazzing Up the Garden with Color, Contrast and Movement

What if we composed our gardens the way we'd put together a dinner party?

Guests with something in common easily converse, but too much sameness can be dull. Different points of view spark interesting conversation, but it's no fun if everybody argues and nobody relates.

Plants with something in common create unity in the garden, plants that contrast in any number of ways jazz things up.

Let's explore intuitive ways to combine plants - without angst or color wheel

- Mood created through use of color, emotional quality
- Repeat Plants
- Repeat Colors - Color Echoes
- Good Mixers (silver, lavender, blue, chartreuse)
- Colors that are alike, share an underlying hue, have an affinity
- Colors that are different jazz things up
- Hues with similar value (on the scale from dark to light) vibrate, especially middle values
- Contrasting values (light with dark) are dramatic
- Consider background - plants, your house, neighbor's house, fence
- Contrasting Textures
- Contrasting Forms
- Contrast and Repeat
- Combinations that are Alike but Different
- The more ways a group of plants are Alike or Different, the more interesting the conversation
- Plants that Move
- Plants that Look like they're moving

Make a game of figuring out *why* you like a particular combination - or why you don't like it - and repeat your successes. Have fun!