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## **The Right-Size Flower Garden**

**CHANGE HAPPENS!** Many of us have gardened for years...then one day we wake up and feel as if we've 'gardened' ourselves into a corner! We've become slaves to our garden. Or perhaps you have a busy family life and taking care of a garden is the last thing on your To Do list. Rather than pretending to ignore the dilemma, let's rejoice and see new opportunities!

### **'DECLUTTERING OUR GARDEN' INVOLVES TWO STEPS:**

**A) Reassessing not only the location of a garden, but also its size (square footage).** Below are a few of the questions to ask yourself:

- \*How easily it can be appreciated from various vantage points (including inside the house) and by whom?
- \*How far it is from a water source?
- \*Has the water feature become more of a burden than a joy?

**B) Zooming in on and reassessing the value of individual plants and reminding ourselves that plants are not our children or pets.....** Consider giving away or escorting to the compost pile plants that:

- \*are disease or insect prone
- \*require staking
- \*have ratty looking foliage after flowering
- \*are short-lived
- \*require excessive dividing to keep in control
- \*demand a lot of water

### **NO-FUSS DESIGN SOLUTIONS TO TRANSFORM GARDENS**

- \*Less , is more, is less
- \*Replace mixed perennial beds with flowering shrubs
- \*Foliage rules. It's all about the leaves
- \*Celebrate groundcovers

### **PRIVACY HAS BECOME MORE IMPORTANT TO MANY HOMEOWNERS**

#### **Some evergreen shrubs for year-round privacy:**

**Oregon Grapeholly**, *Mahonia aquifolium*, Zones 5 – 9 (4 where protected), Part Shade, 3' – 6' tall, 2' – 5' wide, Spring bloomer, Deer Resistant

**Juniper 'Wichita Blue'**, Rocky Mountain Juniper, *Juniperus scopulorum* Zones 3 – 7, Sun, 10' – 15' tall, 4' – 6'

wide, Deer resistant

**Japanese Holly**, *Ilex crenata* 'Sky Pencil', Zones 5 – 8, Sun – Part Shade, 4' – 8'+ tall, 1' – 3' wide

**Deciduous shrubs:**

**Hydrangea *paniculata* 'Limelight'**, Sun – Part Sun, Summer – fall bloomer, 6' – 8' tall, Zones 3 – 8

**Bottlebrush (Fothergilla) 'Blue Shadow'** (5'-7' tall) **and *gardenii* (2'-3')**, Sun – Part Shade, Spring bloomer, spectacular fall foliage, Zones 5 – 9

### **WEED-SMOTHERING, GROWDCOVERS ARE THE RAGE!**

**Leptinella** Part Shade – Shade, 2" tall, Zones 5 – 9, Deer resistant

**Woods Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) 'Louisiana Blue'**, Sun-Shade, 12" tall, Zones 3-8

**Delosperma 'Fire Spinner'** Sun 1"-3" Zones 5-9, Deer Resistant

**Woolly Thyme**, Sun 1"-2", Zones 2-9, Deer resistant

**Epimedium 'Bandit'** (Zones 4-8) and **Ajuga 'Pink Lightning' (Zones 3-9)** Part Shade-Shade, Spring

### **USE PERENNIALS THAT DON'T REQUIRE DEADHEADING**

**Geranium 'Rozanne'** Sun-Part Sun, 18"-20", Summer – Fall, Zones 5 – 9, Deer Resistant

**Coreopsis 'Mercury Rising'**, Tickseed, Sun-Part Sun, 15"-18", Summer – fall, Zones 5-9, Deer Resistant

**Eryngium 'Blue Hobbit'**, Sea Holly, Sun, 12", Summer, Zones 4-8, Deer resistant

**Daylily 'Pewter Pink'**, Sun-Part Sun, Repeat bloomer, 24" tall, Fragrant, Zones 3-9, 6"-7.5" blooms, Z3-9

### **DRY SHADE? NO PROBLEM!**

**Tiarella 'Sugar and Spice'**, Foamflower, 8"-13", Spring, Deer resistant, Z 3-8

**Solomon's Seal 'Double Stuff'**, Polygonatum, 18" Spring Z 3-9

**Helleborus 'Ballerina Ruffles'** and **'First Dance'**, Part Shade-Shade 18"-22" Spring Z4-9 Deer Resistant

### **INCORPORATE PERENNIALS THAT DON'T NEED DIVIDING!**

**Euphorbia 'Ascot Rainbow' & 'First Blush'**, Cushion Spurge, Sun-Part Sun, 12"-20", Spring, Z4-9 (First Blush) Z5-9 (Ascot Rainbow), Deer resistant

**Winecups** (*Callirhoe*), Sun, 6"-12", Summer, Z4-9

**Intersectional Peony 'Bartzella'**, Sun-Part Sun, 30"-36", Spring, Z4-9, Deer resistant

### **TURN UP THE SIZZLE WITH COLORFUL FOLIAGE**

**Heuchera 'Electra'**, Coral Bells, Sun-Shade, 8" mounds, Z4-9, Deer resistant

**Heuchera 'Lava Lamp'**, Coral Bells, 16" mounds, Z4-9, Deer resistant

**Heucherella 'Brass Lantern'**, Foamy Bells, Sun-Shade, 12"-18" mounds, Z4-9,

**Phlox g. 'Triple Play'**, Sun-Part Sun, Spring, 12"-15", Z4-8

## **BUILD IN FLOWERING SHRUBS, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT REQUIRE LITTLE OR NO PRUNING!**

**Buddleia Lo & Behold 'Blue Chip'**, Butterfly Bush, Sun, 2'-3', Summer-Fall, Z5-9, Deer resistant

**Ninebark (Physocarpus) 'Tiny Wine'**, Sun, 3'-4', Late spring-Summer, Z 3-8

**Caryopteris 'Petit Blue'**, Blue Mist Shrub, Sun, 24"-36" tall, Fall, Z 5-11, Deer Resistant

## **GORGEOUS HYDRANGEAS FOR TOUGH LOVE GARDENS!**

**Hydrangea paniculata 'Pinky Winky'**, Sun – Part Sun, Summer–fall, 6' – 8' tall, Z 3 – 8

**Hydrangea p. 'Bobo'**, Sun-Part Sun Summer-fall, 30"-36" tall, Z3-8

**Hydrangea quercifolia 'Ruby Slippers'**, Oakleaf Hydrangea, Sun-Part Sun, 3'-4' tall, Summer-fall, Z 5-8

**Hydrangea q. 'Gatsby Gal'**, Oakleaf Hydrangea, Sun-Part Sun, 5'-6' tall, Summer-fall, Z 5-8

**Hydrangea arborescens 'Incrediball'**, Smooth Hydrangea, Sun-Part Sun, 4'-5' tall, Summer, Z 3-9

**Hydrangea a. 'Invincibelle Spirit'** Smooth Hydrangea, Sun 3'-4' tall, Z 3-9

## **BFFS – BEST FRAGRANT FLOWERING SHRUBS**

**Lilac (Syringa) 'Bloomerang'**, Sun, Spring – fall, 4' – 5' tall, Z 3 – 8, Fragrant, Deer resistant

**White Forsythia, Abeliophyllum distichum**, Sun–Part Shade, 3'–5' tall, Spring, Zones 5–8, Fragrant, Deer resistant

**Summersweet (Clethra) 'Vanilla Spice' & 'Ruby Spice'**, Sun-Part Shade, Summer, Z 4-9, Fragrant, Deer resistant

## **SELECT EVERGREENS THAT NEED LITTLE PRUNING, LOOK GREAT YEAR-ROUND AND ARE DISEASE & INSECT RESISTANT**

**Juniper horizontalis 'Good Vibrations'**, Sun, 12"-18" tall, 5'+ spread, Z 4-9, Deer resistant

**Dwarf Colorado Blue Spruce (Picea pungens) 'Sester Dwarf'**, Sun, 6' – 10' tall (3"-5" a year), Z 2-8 Deer resistant

**Siberian Cypress (Microbiota) 'Celtic Pride'**, Sun – Part Shade, 12"-36" tall, Z 2-7, Deer resistant

## **LONG-LIVED, NATURALIZING BULBS**

**Tulip turksestanica**, Sun, 6"-8" tall, Z 3-8

**Camassia quamash**, Sun-Part Shade, 12"-24" tall, Z 3-8, Deer resistant

**Colchicum**, Sun-Part Shade, 4"-6" tall, Z 4-8, Deer resistant

## **INANIMATE FOCAL POINTS ARE A LOT LESS WORK THAN PLANTS PLUS THEY PLAY A DRAMATIC ROLE IN THE LANDSCAPE**

### **INCLUDE SHRUBS & TREES THAT POP IN WINTER LANDSCAPES**

**Coral Bark Japanese Maple (Acer palmatum)**, Sun-Part Sun, 15'-20' tall, Z 5-8

**Winterberry (Ilex verticillata)**, Sun-Part Sun, 5'+ tall, Z 3-9

**Dogwood (Cornus alba) 'Prairie Fire'**, Sun-Part Sun 7' tall, Spring, Z 2-7

### **NATIVE PLANTS ARE A NO-BRAINER!**

**Butterfly Weed (Asclepias) 'Hello Yellow' and tuberosa**, Sun, 24" tall, Summer, Z3-9, Deer resistant

**Culver's Root (Veronicastrum virginicum)**, Sun – Part Sun, 4'-5'tall, Summer, Z 4-9

## **PLANT NO-FUSS ANNUALS**

**Lobularia 'Snow Princess'**, Sun-Part Sun, 4"-6" tall

**Supertunia Vista Fuchsia**, Sun, 16"-24" tall, trails 5'

**Superbena 'Violet Ice'**, Sun – Part Sun, 8"-12" tall, trails 3'+

**Lobelia 'Laguna Sky Blue'**, Sun-Part Sun, 8"-10" tall, trails to 24"

**Wishbone Flower (Torenia) Catalina 'Gilded Grape'**, Sun or shade, 8"-16" tall, Trails to 24", Deer resistant

**Browallia 'Illumination' and 'Flirtation'**, Sun to Shade, 10"-16" tall

**GARDENING BOOKS BY KERRY ANN MENDEZ. You can order signed copies at [pyours.com/books](http://pyours.com/books) or purchase them at bookstores and Amazon.com**

\*The Right-Size Flower Garden: Simplify Your Outdoor Space with Smart Design Solutions and Plant Choices

\*The Ultimate Flower Gardener's Top Ten Lists: 70 Garden-Transforming Lists, Money Saving Shortcuts, Design Tips & Smart Plant Picks for Zones 3-7

\*Top Tens Lists for Beautiful Shade Gardens: 52 Garden-Transforming Lists for Smart Plant Picks, Design Tips & Garden Shortcuts

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