



# FOUNDATION PLANTING PRINCIPALS

Presented By

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# Purpose of Foundation Planting

- ✱ Originally used to hide bases of older homes
- ✱ Plantings should compliment not camouflage the home
- ✱ Blend the home into it's surroundings
- ✱ Make the entrance to the home easy to find and inviting

# Parts of a Foundation Planting

- ✻ Entrance Planting - Area nearest the entrance door
- ✻ Corner Planting - Help visually tie the house into the surrounding landscape
- ✻ Transition Area - Joins the corner and entrance plantings together

# Other Components of Foundation Plantings

- ✱ Walks - Provide access to the doorway
- ✱ Lawns - Important part of entrance garden
- ✱ Driveways - Largest area of most front yards
- ✱ Borders - Plantings in these areas define the space and frame the house and garden

# Design Elements

- ☀ Line - Creates a sense of direction
- ☀ Form - Plant shapes define spaces in the garden - the shape of a plant. Upright, oval, columnar, spreading, broadly spreading, arching/fountain-shaped and weeping
- ☀ Structure - Structural plantings define the walls, ceilings and floors of the outdoor room
- ☀ Texture - Add interest to the landscape
- ☀ Color - Repeat some of the house colors

# Design Principles

- ✱ Simplicity - More is not better
- ✱ Variety - Should be enough to create interest
- ✱ Balance - Equal visual "weight"
- ✱ Unity - Various elements work together visually - too many individual is chaotic or too many of one kind can be boring
- ✱ Emphasis - Focus attention on important elements of the landscape

# Design Principals Continued

- ✱ Style - Adapt the foundation planting to the style of the home

- ✱ Scale - Relative size of the landscape plants to one another, the house and its surroundings

## Planning

Plan ahead on paper to save time and prevent costly mistakes



# Design Errors to Avoid

- ✱ Over planting - Most common failure of foundation plantings
- ✱ Visual Confusion - Do not distract from the main entrance
- ✱ Excessive Formality - Symmetrical balance is over used

# Drainage and Moisture Control

- ✱ Grade ground close to the house to channel water away from the foundation
- ✱ Place plants at least 3 feet away from building for maintenance and fire hazard reduction
- ✱ Allow adequate spacing between plants
- ✱ Avoid planting under the drip line of the eaves if there are not rain gutters

# Plant Choices

## ☀ Know plant Characteristics

Mature size and shape

Evergreen or deciduous

## ☀ Select plants that are: Native or Adaptive

Pest resistant

Hardy and heat tolerant for the area

Adapted for sun, soil, and moisture  
conditions of your yard

# Plant Choices

- ☀ Trees - Frame the house and provide background
- ☀ Shrubs - Evergreen are the mainstay but deciduous plants add year round interest
- ☀ Groundcovers - Tie plantings together, create unity and can be used as a natural edging
- ☀ Perennials and Annuals - Seasonal interest and colorful accents

# Purchasing Healthy Plants

Look for:

- ☀ Good foliage color and strong branches
- ☀ Check for live roots – white or tan
- ☀ Avoid root bound
- ☀ Avoid plants with roots exposed on surface or growing out of drain holes
- ☀ Avoid circling roots on trees

# Foundation planting history





# First example of a foundation planting









# Cottage Gardens take careful:

- ☀ Planning
- ☀ Material selection
- ☀ Maintenance

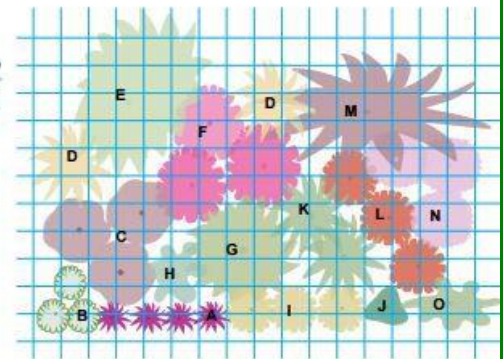
## Low-Water Garden Plan

Count on this no-fuss garden to stay looking good through dry spells.



### PLANT LIST

- A. 4 Crested iris** (*Iris cristata*): Zones 4–10  
**B. 3 Sweet alyssum** (*Lobularia maritima*): Annual  
**C. 3 Sedum 'Autumn Joy'**: Zones 3–10  
**D. 2 Feather reedgrass** (*Calamagrostis* × *acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster'): Zones 5–9  
**E. 1 Variegated redtwig dogwood** (*Cornus alba* 'Elegantissima'): Zones 2–9  
**F. 3 New England aster** (*Aster novae-angliae* 'Alma Pötschke'): Zones 4–8  
**G. 1 Spurge** (*Euphorbia characias*): Zones 7–11  
**H. 1 Money plant** (*Lunaria annua*): Zones 5–9; biennial\*  
**I. 3 Lady's mantle** (*Alchemilla mollis*): Zones 4–7  
**J. 1 Spotted deadnettle** (*Lamium maculatum* 'White Nancy'): Zones 3–8  
**K. 2 Shrubby dusty miller** (*Brachyglottis compacta*): Zones 8–11  
**L. 3 Stonecrop** (*Sedum cauticola* 'Ruby Glow'): Zones 5–9  
**M. 1 Japanese barberry** (*Berberis thunbergii* 'Rose Glow'): Zones 4–8  
**N. 3 Michaelmas daisy** (*Aster novae-belgii* 'Lassie'): Zones 4–8  
**O. 1 Silver Carpet Lamb's-ears** (*Stachys byzantina* 'Silver Carpet'): Zones 4–8



EACH SQUARE = 1

\*A biennial grows only foliage the first year, flowers the second year, then dies after developing seeds.





Formality  
achieved  
through  
repletion of  
color and form





Can you have too much green?







# Landscape Color Accent Home Color





# Too Much = Confusion







# Find the Front Door





# Landscape Needs Update





# Problems In The Landscape





