



# 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

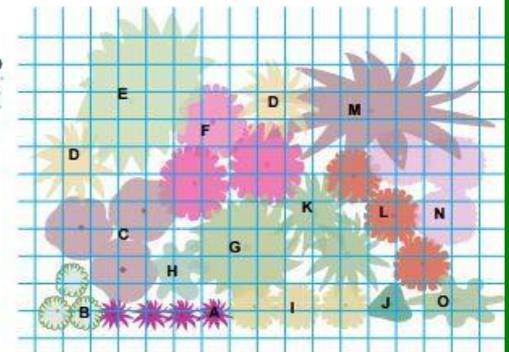
## Low-Water Garden Plan

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 redbow 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 caucicola* "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  
repetition 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



