

Wild Ones Design Studio

Resource Notes: [Toledo Design](#) by Susan Hall (also: [Animation](#) and [WO webinar](#))

2-27-21

Design elements:

Susan Hall - Garden Designer

Design Strategy

- Know what you like in design. Then replace plants with natives.
- Know your site. Are there wet areas?
- In your sketch -
 - Indicate where people will be walking, indicate where you want privacy, indicate garden spaces needed to address site conditions
 - If you want people to look at your yard, put plants and features of interest (e.g. dry river bed)
- Consider a compost area, veggie garden, bird watching area, etc.
- Create focal points to give your eye somewhere to go - firepit, meadows, paving stones, dry river bed and water feature in front.
- List all of the activities you plan for your yard -- Includes rain garden, dry river bed, composting area, fountains (Solar powered bubbler), and different kinds of viewing spots (deck, bench, and fire pit)
- Consider proximity of vegetable garden so easily accessible from house (location in this design could be more convenient)
- Priorities -- also (Liz) Priorities - get fences and address privacy solutions in first; it takes longer here to grow things
 - Phase 1 - front plantings, shrubs, vegetable beds.
 - Phase 2 - back border and fire pit (thoughts on propane fire pit?)
 - Phase 3 - shady path and bench

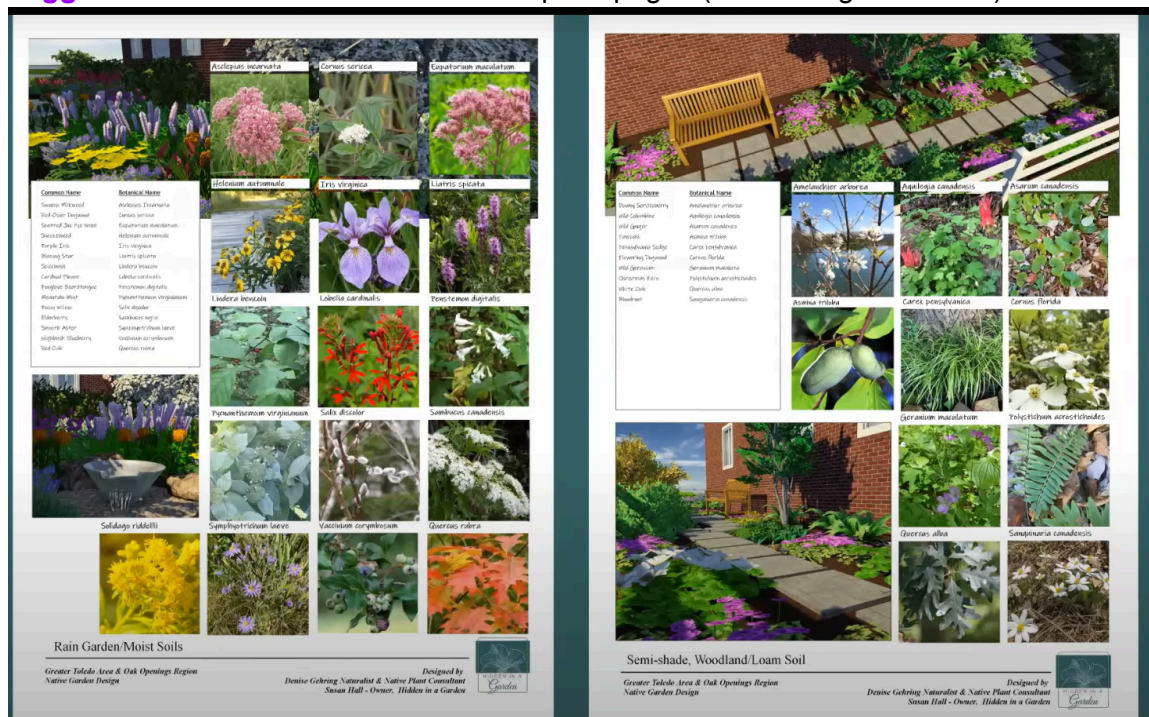
Design Elements

- (Kristine) Like splashes of yellow in drifts.
- (Polly) Nice combination of drifting in a small space. Shade ground with plants. (Marcia) Jill says she looks at gardening like she is painting (an artistic process). (Jeannie) planting for critters and for us. (Kristine) have enough plants to get noticed by birds, berries, etc. (Polly) Hate to buy plants that I'm not familiar with and not put them in adrift (Kristine) Look at the soil type, sun needs, bloom time, environmental conditions, so we can have more assurance that plants will survive (so worth the expense of planting in drifts).
- (Kristine) has been gathering resources that provide information about each plant. Looking at resources from Minnesota. This could take a while. (Polly) We have to analyze our yard (wet zone, hot zone, dry zone) where is septic field? Where do deer roam? I don't know whether designers are considering how assertive/competitive they are. (Marcia) Prairie Moon and Prairie Nursery provide this type of information. They may say "spreads readily by rhizomes". Any time a plant has rhizomes, this usually means a thug to take over. (Kristine) Michigan Flora also indicates the competitiveness of plants as well as how wet etc.
- Rain garden

- to handle roof and walkway runoff - resource: [Toledo Rain Garden Initiative](#) (how to build, etc.)
- Swale (because built with a 6" or more dip)
- both sides of driveway for continuity
- (Polly) rain chain - attractive. Anchor the bottom so the wind doesn't knock it around.
- Melanie's KGC presentation - how to mitigate rain. She had a gully. (Kristine) how plants are going to survive periodic flooding.

Plant Use

- Right plant; right place - you need to know: light, soil type, water availability (wet or dry areas), mature - know mature size so you don't overplant.
- **Suggested resource:** Ladybird wild bird center - information about the native plants
- **Suggested resource:** Screenshot of her plant pages (hiddeninagarden.com)



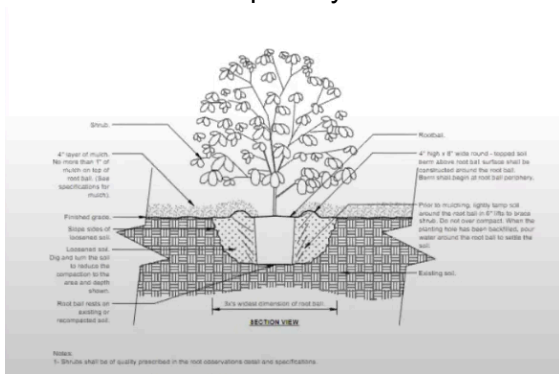
- Make a list of plants you like.
- Simplify - 3-5 species per area. Minimum of 3 (unless shrub) ideally use 7-9 - so you can see their presence (visual impact)
- Vary textures - thrill (liatris), spill (coreopsis), fill (butterfly weed) - (Jeannie) wild petunia for a spiller (Julie) wild geranium for a spiller if not sandy soil
- Shade plants in sun - may not work well for sandy soil in hot/dry summers
- Near house may be hot- so potential microclimate for hot dry - mulch may help
- Consider bloom times - visual interest throughout the year.
- Figure out what you want in different areas and focus on design of one area first
- She started with front of house and foundation areas

Tips

- Maintain a clean bed edge - cut every year with edger



- Use mulch first couple of years



- Ecology vs landscape designer approach -
 - Botanists who know their plants - helpful to know which plants they like
 - Wild ones- to learn, look for programs in your area
- Buy a plant and then propagate so it can be included in different areas of the yard. (eg. wild columbine seeds)
- Birdfeeders

(Liz) - be careful not to put bird feeders too close to windows

(Kathe) - birdfeeders are for people, not birds so focus on plants
- Deer
 - Priorities - get fences and address privacy solutions in first; it takes longer here to grow things
 - (Liz) two 4 foot fences 4 feet between

Noteworthy plants:

Skeptical

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Plants and plant strategies

- Vary textures - thrill (liatris), spill (coreopsis), fill (butterfly weed) - (Jeannie) wild petunia for a spiller (Julie) wild geranium for a spiller if not sandy soil
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