

Garden Creation

"The Thought Process"

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It is not easy to predict how a plant will grow in a particular site. The unpredictability makes it difficult to design, plant the garden and have 100% success the first time. Gardens are an on going process of building, modifying, maintaining and enjoying.

Garden to context.....Garden in place

Understanding your climate, soil and topography will help the gardener garden in place. Allen Lacy wrote "Garden where you live, just garden where you live".

- Native gardens
- Regional gardens
- Prairie gardens
- Xeroscaping

Assessing the site

- Is the garden new or old
- What inherited features do you have to or need to work with
 - buildings
 - terrain
 - plant material-which to save, which to rip and replace
 - rocks
 - etc
- Soil
 - how much amending is needed (notice I said how much not if)
 - soil pH
 - Drainage
 - Texture
- Climate
 - Plant hardiness zone-we are in plant hardiness zone #5
 - microclimates
 - sheltered areas
 - wind swept areas
 - snowfall
- Judging shade (see shade handout for more detail)
 - sunny
 - light Shade
 - full shade
 - dense shade
 - spring sunny-summer shady

Decisions

- Fitting the garden to the site
- Size
 - How big can I make it?
 - The bigger the more work
 - The bigger the more money
- Cost
 - How much do I want to spend?
 - How much can I afford to spend?
 - Cost is not only in direct relation to the number of plants but also to the
 - Types and size of plants
- Time
 - How much time do I want to spend on creating the garden?
 - How much time do I want to spend on maintaining the garden?
- Plants
 - match the plants to the site
 - Match the plants from your "plant pallet"
 - Try the plant
 - Move the plant
 - Adios the plant
- Structures
 - Fences
 - potting sheds
 - gazebos
 - etc.
- Embellishments
 - water features
 - furniture
 - pots of plants
 - statuary
 - ornaments
 - etc.
- Put your thoughts and ideas on paper
 - could be to scale
 - or just a sketch
 - Lots of new garden design software