

# The Bones of the Landscape

Paul S Drobot

The bones of a landscape are the plant material, structures, etc. that tie together the area during all seasons of the year. They establish the structure of the area. Once the bones are established the designer - home owner - can tweak areas to fit their own personal ideas. Such as adding perennials, annuals, specimen shrubs, etc.

A landscape with well established bones will tie together the plants and other assorted embellishments in the landscape.

Bones are created by

- Repetition of
  - Plant material
  - Evergreen foliage
- Using plant material that can hold its own
  - Full foliage
  - Good stem structure
  - Easy to maintain and grow
  - The chosen plant size fits into the area with minimal pruning
    - Try to avoid material that needs to be tightly pruned into geometric shapes
  - Evergreen material like Boxwood, Yew, Juniper and Arborvitae all work in Zone #5
  - Plants that have structure in the winter
- Structures
  - Walls
    - Rock walls
    - Timber walls
    - Concrete
  - Fences
  - Plant supports
    - Teepee
    - Tripod
    - Trellis
    - Obelisks
    - Poles
- Hardscape material
  - Rocks
  - Mulches especially rock mulch
  - Paver walks and patios
- Yard stuff
  - Art work

- Gnomes
- Metal structures
- Benches
- Pots and containers
- Chairs

A landscape with well established bones will

- Visually be tied together during the entire year
- Create areas to add plants
- Create areas to add yard stuff