

Four Season Landscape  
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From mid-April to mid-October there is a lot of flowering plants to add interest to your landscape. During the rest of the year it becomes a bit more difficult and you need to think out of the box.

1. Ground Rules
  - a. Some of the things I say are of interest, you may think they are not very interesting
  - b. It doesn't need to have a flower to be interesting, but flowers do help
  - c. Don't get discouraged by all of the material that is presented today
  - d. Pick out something and give it a try
  
2. During mid-April through early October it is easy to have something blooming in the yard
  - a. April through May
    - i. bulbs, perennials, shrubs, trees, annuals
  - b. June through July
    - i. Perennials, shrubs, trees, annuals
  - c. August through September
    - i. Perennials, some shrubs, annuals
  - d. September through October
    - i. fall color mostly from woody plants, some from perennials
  - e. the rest of the year you need to be creative and think out of the box
  
3. When is your season of interest
  - a. Memorial Day to Jul 4<sup>th</sup> to Labor Day
  - b. All season
  - c. Specific times
  
4. The bones of a landscape are the plant material, hardscape and structures that ties 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.
  - a. Plant material
  - b. Hardscape
  - c. Structures
  - d. Garden stuff
  
5. Characteristics of plants that provide interest
  - a. Major
    - i. Flowers (annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees)
    - ii. Fruit
    - iii. Foliage color (deciduous or conifers)

1. Summer
  2. Fall
- b. Secondary
  - i. Bark - color, exfoliating, texture
  - ii. Dry fruit
  - iii. Stem interest
  - iv. Form
6. Flowers in your garden/yard throughout the growing season
  - a. Develop a blooming sequence chart
  - b. Identify gaps in your flowering sequence
  - c. Identify potential areas that have potential to add plants
  - d. Use good design
    - i. Fewer number of plants, plants massed
    - ii. Some plants can stand on their own
  - e. Use of spring flowering bulbs

#### Other resources

These are handouts that can be down loaded by going to the Horticultural Notes section of [www.plantstogrow.com](http://www.plantstogrow.com)

7. [www.plantstogrow.com](http://www.plantstogrow.com)
  - a. Horticulture Notes
    - i. Selecting Trees and Shrubs
      1. Fall color of woody plants
      2. Foliage color of woody plants
      3. Ornamental fruit of woody plants
    - ii. Four Seasons Landscape
      1. Bones of the landscape
      2. Presentation outline
      3. Flowering sequence of plants
      4. Flowering sequence of the Gardens on the Circle