



Children's Garden Club
 April 5th, 2008
 Planning & planting Your Garden
 For the Garden at Haefner's
 6703 Telegraph Road

Welcome to the April Children's Garden Club! Thank You to Marcia & Greg Haefner for hosting this month and October 4th.

If you have not all ready started a plan for you 2008 landscape, vegetable garden, herb garden, cut flower garden or just planting some annuals or perennials you will enjoy today. With all good things there generally is a good plan or foundation to build on or form.

Knowing the your site and cultural requirements of the plant you like to plants, consider the maximum heights / sizes, sun or shade knowing the "The Right Plant – Right Place"

Today we are going to break this hand out into two (2) section this first section for the older children and adults. Then in the second section mainly for the children and gardening mainly with annuals, understanding what is annual, soil preparation and care.



Right Plant – Right Place

- Aesthetic enhancement of property
Providing colorful landscape / seasonal interest, flowers foliage, texture, bark, fruit, shape, evergreen deciduous, differing bloom times, seasonal changes.
- Enhance your property value, according to Realtors, good landscaping brings 200% payback.
- Energy conservation deciduous trees on the south and west exposures. Wind breaks
- Screening and sound barrier – Boundaries – Define all the spaces
- Shade / comfort – Sun / fun, pool
- Erosion control – Groundcover
- Entertainment / Leisure time – Lawn activities i.e. badminton, croquet, volleyball. – space for tennis pool
- Vegetable garden – Herb garden – Cut flower garden (fresh or dried)
- Fragrance – all season – spring, cut flowers, pot potpourri etc.
- Wildlife habitat – Birds, Butterfly, Bees. Not Deer that is another subject!!!

Consideration When Selecting Plants

- Beware of overhead wires and plan for their limitations Always call Dig Rite – 1-800-dig-rite or www.mo.call.org Consider the rate of growth:
- Beware of the 3 to 5 yr. growth time beware of, or use of slow growing species.
- Consider all members of house hold from parents to children’s age, their growth and pets and their usage of the property consider your allergies working with your existing landscape, learn the correct way of how to do good pruning, the correct season and when to it needs to be done, fertilizing and maintenance requirements and seasonal needs of your plants while they are New and Mature and there differences.
- Consider Plants of Merit – in selecting good plants for the landscape can be challenging, especially when there numerous possibilities – this program can short-circuit this process. For detailed information on these plants, as well as may more, go to www.plantsofmerit.org .
- Make a map of your property with existing landscape (patios, terraces, sidewalks, barbecue area, pool in ground or above ground, play ground sets, sheds, fences, dog runs, fences, etc.) You can get/use drafting tissue to do overlays; provide easy ways to explore ideas, desires, be creative. – OR – make copies so you can change as you wish or keep a track of your changes in a hard copy. Just start with a list of wants and a PLAN the word Plan is Key this once complete will be you Master Plan. If you do this on scale paper or rule paper out paper to your own scale.
- Assess the property “area” what is the existing landscape – the landscape to be observe your morning, afternoon, evening, amounts of light direct, or indirect (shade), observe the water conditions that may exist... make note in mind and on the drawing of downspouts, be aware of sump pumps, excessive run-off, gullies low spots, soil type,

any water retention, and take note of areas that could receive excessive salt from snow trucks / snow removal.

- Profile – location, new bed maximum and aesthetics, sidewalk, front house landscape, entrance – welcome, mailbox, back yard functional or Aesthetical-formal/informal, side house.
- Observe terrain – slopping or flat, depression, rocky, compacted, proximity to masonry as it relate to (concrete, asphalt, stone, brick, a foundation walls) heat, run off.
- Consideration to features that might work with the terrain (example ...a water feature – waterfalls and water gardening).
- Theme Gardens / Landscape – Grow Native, Butterfly, Fragrance, Vegetable, Rose... Formal or Informal
- Observe traffic flow and common patterns of people, pets and wildlife. Beware of use age of lawn-vs-ground covers, mulch, and gravel. Consider paths or walks using stepping stones, gravel, mulch, woodchips. Plan for maintenance equipment access into the landscape – i.e. lawn mower, wheel barrel, riding equipment – aeration, that now consider how to use your plants and why!
- A Diverse Native Landscape – can be Beautiful. Reduces Maintenance, and provides Habitat for Wildlife, check out attachment with rating of front yard to field.

Getting your Plants – In the past I assume want you did first start your flower or vegetable garden from shopping at the garden center from plants that you like? Then come home and just planted them were you think them to be. With the previous information that you now have in hand YOU have you have become a educated consumer! I now assume you will enjoy those plants – planting even more because they will be planted with understanding not just love. If you do leave the house with this hand out one thing I hope you all go home with is to always read those tags in the plants pot they will help you – guide you in making good selections. Now this also goes for the seed packages that have a lot of good information on them to assist you. Advance planning generates a better garden design a more pleasing outcome, especially if you are attempting a more formal garden - vs - a natural or cottage garden.

A well-planned garden is easier to care for, it saves time in the garden and is more productive. The planning can start well in advance of the actual plant planting. As a houses foundation the success of many gardens is also the ground foundation or preparation which could have been done last fall or once the ground is not so wet, this year we do not have to worry about dry ground going into spring. A good soil is a loose, level as possible well drained soil is best. In St. Louis with our clay soil if possible it is best to add organic matter, some sand or perlite. Most gardens do best in at least 6 hrs of sun light, the more sunlight produces the best & healthiest high quality vegetables. You can have a beautiful & colorful garden with shade loving plants and lost of texture and shades of green and variegation in your plants.

Avoid being to close to shrubs & trees consider there roots and the shade they will provide depending on how it is to be used.

Consider your water supply availability especially for a vegetable or cut flower garden. In these gardens you might make a list of all the you'd like to grow. In this list do columns of "Must", "Would like to have", "New, fun, or experimental", or "If I have room for".

For the Children! Marcia & Greg have come up with a great project of working with Annuals.

What is an Annual ? the term annual is applied to garden flowers that complete their life cycle in the span of one growing **season**. This means the plant (seed – cutting) come up start in the spring usually grow throughout the summer, flower, set seed and then die after the frost in the fall of the season. There are many plants used as annuals which we will tour the grounds / greenhouses and see along with the seed racks.

Now that we have completed our tour and seen the wide selection of annuals and many other plants that are available to us this spring.

Plants & Site Maintenance:

Care & Maintenance involves watering weeding looking in advance for changes in leaves, wholes in leaves, any change in plants growth for possible pest or natural control concerns.

Watering - It is better to give a deep soaking / watering is much preferred over the frequent, light watering. This is not to get confused the first watering to be good but we do not want the plants to float away, but once established this is a good rule of thumb. This soaking encourages a deep root system. Watering is best to be done in the morning so that the plant goes through day well watered and productive. This is especially true for container / pot gardens. This deep root system of watering is also beneficial if you go out of town for the weekend the plants can have the deep roots established for while you are away. Watering in the morning also ensure that the foliage that is wet dries off going into the hot sun or not moist going into the night to prevent possible foliar diseases.

Fertilization - Most annuals do well with some extra help in getting them started by using a transplant or plant starter fertilizer / solution, which generally similar to 3-10-3 plus Vitamin B-1 which reduces transplant shock and stimulates early strong root development. I personally like my plants to get well established by feeding them every two weeks until about July and then only monthly till September with a all purpose a 10-30-10 for example and using a controlled release Osmocote granular fertilizer like a 14-14-14 around end of May early June.

Mulching - After the annuals are planted or can be done before hand, it is suggested that a 1-3 inch of organic mulch be applied around the plants. Not only is it attractive, but it also helps conserve soil moisture, reduce weed growth and keeps soil cool. In the fall or early next spring this mulch can be incorporated into the soil adding organic matter and helping to improve the soil structure.

Weeding – This is not always the most fun activity, but can be very therapeutic. This is essential to keep weeds out and preventing competition for space and nutrients in the garden. Weeds should be removed as soon as you see them with shallow roots and easy cultivation.

2008

Children's Garden Club

Calendar

All meetings are at 9:00a.m. at different locations throughout St. Louis County & City. All are Free thanks to our Sponsors. No RSVP's are required, everyone welcome, & Great for Scout troops. The Children's Garden Club is designed to educate, as well as bring delight in gardening and horticulture with projects they start themselves and take home to continue to grow and enjoy.

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| January 5 th , 2008 | Flower Arranging | Baisch & Skinner, Inc. – 2721 LaSalle |
| February 2 nd , 2008 | Terrariums | Sappington Garden Center – 11530 Gravois |
| Feb 28 - March 2 | Flower Show & C.G.G | Home & Garden Show America' Center |
| March 1 st , 2008 | Seeds & Spouts | Sherwood's Forest Nursery & Garden Center
2651 Barrett Station Road |
| April 5 th , 2008 | Planning & Planting Your Garden | – For the Garden at Haefner's
6703 Telegraph Road |
| May 3 rd , 2008
Road | Annuals | Queeny Park Greensfelder Recreation Complex – 550 Weidman |
| June 7 th , 2008
Rd. | Perennials in a container | – Sherwood's Forest Nursery & Garden – 2651 Barrett Station |
| July 12 th 2008 | Summer Bulbs with Jason Delaney | with Missouri Botanical Garden –
4344 Shaw Blvd. |
| August 2 nd , 2008 | In Celebration of Useful Plants | – Queeny Park Greensfelder Recreation Complex
550 Weidman Road |
| September 13, 2008 | Lend a Hand – Care for the Land | Observe, Explore, and Care for the environment,
generally Caring for the planet we live on.
Queeny Park Greensfelder recreation complex – 550 Weidman Road |
| October 4 th , 2008 | The Magic of Fall | For the Garden at Haefner's
6703 Telegraph Road. |
| November 1 st , 2008 | A Fall project | Sherwood's Forest Nursery & Garden Center |
| December 6 th , 2008 | Enjoying the Holiday Decorations | Sherwood's Forest |

Planning & Planting your Garden

S E R T M F R S L D S G R Q R
M E G V L L I O R E N T S T E
F B L O G Z Y A L I J E H L Z
Z O W B E M F A R O L X B A I
J E L L A Y W E L H C T S C L
R V P I F T T O N C P U F V I
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B V Q Y W G C G X U F E D S R
D L T H G I E H E M A E S O E
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Z X F L Y M N S N P T J R A B
B F Y C T Z H N P N A P U S A
A N N U A L S B H W X H Y A J

ANNUALS
FERTILIZER
FRUIT
SIZE
VEGETABLES

BLOOM
FLOWER
HEIGHT
SOIL
WATERING

COLOR
FOLIAGE
MULCH
TEXTURE
WEEDS