

Kerry Ann Mendez, 7 Cambridge Court, Kennebunk, Maine 04043 (207) 502-7228
Email: pyours1@gmail.com Web site: www.pyours.com

Clever Design Tricks for Everblooming, Low-Maintenance Gardens

Sponsored by Espoma, Garden Design, Plantskydd Organic Animal Repellants, Proven Winners

*Usually deer resistant N = Native or nativar to North America

This lecture has 3 parts: *Maximizing Blooms from Plants that You Love *Design Tips for Colorful, Low Maintenance Gardens *Garden Design by Example

Part 1) Maximizing Blooms from Plants You Love

Combine Early, Mid and Late Season Bloomers Within the Same Genus.

***Astilbe** j. 'Rheinland' Early; c. 'Dark Side of the Moon' Mid; c. 'Pumila' Late Article by Iowa State Extension Office on early, mid, late blooming Astilbe <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/2000/7-14-2000/astilbes.html#:~:text=Depending%20on%20the%20variety%2C%20astilbes,over%20%20or%203%20months.>

***Peony.** Woodland Peony (*P. japonica*); Tree Peony (*P. suffruticosa*); Itoh Peony 'Julia Rose'; Late 'Sarah Bernhardt'

-**Phlox** Native. *divaricata* 'Louisiana Blue' Spring; 'Baby Doll White' early summer; 'Glamour Girl' mid-late Summer

-**Hemerocallis Daylily.** Early 'Happy Returns'; Mid 'Handwriting on the Wall'; Late 'Red Razzmatazz' Daylilies by bloom time <https://www.daylilygarden.com/garden-plants/daylilies/flowers/daylilies-by-bloom-time.html>

***Allium.** July: Allium 'Millenium' Mid-late August 'Medusa' Sept-Oct. 'Ozawa'

***Clematis.** Early: *C. montana* 'Bluebird' Group 1 April-May. Mid: 'Nelly Moser' Group 2; Late: Sweet Autumn Clematis Group 3

Mix and Match to Get the LOOK You Love

-**White, Mounded Flowering Shrubs.** Early: Viburnum Snowball Bush (*x carlcephalum*) Fragrant Z5-8; Mid: Smooth Hydrangeas 'Incrediball' N Z3-8; Late: Panicle Hydrangeas 'Puffer Fish' Z3-8 Proven Winners

-**Purple Asters.** Spring: Anemone *blanda* 'Blue Shades' Windflower Z4-8; Summer: Aster *frikartii* Monch Aster Z5-9; Fall: Aster o. 'October Skies' Z5-8

-**Purple 'Salvia' Spring through Fall.** Salvia Color Spires 'Violet Profusion' 22" Z3-8. Agastache 'Black Adder' 2'-3' Z6-9. Aconitum *fischeri* 1.5'-2' Z4-8 poisonous

-**Cheerful White Daisies Spring through Fall.** Shasta 'Snowcap' (or 'Snow Lady') 12"-15" Z5-9. Shasta 'Daisy May' 18"-24" Z5-9 Great Garden Plants. Coneflower 'Fragrant Angel' 30" Z4-9 Fragrant. White Daisy Mammoth Mum 16"-24" Z5-9.

-**Rhododendrons in order of bloom time.** Azalea *mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink' early April Z4-8; Small-Leaved Rhododendron 'Landmark' Later in April Z5-8;

-**Large-Leaved Rhododendron yakushimanum** 'Ken Janeck' Late Spring Z5-8; **Swamp Azalea viscosum** small flowers, very fragrant late Spring-July Native Z4-9

The Chelsea Chop Cut back stems of tall summer/fall blooming perennials by 1/3 to 1/2 to reduce height and extend blooming. Many annuals also benefit from pinching!

-**Timing** For **early summer blooming perennials** such as Shasta Daisy, pinch back in early June.

For later blooming perennials such as Phlox, Helenium, Helianthus, Chelone, Culvers Root, Asters, Sedum and Joe Pye Weed, pinch in mid-late June or early July

-**Pinching stems delays blooms by typically two or three weeks.** Another example - If you have a special event scheduled in your garden in August (when many perennials are past peak bloom), pinch selected perennials in early-mid July to produce abundant blooms in August. ***Pinching also creates shorter, compact plants** that don't require staking.

-For **two rounds of blooms:** 1) pinch back stems in front section of perennial OR 2) if you have several clumps, pinch one clump and leave the other(s) untouched

-**Pinching Also Eliminates Flopping!** Pinch fall blooming perennials that are prone to flopping in early July. This works for Sedum, Aster, and Boltonia

Dig a Little Deeper. IF your soil has good drainage (not heavy clay), I've discovered that planting some bulbs a little deeper than the recommended depth, can delay flowering. The general rule of them is to plant bulbs at a depth of 3X their height. Varying the planting depth has worked for me with Tulips, Crocus, Daffodils and many lilliums (e.g., Asiatic and Oriental). Of course, another option is buying early, mid and late blooming cultivars.

-Species Tulip *praestans* 'Unicum' with Hellebore in my garden. Bulbs multiply over the years!

-'**Atom**' *Gladiolus* Hardy to Zone 5 Catalog suggested planting corms every two weeks to extend blooming. I just dug some in deeper

Part 2) Design Tips for Colorful, Low Maintenance Gardens * Why Plant More? Plant Four! *Add More Color With Almost Zero Maintenance *Save Time and Money with Living Mulch

Why Plant More? Plant Four!

-*For Sun to Part Sun* **Hydrangea p. 'Bobo'** (2.5'-3', Z3-8), **Rudbeckia 'American Gold Rush'** (22"-26", Z4-9 Plant Delights Nursery), **Species Tulip 'Little Princess'** (Z3-8), **Lantana 'Luscious Berry Blend'** (20"-30")

-**Pinus strobus 'Blue Shag'** (2'-4', Z3-8 N), **Echinacea Sombrero 'Baja Burgundy'** (24"-26". Z3-8, N), **Camassia quamash** (1'-2' N), **Supercal 'Snowberry White'** (cross between Calibrachoa and Petunia)

-*Part Shade-Shade:* **Rhododendron Dandy Man Color Wheel** (4'-8' Z5-8) **Heucherella Fun and Games 'Hopscotch'** (10"-12"" , Z4-9), **Dwarf Daffodil 'Tete-a-Tete'** 2-3 flowers per stem (6"-8", Z3-8), **Begonia boliviensis 'Bossa Nova Pure White'**

-**Ilex g. 'Gem Box' Inkberry** (3', Z5-9), **Heuchera PRIMO 'Wild Rose'** (pink flowers, 8"-10" Z4-9), **Erythronium a. Trout Lily** (4"-6" Z3-8 N), **Torenia 'Catalina Pink'** (8"-12")

Add More Color With Almost Zero Maintenance.

-The Runaway Bride by Anna & The Willow <https://www.annaandthewillow.co.uk/>

Save Time and Money with Living Mulch - Weed-smothering ground covers

-Important traits for living groundcovers: 1) Drought tolerant 2) Dense overlapping foliage. Prevent weeds from airborne seeds as well as seeds in the soil 3) Not a thuggish groundcover that could overwhelm other plants

-**Veronica 'Blue Reflection'** (left, Sun-Part Sun, 3" Spring, Z4-8), **Creeping Yellow Oregano** (*Origanum v. 'Aureum'* (6" Summer, Sun Z4-8)

***Persicaria affinis** Sun-Part Sun 6"-12" Summer Z3-8

-**Phlox stolonifera 'Blue Ridge'** and **'Home Fires'** Creeping Phlox Part Sun-Shade Spring 12" Z3-8 Fragrant N

***Epimedium 'Cupreum'** Part Shade-Shade 9"-12" Spring Z5-9 ***Goldenstar Chrysogonum v.** Sun - Part Shade 6" - 8" Spring - Summer Z5 - 8 N

Try 'quilting' a tapestry of drought-tolerant plants. Sun-loving groundcovers for a 'living carpet'. Great for slopes! Clockwise from top left: Thyme 'Highland Cream', Creeping Yellow Jenny*, Sedum 'Wildfire'; Dwarf Lambsear 'Silky Fleece', Hens & Chicks; Delosperma 'Fire Spinner'

Shade rug. Clockwise from top left: Clockwise from top left: Tiarella 'Appalachian Trail', Phlox s. 'Sherwood Purple' N; Epimedium 'Fröhnleiten'; Black Mondo Grass; Ajuga 'Silver Beauty'

***Creeping Sedum Tiles and 'Sod'**

***Native Sods.** Photos from Wild Sods of Maine. Blueberry & Bunchberry Sod

***Hay-Hay-Scented Fern Sod**

Part 3) Garden Design by Example Some before and after design projects. Designs provided when available

Some of my initial design considerations:

*Sunlight conditions (e.g., Sun, Shade) *Style of house. Contemporary, Traditional *Symmetrical, asymmetrical

*Color of house, shutters, front door *Roof line – drip edge needed? *Height(s) to base of windows, decks, railings, etc. *How is garden watered? *Soil quality *Problems with deer, other critters, wind, poor drainage

*Does client live there year-round? *Clients color likes/dislikes and garden style preference (formal, cottage, spacing between plants)*Eyesores: Air conditioner units, generators, heat pump condensers, etc..

Some recommended perennials for rock & ledge gardens. Heat and drought tolerant

Sun-Part Sun

Sedum, Hens & Chicks, Crested iris, Campanula, Dianthus, Coreopsis, Thyme, Lavender, Calamintha, Iberis, Dwarf Russian Sage, Achillea, Allium Millenium, Nepeta, Salvia, Stachys, Delosperma, Blue Fescue, Oregano Kent Beauty, Aurinia, Gaillardia, Rudbeckia

Part Shade-Shade

Ajuga, Epimedium, Hosta, Chrysogonum, Lamium, Brunnera, Tiarella, Heucherella, Phlox stolonifera, Corydalis, Lady's Mantle, Heuchera

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Saturday, March 9 Time-saving, Mighty-Mite Shrubs that Outshine Perennials

Saturday, March 23 New and Lesser-Known Celebrity Plants for 2024

Saturday, April 13 World-renowned horticulturist Adrian Bloom will join us from the UK to introduce his new book, Foggy Bottom – A Garden to Share, and to share design tips & favorite plant combinations.

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