

## Abstract #23205

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### The Plant Elements of Design Plant Selection Program for Sustainable Landscaping

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Julie Weisenhorn, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

#### Abstract Text:

Sustainable landscape design focuses on long-lived plants that *thrive* in their growing conditions. Too often, gardeners are wow'd by the visual aesthetics of a plant and neglect to take into account its optimal growing requirements – and whether the planting site meets those requirements. The Plant Elements of Design plant selection program supports the landscape design process by providing a tool for selecting plants based on matching their characteristics to the site. This program is useful as a reference for various audiences including horticulture students and educators, landscape designers and architects, Master Gardeners, home gardeners, nurseries and garden centers, and landscape contractors, managers, and maintenance firms. The program has 871 users (as of 02/19/16), and while intended primarily for plant selection, it may also be used, to a limited extent, for plant identification. This free, online database is populated with 2800 woody and herbaceous plants including 4500 downloadable images. Plants are chosen using 19 different plant characteristic and site categories such as plant type, size, soil type, light requirements, texture, seasonal interest, and landscape use. All perennial plants in the database are considered hardy in USDA zone 4 with adjoining zones indicated. Users can print plant data sheets including images, and select and export selected plants to a .csv file for use as a plant key, project management, and landscape planning. The Plant Elements of Design was developed over 15 years and is based on the knowledge and experience of University of Minnesota specialists, educators, and industry professionals.

**Category Selection:** Poster Session - Computer Applications in Horticulture

**Slot:** : Wednesday, August 10, 2016: 1:00 PM-1:45 PM

**Title:** The Plant Elements of Design Plant Selection Program for Sustainable Landscaping

**Submitter's E-mail Address:** [weise019@umn.edu](mailto:weise019@umn.edu)

First Presenting Author

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#### **Presenting Author**

Julie Weisenhorn  
University of Minnesota

305 Alderman Hall  
1970 Folwell Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55108

**Email:** [weise019@umn.edu](mailto:weise019@umn.edu) – Will not be published