

RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT PURPOSE

The Plant Elements of Design Plant Selection Program



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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION



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 the optimal growing requirements. The *Plant Elements of Design* plant selection program was developed over 15 years and incorporates the knowledge and experience of Extension faculty, experienced gardening educators, and industry professionals. The new version of the tool (released 2015) creates a list of acceptable plants for site conditions and use based on 19 different plant

characteristic and site categories such as plant type, soil, texture, seasonal interest, size, sun/shade, design and landscape use.

<http://landscapeplants.extension.umn.edu/>

1. IDENTIFY desired plant features and growing conditions that match your site characteristics.

2. SEARCH

3. RESULTS
A list of plants with matching criteria

4. VIEW specific plant data & images; images may be downloaded

5. BUILD plant lists
• SELECT desired plants
• EXPORT selected plants to start building your plant list

6. PRINT
• Plant data sheets; spreadsheet for design plant keys and project planning

Facts

- ✓ 19 selection categories
- ✓ 350 total plant and site characteristic options
- ✓ 2,745 woody & herbaceous plants
- ✓ 5,088 downloadable images
- ✓ 2,045 users over first 9 months

84% responded they would adopt this database as a tool for selecting plants after attending a 1-hour webinar.

– MN Nursery & Landscape Association
February 2016.

The Plant Elements of Design

- Is a tool for selecting plants based on matching their characteristics to the site
- Is available online at the U of MN Extension website
- Free to all users
- Includes a blog with user tips and an online manual

Intended Audiences

Who: Students, educators, landscape designers and architects, Master Gardeners, home gardeners, nurseries and garden centers, and landscape firms

Where: USDA hardiness zone 4 and surrounding areas

Getting the word out: Over the first 9 months, 361 adult learners attended 8 educational sessions about plant selection featuring the *Plant Elements of Design*.

Search for Plants

Directions: To choose plants that fit your site, select one or more options below and click SEARCH. To see all plants, just click SEARCH for a list.

[Export Entire Plant Database](#)

Woody plant Herbaceous plant

Common Name	Scientific Name	Cultivar/Variety
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Plant Type	Height (Inches)	Spread (Inches)
Hardy perennial	Min. Max. 48	Min. Max. 48

Design Use	Landscape Use	Light
Mass	Pollinator garden	Full sun

Zone	Soil	Texture
4	Prefers well-drained	Medium

Form	Seasonal Interest - Herbaceous	Flower Color
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Growth	Insects & Wildlife	Disease
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Alternative For:

Seasonal Interest Specifics:

Notes:

Advanced Search

View search results

View plant images

Sort By: Scientific Name A-Z OK

Select All	Clear All	Common Name	Scientific Name (A-Z)	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Valerie Finnis Artemisia	Artemisia ludoviciana	View Print
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ground plum	Astragalus crassicaarpus var. crassicaarpus	View Print
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Purple Prairie Clover	Dalea purpurea var. purpurea	View Print
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Purple Coneflower	Echinacea purpurea	View Print
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alpine Strawberry	Fragaria vesca	View Print
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bigroot Geranium	Geranium macrorrhizum	View Print
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Victor Reiter Jr. Geranium	Geranium pratense	View Print
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Max Frei Geranium	Geranium sanguineum	View Print

Purple Coneflower

[Back to Search](#)

Type	Common Name	Scientific Name
Herbaceous	Purple Coneflower	Echinacea purpurea

Cultivar/Variety	Plant Type	Height
	Hardy perennial	36"

Spread	Texture	Form
18"	Medium	Clump, Upright

Seasonal Interest	Flower Color	Design Use
Mid-summer, Late summer	Pink	Group, Key, Mass

Landscape Use	Growth	Insects & Wildlife
Attract hummingbirds, Attract wildlife, Backdrop, Border, Boulevard planting, Butterfly garden, Cutting, Foundation planting, Natural planting, Pollinator garden, Prairie planting, Raingarden, Xeriscaping		

Disease	Light	
Aster yellows	Full sun, Part sun	

Soil	Alternative For	
Prefers well-drained, Tolerates dry		

Seasonal Interest Specifics		
The 2-3" flowers have a brown central cone surrounded and dark green, and lanceolate in shape that become long		

Notes: Tolerant of heat and wind. Native to the U.S. Good for p...

Flower - mid summer Echinacea planted with Rudbeckia Echinacea with bee

Planted with phlox on a boulevard

Free image download