

Herbaceous plants

- Herbaceous plants –die back to the ground each fall with the first frost or freeze
- Herbaceous plants can be annual, perennial, biennial or bulbs

Annuals

- Annual plants live only one growing season
- Their main purpose in life is to grow, bloom, produce seed, and die.
- Can be grown easily from seed.
- Many will continue to bloom and produce seed all summer. Others need to be prevented from going to seed (by removing spent flowers) for continuous bloom.
- They must be planted **ANNUALLY**

Perennials

- Many perennials are herbaceous-which means...(they die back to the ground with the first frost)
- Perennials are hardy-which means...(their roots persist through the winter) They do not have to be planted every year.
- Do not bloom all summer-but keep your garden constantly changing.
- Need to be cut back to keep them attractive-but do not require as much deadheading as annuals.
- Difficult to grow from seed. Most easily propagated by root division.
- Usually need to be divided every 3 years-a good way increase and share your favorites.
- Not all perennials are herbaceous- trees & shrubs are perennials

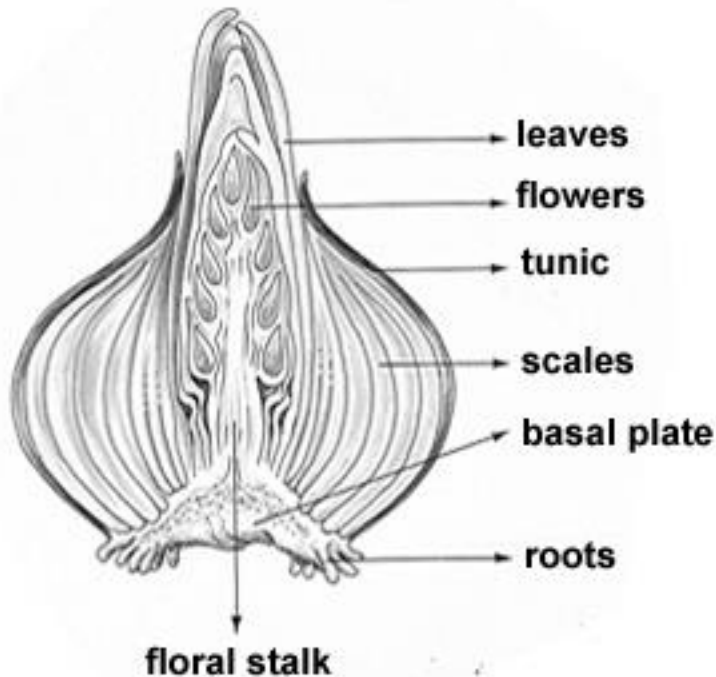
Biennials

- Complete their life cycle in two years.
- Most produce only leaves and do not bloom their first year.
- They require a cold period to produce blooms the second season.
- Best to buy them in bloom and treat as an annual.
- Otherwise plant a few seeds every year to keep them going.

Bulbs

- Term used to include corms, tubers, tuberous roots and rhizomes as well as true bulbs

Bulbs



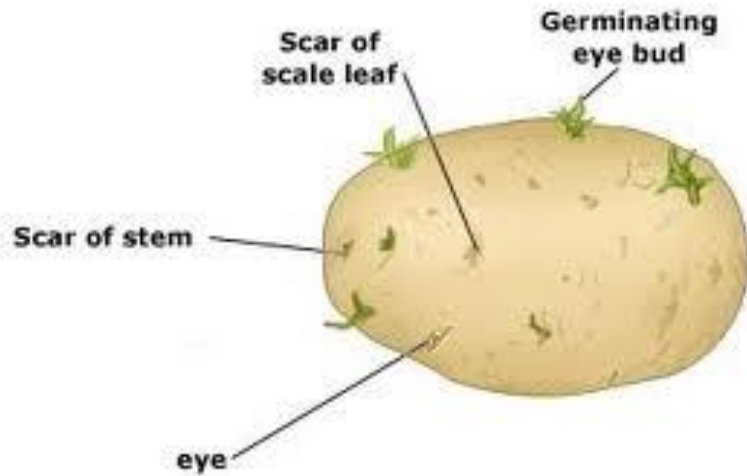
- A 'True bulb' is a nearly complete miniature of a plant encased in fleshy modified leaves called scales.

Corms



- Corms are the base of a stem that becomes swollen and solid with nutrients. It has no fleshy scales.

Tubers



- A tuber is an underground stem that stores food. It has scale like leaves with buds or eyes from which new plants arise.

Tuberous roots



- These are real roots.
- The food supply is kept in root tissue not in the stem or leaf tissue.

Rhizomes



- Thickened stems that grow horizontally along the ground and at intervals send up stems above ground.

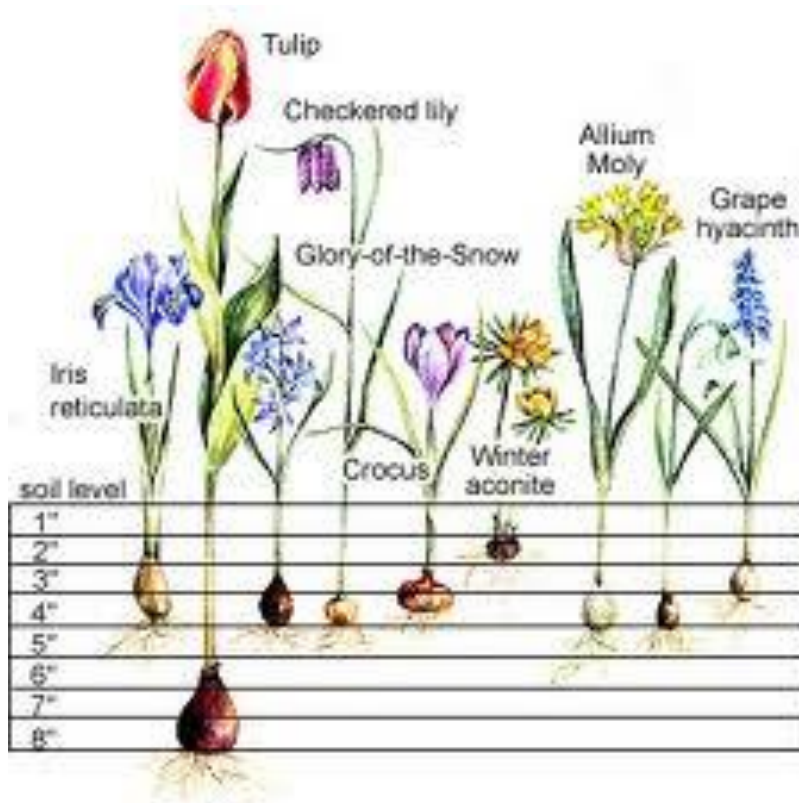
Site selection

- If you are planning to grow a specific plant, a vegetable or cutting garden site selection is important.
- Since you can select plants for sun / shade or dry/moist- It's usually a case of selecting plants for your location and not a location for your plants
- A site with good drainage is the key. Almost all plants require good drainage. (2day/8hr test)

Site prep

- **Soil test first-** Adjust for a neutral pH which is best for most plants
- If drainage is poor raise the bed
- Add 4-6” organic matter-humus, compost, soil conditioner etc-it holds moisture, improves drainage, feeds the soil
- Turn soil to a depth of about 12”
- Add a high phosphorus fertilizer (for root growth) before planting.

Planting bulbs



- Be sure you know which end is up!
- Plant only in well drained areas.
- Choose a location with 5-6 hours of sun
- Plant 2-1/2 to 3 times the diameter of the bulb in depth.
- Plant spring blooming bulbs in early fall. Fall bloomers in Aug. Summer bloomers in spring. Lilies in late fall

Planting herbaceous plants

- Last ave. frost date-
Apr 15.
- Select only healthy plants
- Harden plants off gradually before planting.
- Water plants well before removing them from pots.



Watering



- Don't just leave it up to mother nature.
- Plan to water your plants regularly.
- A slow drip is best.
- Soak entire bed.
- Allow to dry out between watering

Mulch

- Looks neat, cuts down on weeds
- Keeps soil cooler, retains moisture
- Water well before mulching
- Adds organic matter as it decomposes
- Mulch can burn some perennials
- Don't bury your plants, too much mulch can provide a home for plant pests

How not to mulch



Planning a flower bed



Choose your style

Straight edges give a formal look



Curving lines are informal





- They draw the eye and add visual interest

Provide a backdrop

a wall, hedge, building or shrubbery



Plant in groups large enough to form masses of color

Two main mass forms are?



- drifts & clumps

Don't overdo the clumps!



Random style



- A random mix of plants and colors presents an unorganized appearance that is neither pleasing or soothing to the senses

Plant placement



- Tall flowers should be used in the back part of the bed with low plants along the front edge.
- Try to limit plant height to $\frac{2}{3}$ the width of the border

Allow adequate space between plants



Plant selection

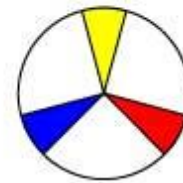
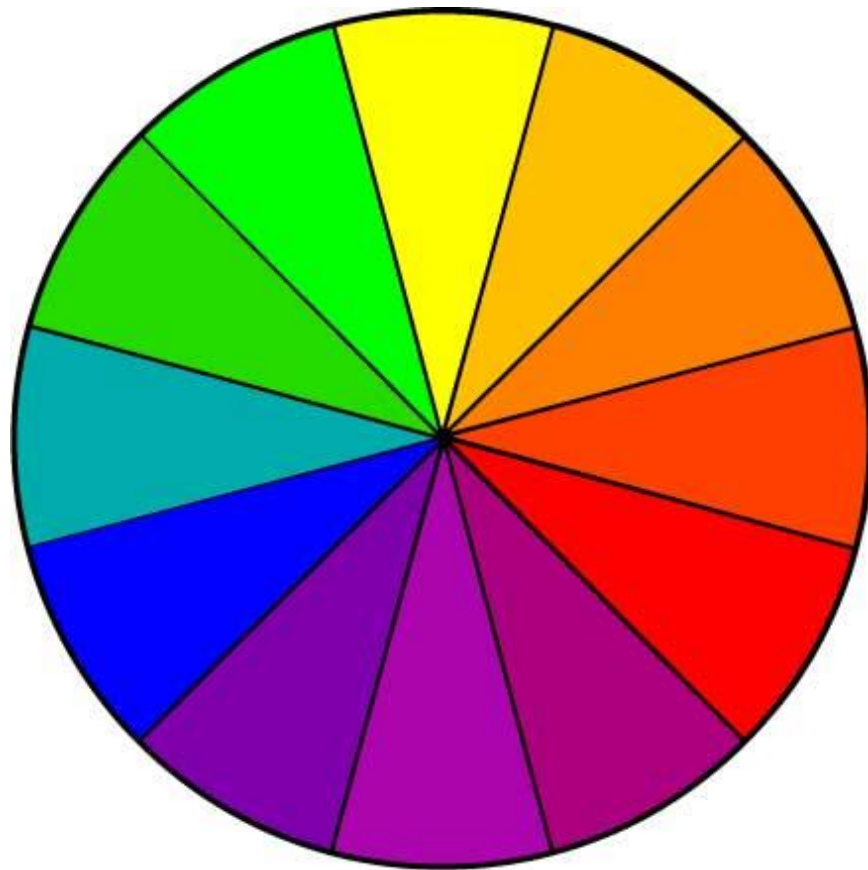
- **FIRST** Choose the right plant for the location-hardiness zone, sun/shade, wet/dry, hot/cool
- **SECOND** Choose by size
- **THIRD** Choose for bloom time
- **LASTLY** choose by bloom color!!!

Narrow it down

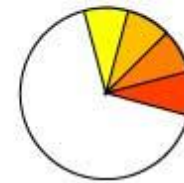


- Buy only healthy plants-compact & vigorous
- Read the label-**Choose plants for specific locations.** (remember height and light req. etc)
- Save money by shopping with a plan in mind.
- Shop throughout the season for a summer of perennial blooms.

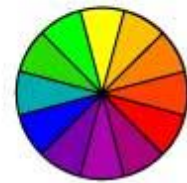
Color in the garden



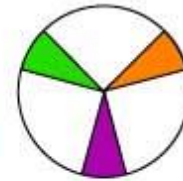
primary



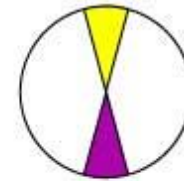
analogous



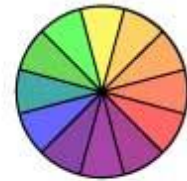
hue



secondary



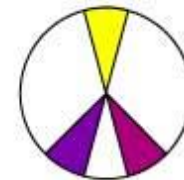
complementary



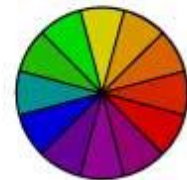
tint



intermediate



split complementary



shade

Color schemes



triadic



complimentary



monochromatic



analogous

Warm colors

- Red, orange, yellow
- Appear closer
- Used in a small yard make it appear smaller



Cool colors

- Blue, green, violet
- Recede in the garden
- Give the impression of openness and space



Plan of action

- Choose your site
- Choose your style-formal, informal
- Choose your backdrop
- Plan your beds-clumps, drifts,
- Plan for your plants-zone, height, bloom time, bloom color
- Prepare your beds
- Purchase your plants
- Start digging!

Village Garden Design

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