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 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
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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