



Kerry Ann Mendez

Kennebunk, Maine 207-502-7228 Email: pyours1@gmail.com Web site: www.pyours.com

The Right-Size Flower Garden

'DECLUTTERING OUR GARDEN' INVOLVES TWO STEPS:

A) Reassessing not only the location of a garden, but also its size (square footage). Below are a few of the questions to ask yourself: *How easily it can be appreciated from various vantage points (including inside the house) and by whom? *How far it is from a water source? *Has the water feature become a burden vs. a joy?

B) Zooming in on and reassessing the value of individual plants and reminding ourselves that plants are not our children or pets.....

NO-FUSS DESIGN SOLUTIONS TO TRANSFORM GARDENS

*Less, is more, is less *Replace mixed perennial beds with flowering shrubs *Foliage rules. It's all about the leaves *Celebrate groundcovers

WEED-SMOTHERING, GROUNDCOVERS ARE THE RAGE!

Leptinella Part Shade – Shade, 2" tall, Zones 5 – 9, Deer resistant

Woods Phlox (Phlox divaricata) 'Louisiana Blue', Sun-Shade, 12" tall, Zones 3-8

Delosperma 'Fire Spinner' Sun 1"-3" Zones 5-9, Deer Resistant

Woolly Thyme, Sun 1"-2", Zones 2-9, Deer resistant

Epimedium 'Bandit' (Zones 4-8) and **Ajuga 'Pink Lightning'** (Zones 3-9) Part Shade-Shade, Spring

USE PERENNIALS THAT DON'T REQUIRE DEADHEADING

Geranium 'Rozanne' Sun-Part Sun, 18"-20", Summer – Fall, Zones 5 – 9, Deer Resistant

Coreopsis 'Mercury Rising', Tickseed, Sun-Part Sun, 15"-18", Summer – fall, Zones 5-9, Deer Resistant

Eryngium 'Blue Hobbit', Sea Holly, Sun, 12", Summer, Zones 4-8, Deer resistant

Daylily 'Pewter Pink', Sun-Part Sun, Repeat bloomer, 24" tall, Fragrant, Zones 3-9, 6"-7.5" blooms, Z3-9

DRY SHADE? NO PROBLEM!

Tiarella 'Sugar and Spice', Foamflower, 8"-13", Spring, Deer resistant, Z 3-8

Solomon's Seal 'Double Stuff', Polygonatum, 18" Spring Z 3-9

Helleborus 'Ballerina Ruffles' and **'First Dance'**, Part Shade-Shade 18"-22" Spring Z4-9 Deer Resistant

INCORPORATE PERENNIALS THAT DON'T NEED DIVIDING!

Euphorbia 'Ascot Rainbow' & 'First Blush', Cushion Spurge, Sun-Part Sun, 12"-20", Spring, Z4-9 (First Blush) Z5-9 (Ascot Rainbow), Deer resistant

Winecups (Callirhoe), Sun, 6"-12", Summer, Z4-9

Intersectional Peony 'Bartzella', Sun-Part Sun, 30"-36", Spring, Z4-9, Deer resistant

TURN UP THE SIZZLE WITH COLORFUL FOLIAGE

Heuchera 'Electra', Coral Bells, Sun-Shade, 8" mounds, Z4-9, **Heuchera 'Lava Lamp'**, Coral Bells, 16" mounds, Z4-9, **Heucherella 'Brass Lantern'**, Foamy Bells, Sun-Shade, 12"-18" mounds, Z4-9, **Phlox g. 'Triple Play'**, Sun-Part Sun, Spring, 12"-15", Z4-8

BUILD IN FLOWERING SHRUBS, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT REQUIRE LITTLE OR NO PRUNING!

Buddleia Lo & Behold 'Blue Chip', Butterfly Bush, Sun, 2'-3', Summer-Fall, Z5-9, Deer resistant
Ninebark (Physocarpus) 'Tiny Wine', Sun, 3'-4', Late Spring-Summer, Z3-8
Caryopteris 'Petit Blue', Blue Mist Shrub, Sun, 24"-36" tall, Fall, Z5-11, Deer Resistant

GORGEOUS HYDRANGEAS FOR TOUGH LOVE GARDENS!

Hydrangea paniculata 'Pinky Winky', Sun – Part Sun, Summer–fall, 6' – 8' tall, Z3 – 8
Hydrangea p. 'Bobo', Sun-Part Sun Summer-fall, 30"-36" tall, Z3-8
Hydrangea quercifolia 'Ruby Slippers', Oakleaf Hydrangea, Sun-Part Sun, 3'-4' tall, Summer-fall, Z5-8
Hydrangea arborescens 'Incrediball', Smooth Hydrangea, Sun-Part Sun, 4'-5' tall, Summer, Z3-9

BFFS – BEST FRAGRANT FLOWERING SHRUBS

Lilac (Syringa) 'Bloomerang', Sun, Spring – fall, 4' – 5' tall, Z3 – 8, Fragrant, Deer resistant
White Forsythia, *Abeliophyllum distichum*, Sun–Part Shade, 3'–5' tall, Spring, Zones 5–8, Fragrant, Deer resistant
Summersweet (Clethra) 'Vanilla Spice' & 'Ruby Spice', Sun-Part Shade, Summer, Z4-9, Fragrant, Deer resistant

INCLUDE SHRUBS & TREES THAT POP IN WINTER LANDSCAPES

Coral Bark Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*), Sun-Part Sun, 15'-20' tall, Z5-8
Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), Sun-Part Sun, 5'+ tall, Z3-9
Dogwood (*Cornus alba*) **'Prairie Fire'**, Sun-Part Sun 7' tall, Spring, Z2-7

PLANT NO-FUSS ANNUALS

Lobularia 'Snow Princess', Sun-Part Sun, 4"-6" tall **Supertunia Vista Fuchsia**, Sun, 16"-24" tall, trails 5'
Superbena 'Violet Ice', Sun – Part Sun, 8"-12" tall, trails 3'+ **Lobelia 'Laguna Sky Blue'**, Sun-Part Sun, 8"-10" tall, trails to 24" **Wishbone Flower (Torenia) Catalina 'Gilded Grape'**, Sun or shade, 8"-16" tall, Trails to 24", Deer resistant
Browallia 'Illumination' and 'Flirtation', Sun to Shade, 10"-16" tall

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Kerry's gardening books available on my web site at www.pyours.com. *The Right-Size Flower Garden. Exceptional Plants and Design Solutions for Busy and Maturing Gardeners*The Ultimate Flower Gardener's Top Ten Lists: 70 Garden-Transforming Lists for Zones 3 – 7 *Top Ten Lists for Beautiful Shade Gardens: Seeing Your Way Out of the Dark
Kerry's National Gardening Webinars. 60+ minute online lectures featuring high-impact, low-maintenance, sustainable flower gardening and landscaping.

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