Creating a Florida Yard – Basic Landscape Design
Three Design Principles

1. ORDER: big picture – overall framework
   A. Symmetry – balance, formal effect, directs views
   B. Asymmetry – informal, relaxed, invites movement
   C. Mass Collection – grouping plants and/or elements together

2. UNITY: the harmonious relationship among elements – “oneness”
   A. Dominance – established by a contrast in size, shape, color or texture
   B. Repetition – use of similar elements or plants throughout design
   C. Interconnection – various elements linked together; example-groundcovers or fences link plant beds
   D. Unity of Three – use of plants in odd numbers so eye cannot divide them in half creating symmetry

3. Rhythm: addresses time and movement throughout design – “flow”
   A. Repetition – creates an obvious sequence of elements; example-walls or fences
   B. Alternation – varied repetition; example-one painted wall then one brick section alternating
   C. Inversion – alternation patterns inverted; example-pavement patterns
   D. Gradiation – gradual change of one or more characteristics of repeated element; example-walls/height getting taller or shorter

Geometric Forms of Plants

CIRCLES
- The most pure or perfect form
- Found abundantly in nature
- Give a relaxed informal feeling
- The center is the focal point

SQUARES
- Rigid and formal
- Reflects urbanism
- Man’s dominance of nature

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## Aesthetic Considerations of Plant Material

### FORM
- **Columnar**—tall and skinny; Example: Italian Cypress
- **Fastigiate**—erect branches tapering toward the top; example: Maple
- **Pyramidal**—triangular shape; example: Pines, Magnolia
- **Picturesque**—free form; example: Bulnesia, Rondeletia
- **Prostrate**—horizontally growing; example: Junipers, Groundcovers
- **Radial**—circular; example: Crinum, Bromeliad, Sago, Grasses

### SIZE
- **Tall**—trees, large shrubs
- **Medium**—shrubs, perennials
- **Low**—annuals, groundcovers

### FOLIAGE TEXTURE/SHAPE
- **Coarse**
- **Ribbed**
- **Fine**
- **Needles**
- **Broad**
- **Fan**
- **Glossy**
- **Dull**

### FOLIAGE COLOR
- **Shades of green**
- **Gray**
- **Red/Rust**
- **Purple**
e. **Variegated**

### FLOWER COLOR
- **Complimentary**—Across from each other on the color wheel. Example: blue & orange, violet & yellow, red & green
- **Analogous**—Next to each other on the color wheel. Example: blue-violet, violet-red, red-orange, orange-yellow, yellow-green, green-blue
- **Cool Colors**—Violet-blue-green. Tend to provide a relaxing feeling. Make small areas appear larger.
- **Hot Colors**—Red-Orange-Yellow. Eye catching, can be seen from far away. Tend to attract a lot of birds and butterflies. Make large areas appear smaller. Use caution when using yellow, it can be shocking or electric.
- **White**—Good for viewing when it is dark. Many are very fragrant. Bring light color to dark, shady areas.

### FRUIT SIZE AND COLOR
Creates interest and provides food for wildlife.

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