

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

Aesthetic Considerations of Plant Material

FORM

- A. Columnar—tall and skinny; Example-Italian Cypress
- B. Fastigate—erect branches tapering toward the top; example-Maple
- C. Pyramidal—triangular shape; example-Pines, Magnolia
- D. Picturesque—free form; example-Bulnesia, Rondeletia
- E. Prostrate—horizontally growing; example-Junipers, Groundcovers
- F. Radial—circular; example-Crinum, Bromeliad, Sago, Grasses

SIZE

- A. Tall—trees, large shrubs
- B. Medium—shrubs, perennials
- C. Low—annuals, groundcovers

FOLIAGE TESTURE/SHAPE

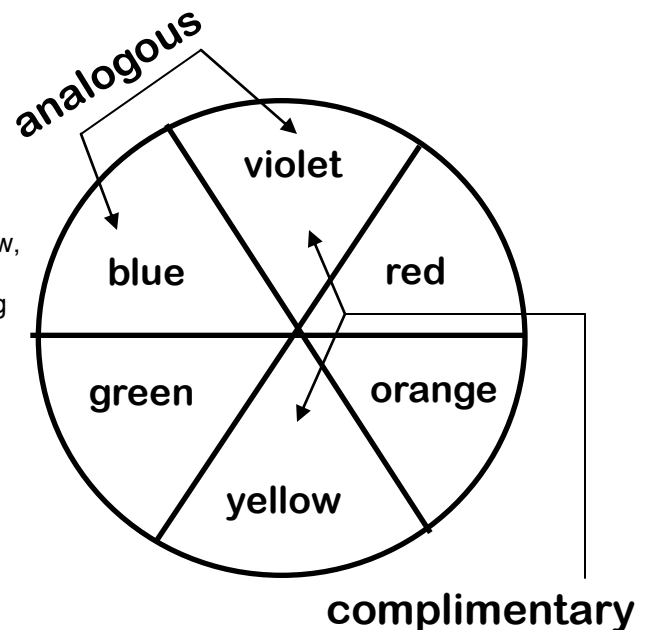
- A. Coarse
- B. Ribbed
- C. Fine
- D. Needles
- E. Broad
- F. Fan
- G. Glossy
- H. Dull

FOLIAGE COLOR

- A. Shades of green
- B. Gray
- C. Red/Rust
- D. Purple
- e. Variegated

FLOWER COLOR

- A. Complimentary—Across from each other on the color wheel. Example—blue & orange, violet & yellow, red & green
- B. Analogous—Next to each other on the color wheel. Example—blue-violet, violet-red, red-orange, orange-yellow, yellow-green, green-blue
- C. Cool Colors—Violet-blue-green. Tend to provide a relaxing feeling. Make small areas appear larger.
- D. 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.
- E. 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.



Carolyn S. Saft
Horticulture Agent / SRP Education Coordinator
UF/IFAS Suwannee County Extension