

Design-less Gardening: A Naturalistic Approach

Stupid Things We Do

- Over spacing everything
- Thinking of mulch as a permanent part of a garden
- Pruning everything into meatballs and rocket ships
- Thinking of downed leaves as a bad thing
- Obsessively cutting back perennials
- Considering all insects pests
- Lawn.

Golden Rule

- Start with a site assessment
- Right plant, right place
- Find the balance between low maintenance and desired aesthetics
- Plant your site conditions

Fill every Niche

- The “no dirt” rule
- Plants are better than mulch

Natural Design Elements

- Work with layers
- Blur the lines
- Repetition of patterns, colors, and shapes
- Create natural shapes
- Use natural materials
- Use good mulch
- Kill your lawn
- Don't “clean” too much

Plant List

- *Actaea racemosa*, black cohosh
- *Asclepias incarnata*, rose milkweed
- *Asclepias syriaca*, common milkweed
- *Asclepias tuberosa*, butterfly milkweed
- *Carex pensylvanica*, Pennsylvania sedge
- *Chrysogonum virginianum*, green and gold
- *Fragaria virginiana*, wild strawberry
- *Geranium maculatum*, wild geranium
- *Hamamelis virginiana*, witch hazel
- *Maianthemum canadense*, Canada mayflower
- *Maianthemum racemosum*, Solomon's plume
- *Monarda didyma*, scarlet bee balm
- *Monarda fistulosa*, wild bergamot
- *Monarda punctata*, spotted bee balm
- *Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*, cinnamon fern
- *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*, narrow-leaf mountain mint
- *Rhus aromatica*, fragrant sumac
- *Rudbeckia hirta*, black-eyed Susan
- *Solidago bicolor*, silverrod
- *Solidago caesia*, wreath goldenrod
- *Solidago nemorosa*, gray goldenrod
- *Solidago odora*, sweet goldenrod
- *Solidago puberula*, downy goldenrod
- *Symphyotrichum cordifolium*, blue wood aster
- *Tiarella cordifolia* var. *cordifolia*, running foam flower
- *Viburnum acerifolium*, maple leaf viburnum

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