What Plant Where?
Planning Your Home Landscape

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Seasonal Orientation of the Sun
SIZES TO DRAW PLANTS

Chose either an architect’s or engineer’s scale that matches the scale you will be using to draw your landscape plan. Using this scale, measure the diameter of circles on a circle template or compass and select the appropriate size to match the type of plant you wish to draw following the guidelines on the chart.
Shade Trees
Flowering trees
Conifers: Needle evergreens

(Great at hiding ugly buildings).
Remember: They don’t stop growing!
Size!
Shape
Shape / Form

Cornus kousa – Oriental dogwood
Texture
Foliage color
Seasonal foliage color
(European ginger & fall leaves of Threadleaf Japanese maple)
Lambs Ear and Liriope, mossy boulders
Textural effects: flowers & foliage

Sweet Woodruff
Solanum quitoense

Bold, coarse foliage texture
Verbascum (mullein)
Yucca ‘Color Guard’
Sedum & Pennisetum flowers
Flower fragrance

Witchhazel and Daylilies
Flower impact
Better with a bit O’ green
Put them on a stage!
Bark interest

Birch, Stewartia
Threadleaf Japanese maple

Simple groundcover base does not compete.

Best treated as a living sculpture.

Multiple specimens = a menagerie.
WILD bark character!  
Crapemyrtle & Stewartia
Fruit aspect
Crabapple Harvest Gold
Dolichos lablab
Maintenance aspects!

Miscanthus: Ready to be pruned
Tie up with twine:
Top, middle and bottom
Using an old handsaw, cut old foliage to 3” to 6” above the ground.

Now then: what happens in the hole left?
Enhance: Don’t hide!

Create a background and a foreground for the patio:
Provides a sense of enclosure and welcome color and texture.
Triangulation: Three Carex Evergold
Notes: Pops of color at arrival, repeated use of hydrangeas leads the eye & provides continuity
River birch bark provides year-round interest, evergreens at right provides background for
flowering shrubs, & perennials.
Don’t hide beautiful (expensive!) features with tall plantings!
Repeated yellows leads the eye through the landscape, making it seem larger.
Good things going on: Japanese maple, Sourwood, evergreens
Not-so-good-things: “Dwarf” blue spruce, Spirea
Cute little spruce eats up 3’ of patio space!
Plan for future plant growth!
Joint ownership borders = better neighbors
Viburnum Onondaga, potentilla, spirea
Swimming pool lurks behind the evergreens.
Yew hedge screens the cars.
Seasonal screening plants

Try to use bird & pollinator-friendly plants. Consider natives!

Redbud, Viburnum, Holly, Clethra
No room? Go vertical!

Climbing roses, vines
Large, layered masses = Big impact

Hydrangea Annabelle and Hosta
The “gift” rock.  

(Lamiastrum ‘Herman’s Pride’ groundcover)
Watch out for combinations that work against each other!
The Culprit: *Carex siderosticha 'Variegata'*
Plant arranging examples:
Massing / Intertwine & overlap / Create sense of depth / Repeat

Lambs Ear go back into the bed. Taller plant in front is OK!
Massing / Repetition at the Rutgers Gardens
Tall, white Tobacco (Nicotiana) bursts up like a fountain
Medium-height Red canna’s draw the eye back into the garden
Note: Large foliage angles up – Pulls view up to the flowers
Planting concepts in Practice
Yellow “theme” selected to provide visual POP! in evening.  

(Foxtail fern)
Hosta and liriope masses intertwine and overlap, lead the eye, underscore shrubs.
Triangulated yellow flag iris lead the eye, makes space seem larger!
Remember why you do this – Enjoy!  
Thank you!