Combining plants together for a showy display in your yard can be a little overwhelming. There are a lot of plants out there! How do you sort through them all and pick out just the right ones that will mesh well together and be impressive? Although there isn’t a simple answer to that question, there are some things you can do that will help you find plants that you like and create stunning planting beds using those plants.
1. Look for Inspiration

Walk through some of the local nurseries and/or look at online plant catalogs to discover new plants that excite you. Look through gardening books and magazines to get a feel for what types of plant combinations you like. Walk the neighborhood and see what stands out and is doing well in your area. Visit a public garden, if possible, to see what ideas you can mimic. And be sure to check out Salt Lake City's Garden Wise website to virtually tour home landscapes with labeled plants.

2. Start with the Trees

Begin designing your planting beds by determining the location of the trees first. Trees are generally the largest plants and have the most effect on the surrounding space. Once you know where the trees will be going, choose your shrubs and
incorporate both deciduous and evergreen shrubs so there will be year-round interest. Perennials and ornamental grasses will come next, then groundcovers and bulbs.

3. Research Water & Light Requirements
Make sure that you are putting plants with similar water and light requirements together. It doesn't make much sense to have a Yucca next to a Japanese Maple, even if their color and texture contrasts look nice together. Yucca is a desert plant, and the Japanese Maple is not. One or both of those plants will struggle due to under-watering or over-watering in that scenario. Read plant tags and online plant info to find water and light requirements for each plant, and categorize your plant choices based on their needs so you have a list of which plants can grow happily together.
Some color combinations can really make your plants stand out. Purples, blues, and whites can look really nice together. Bold reds, oranges, and yellows blended in a design are really showy. Complementary colors across the color wheel can make great combinations as well: blues with oranges, yellows with purples, etc. Color can be found in flowers, leaves, bark, fruit, and seeds. So be sure to take all of those into consideration. Research bloom times to know which plants will bloom together. Knowing bloom times will also help you choose plants that bloom at various times so there is always something going on during the growing season.

5. Vary the Textures
Add an assortment of textures throughout the planting beds for visual interest. An ornamental grass with flowing leaves or a soft-looking deciduous shrub looks great next to a dense evergreen. Plants with thicker leaves make a great contrast next to plants with fine leaves.
6. Use Repetition
Repeat the use of colors and textures throughout the yard to help tie the different parts of your landscape together. This can be accomplished using completely different plants that have similar flower colors, leaf colors, leaf textures, etc. Showcasing different varieties of the same plant can also have a unifying effect while allowing variation, like a white Rose of Sharon in one area of the yard and a purple Rose of Sharon in another.

7. Give Your Plants Some Space
Make sure you have an understanding of the mature size of each plant so you space them properly in your design. The plants may look a little spread out when they are first planted, but you won't have to come back and rip out over-crowded plants in ten years. Be aware that the tallest plants should be in the back of a planting bed meant to be viewed from one side, or in the middle of a planting bed meant to be viewed from multiple sides.
A large grouping of the same plant is a lot more impressive than just one here and one there, especially when it comes to flowers. Picture 25 yellow tulips spaced out a foot apart the whole length of a flower bed versus 25 yellow tulips grouped together. What's going to catch your attention better? Many perennials, like Dianthus or Salvia, are going to make much more of a statement if they are in groups of 5-9 plants rather than being all by themselves. And remember to keep them in odd numbers, because odd numbers look better.

---

**Spring Classes Online**

Our 2020 spring classes will now be taught online. If you previously registered for any of the classes and still want to attend the online version, you will need to re-register using the links below or through our [website](#).

---

**Growing Raspberries**

Saturday,  
April 11 @ 10:00 am  
[Details & Registration](#)

---

**Sprinkler Crash Course**

Wednesday,  
April 15 @ 7:00 pm  
[Details & Registration](#)

---

**Vegetable Gardening**

Saturday,
Plant Combinations

Small Evergreens
Wednesday,
April 22 @ 7:00 pm
Details & Registration

Proper Lawn Care
Saturday,
April 25 @ 10:00 am
Details & Registration

Introduction to Localscapes
Wednesday,
April 29 @ 7:00 pm
Details & Registration

Dealing with Deer
Saturday,
May 2 @ 10:00 am
Details & Registration
Localscapes University

Wednesday, May 6 @ 7:00 pm
Details & Registration

Container Flower Design
Saturday, May 9 @ 10:00 am
Details & Registration

Planting Bed Design
Wednesday, May 13 @ 7:00 pm
Details & Registration

Trees & Shrubs: the Good, the Bad, & the Ugly
Saturday, May 16 @ 10:00 am
Details & Registration

Plant Highlight
Carol Mackie Daphne

*Daphne burkwoodii 'Carol Mackie'*

This small shrub has green leaves with a golden edge, which adds visual interest to the landscape even when it's not flowering. It often retains some of its leaves during the winter. The spring flowers are a pinkish-white and are very fragrant! This is a great plant to have near a walkway or a sitting area so the fragrance can be enjoyed.

**Plant Type:** Semi-evergreen Shrub

**Mature Size:** 2-3’ T x 3-4’ W

**Light Requirements:** Partial Sun to Shade

**Hardiness Zones:** 5-8
Arbor Day
April 24, 2020
Click Here for More Information

It's All About the Soil
Missed this class?
View the Presentation Here

You are receiving this email because you have signed up to receive emails from CUWCD, attended one of our classes or events, or you have participated in the smart controller rebate program.

Address:
1426 E. 750 N. Suite 400
Orem, Utah 84097

Contact us at:
801-226-7145
Casey@cuwcd.com

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.