



As we are getting settled, please write down and post your favorite plant and least favorite on the post-its provided

Denise George, Janine Fales, Los Alamos Master Gardeners,  
To learn more consider signing up at our extension office for the 2024 Master Gardener class offered by NMSU.  
save questions for end -- zoom to chat



## Session Focus

- You've decided the function of an area, now what?
- What is your design aesthetic for that area?
- We'll cover what you need to consider for plant selection
- Let's talk plants!
- Relandscaping Example



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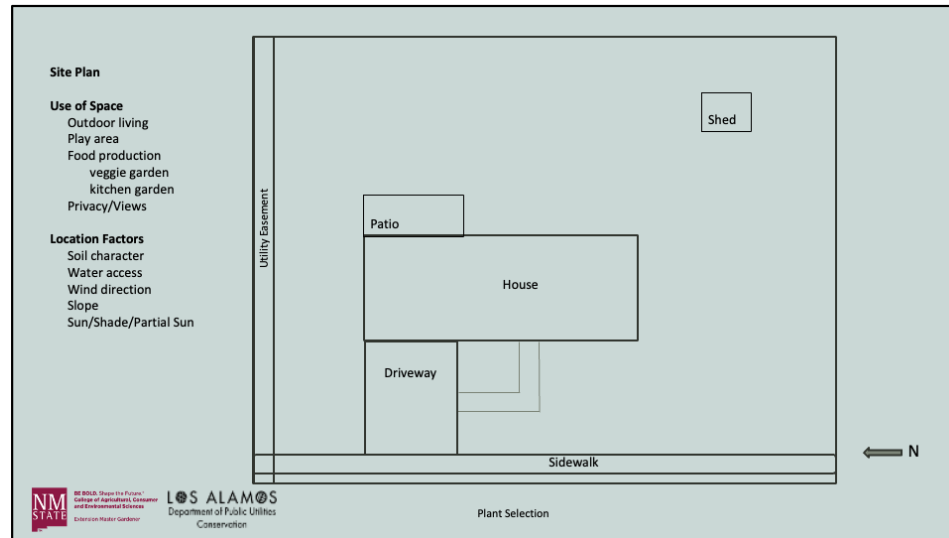
You know the function, now what?

What do you want to see, smell, attract (or not attract), harvest in the chosen area?

Reading the plant label and more

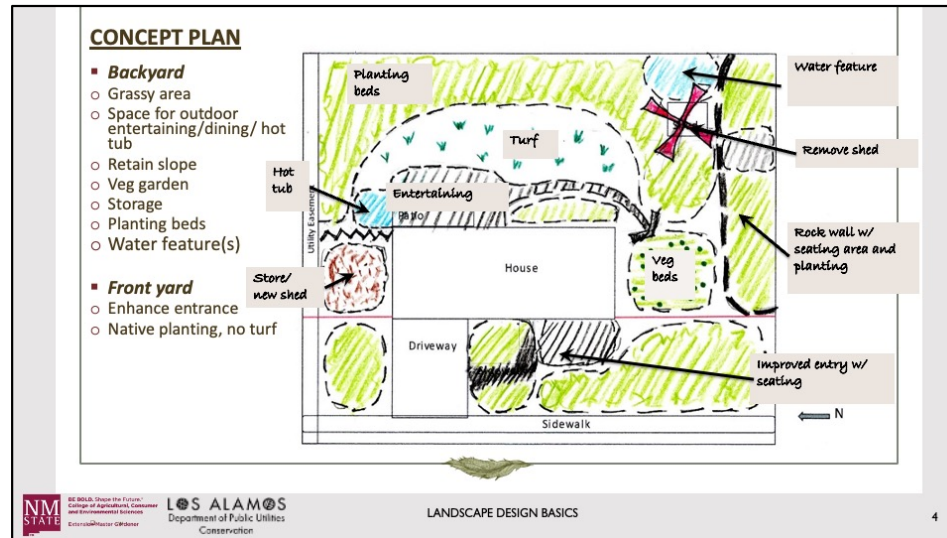
Plant examples

Relandscaping Example



A quick review of what has been covered in previous sessions.

You started out with a blank slate, identified the microclimates of different areas and associated the areas with various uses



A quick review of what has been covered in previous sessions.  
 You started out with a blank slate, identified the microclimates of different areas and associated the areas with various uses

## Landscape Plan

Now comes the fun part!

Selecting Plants

But wait where do we start?

What garden style fits your vision?

**Design Aesthetic**

SW Natural

SW 'English'



Plant Selection

How do we get from the concept to the landscape plan?

Have you decided what your design aesthetic is – more on this in the next slide.

## Southwestern 'English' Design



Spring – fragrance,  
texture, color



Summer - checking  
all boxes



Fall – texture and  
color

"Put Your Plants First," Lauren Springer Ogden, Fine Gardening, Issue 133



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Plant Selection

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We present two design aesthetics.

You do not have to use the same aesthetic in all areas.

As one example you may want to use the 'English' design up close to the house and have it transition to a 'Natural' design farther away or in front or side yards.

This Example of 'English' design provides a variety of  
Fragrance, texture, form, color, pollinator attractants through all seasons.

## Southwestern Natural Design



Curb appeal - texture and color



Pollinator haven – native plants

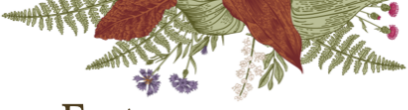
<https://www.judithphillipsdesignoasis.com/gallery>



Plant Selection


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This style is less busy, focuses on native plants, visually calming, less variety. Both Judith Phillips (NM) and Lauren Springer (CO) have plans/plant lists sensitive to our climate; both include both natives and adaptive species. See the resources pages for book and website suggestions.



## Selection Factors

- Plant what you like, if it will grow
- Plant what will suit your desires - attract wildlife, provide beautiful view from a window, engage senses, feed the family – while meeting your resource budget
- Group according to soil, sun, and water needs
- Consider height, form, color, bloom time, bloom duration, texture within the area topography
- Use pre-planned or customize existing plan
- Don't be afraid to experiment and relocate/rehome/remove as needed!



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Remember to start with trees, next shrubs, then perennials.  
Be flexible, use the advice of respected nursery experts.  
Ask a master gardener or our extension agent.

Vendors like High Country Gardens sell pre-planned gardens for various desires (e.g. pollinator garden)  
You can use an existing plan (book, internet) and customize for your area; it may be best to select a plan from our region (e.g. Plant Select, High Country Gardens, books)

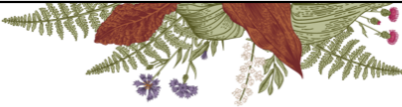




## Common Area Considerations


- Sun – how many hours per day
- Wind – hot and drying usually from west
- Existing environment - soil quality and vegetation
- Topography – slope, flat
- Potential pests – insects, mammals (deer, rabbits, gophers, squirrels), birds
- Fire safe practices





## Common Plant Challenges

- Water – is it getting enough or too much and soil drainage
- Sun/Shade – gets too much or too little
- Wind – hot and drying
- Growth – too slow, unwanted reseeding or spread
- Pests – insects, mammals (deer, rabbits, gophers, squirrels), birds



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This slide lists what an area provides.

This slide lists what a plant needs.

The trick is to match the two.

That is why we emphasize grouping plants of similar needs.

Often too little water to trees, too much water for perennials – esp. natives

However, must get plants established

Take advantage of slope to channel water.

Sun can be too intense, esp when getting established –might to create shade

Pests – deer 'resistant', rabbit 'resistant', squirrels, ants, flea beetles, birds on fruits

Come next week to the irrigation talk to learn how to solve some of the 'water' problems.

### How to Select "Just the Right" Plants: Deciphering Labels

**'Sauce Hollandaise' Golden Marguerite Anthemides**  
Perennial  
Full Sun / Part Shade  
Mounding Perennial  
Blooms in Summer

**Centaurea 'Amethyst in Snow'**  
Perennial  
Full Sun  
Mounding Perennial  
Blooms in Summer

**Sensation White Salvia**  
Perennial  
Full Sun / Part Shade  
Mounding Perennial  
Blooms in Summer

**'Sauce Hollandaise' Golden Marguerite Anthemides**  
Perennial  
Full Sun  
Mounding Perennial  
Blooms in Summer

**Bachelor Button**  
Perennial  
Full Sun  
Mounding Perennial  
Blooms in Summer

**Tomaio Indigo Cherry Drops**  
Perennial  
Full Sun  
Mounding Perennial  
Blooms in Summer

**Basic Parameters**

- Exposure
- Water needs
- Size and Spacing
- Bloom Season
- Zone
- Color

**Useful**

- Descriptive Information and Warnings
- Planting instructions
- Vegetable to harvest dates
- Companion plants

Sun/shade, water needs, size and spacing, bloom season, Color, Zone

#### Useful

Descriptive Information and Warnings

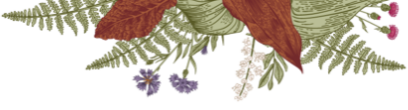
Planting instructions

Vegetable to harvest dates

Companion plants

descriptive info, warnings, planting instructions, vegetable dates to harvest.

More research may be needed to get all of the info you desire (e.g. tolerance to alkaline soil, deer or rabbit resistant, pollinator friendly, finer detail on bloom time, water/soil needs)



**A plant's purpose is to survive and reproduce within its lifecycle.**

- Trees and Shrubs (woody perennials) – deciduous or evergreen; structure persists during winter; may need cross-pollination to produce fruit; typically long-lived
- Perennials (herbaceous) – typically die back in winter and regrow in spring; may complete reproduction within the growing season depending on conditions; need pollination to produce seeds/fruit; long-lived and short-lived
- Biennials – complete lifecycle in two growing seasons; healthy root system to support following year's reproduction and then dies back
- Annuals – complete lifecycle in one growing season; take away the seed production, get more flowers; need pollination to produce seeds/fruit
- Pollinators include self, wind, insects (bees, wasps, ants, beetles, moths, flies), birds (including hummingbirds), and mammals (bats, humans!); *invite them in!*



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Our job is to give the plant the best possible environment for success.  
This is a simplification – there are other nuances

Trees & shrubs (woody perennials) – fruit trees, berries, some need cross-pollination to fruit, some flower/fruit only on last year's growth

Herbaceous perennials – some food plants – rhubarb, asparagus, strawberries  
natives can become short-lived if pampered

Biennials – hollyhocks

Annuals – vegetables, container plants=plants outside of our hardiness zone,  
landscape fill-ins, pollinator food sources

IF A PLANT IS STRESSED, it may try to complete its reproduction and then die

Examples: if corn plot isn't conducive to wind pollination, you will have few kernels –  
can hand pollinate (or, worse, corn may be wind pollinated from a different type of  
corn and may lead to less than desirable taste because you eat the seeds)

## Our Demonstration Garden



- The Demonstration Garden was planted circa 1990 and has been under the care of the Los Alamos Master Gardeners since 1995.
- We collectively volunteer on the order of 1000 hours per year in addition LAMGC funds for expansion and maintenance.
- We have had several Scout Eagle projects and community service hours completed at the Garden.
- In 2002, we successfully vied for the Citizen/County Project and together invested approx. \$80k in resources (49%/51%) to expand the western end of the garden.
- The plant list has expanded from approx. 80 to over 475 and is now accessible via our database.
- Nearly all photos in our presentation are from the Demo garden or our homes.
- The Demonstration Garden is for you, the public, to learn from and enjoy!

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Los Alamos Master Gardeners

lamonline.org/AreaPlants.php

Los Alamos Master Gardeners

You are here: Los Alamos Master Gardeners > Search > Search Results > Garden Area Plant Details

lamonline.org/PlantDetails.php

Los Alamos Master Gardeners

You are here: Los Alamos Master Gardeners > Search > Search Results > Plant Details

LAMP Name  
Search the Plant DB  
Garden Name  
Photo  
Garden Type  
Gardening Links  
Contact Us  
Member Login

Achillea Millefolium "Moonshine" Moonshine Yarrow

Scientific Name	Achillea Millefolium "Moonshine"
Common Name	Moonshine Yarrow
Plant Type	Perennial
Height	2-3 feet
Water	Low
Bloom Season	Summer
Color	Yellow
Growth Habit	Upright and Strong
Tag Number	11111
Photo	

Details

Ajuga reptans

Details

Allium tuberosum

Details

Carpet Bugle

Details

Garlic Chives

little water  
dry hot dry and

# Trees

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## Purpose

- Landscape anchor
- Shade
- Fall/winter interest
- Specimen – flowering, unique form
- Food (human)
- Food (birds, animals)
- Recreation
- Connection/Memories

## Selection

- Deciduous or Evergreen
- Mature height/width\*
- Growth Rate
- Placement
- Form
- Strength
- Longevity
- Native, adapted
- Recommended for area
- Plant specific details
  - Fertility
  - Debris - fruit, pods, leaves, cones
  - Pollen considerations
  - Root system
  - Spread mechanism
  - Maintenance

*"A tree should never outgrow its site, yet it must be large enough to fulfill the purpose for which it was planted." Dr. Curtis Smith*

\* May be 15–20% smaller in New Mexico if native to area with acidic soil  
<https://pubs.nmsu.edu/h/H426/index.html>

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Depending on the microclimate, you may be able to grow something that isn't common –

Depending on the microclimate and seasonal variations, you may have no fruit or a healthy crop

Can grow hybrids (Shademaster honeylocust) that produce no flowers/fruit/seeds

Spread can materialize as additional trucks (aspen - rhizome) or multitruked (gambel oak - lignotuber with deep roots, rhizome)

Dwarf trees keep growing, just more slowly than cultivar

Trees can choke out/prevent growth under them (evergreens, poplars)

**Worst trees for pollen?**

The top 5 pollen producing trees in Albuquerque Mulberry, Juniper, Elm, Ash, Cottonwood

**What Trees are Prohibited?**



All Cypress, All Mulberry

**What Trees have Exceptions?**




**Juniper/Cedar** It is OK to buy and plant:

- male plants that do not exceed 2 feet tall when mature, or
- any size plant that is female only
- **All Cottonwood/Poplars are restricted** except for the following trees



## Trees


Autumn Purple Ash -  
Deep shade, fall color


Cockspur Hawthorn –  
Form, fruit, small

Austrian Pine –  
Hardy evergreen



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Autumn purple ash – earlier than 1994, *Fraxinus americana*  
 Cockspur hawthorn – pretty little tree, nice form, flowers, fruit, *Crataegus crus-galli*  
 example of tree that Prefers acidic and is highly drought tolerant, thorns, up to 30'  
 Austrian pine – planted several from NM Forestry, pinecones on path, *Pinus nigra*



## (Im)perfect Example – Kansas Hawthorn

### Factors in choice

- Slow growing and small tree near casita
- Low water use
- Fragrant blossoms
- Nectar source
- Food and nesting for birds



### As it grew...



*After 20 years...*  
Limbs over the roof  
Non-persistent fruit =  
fruit on path and in gutters

We all make mistakes -

Kansas hawthorn, slow growing, max height of 20', *Crataegus cocciniodes*

Non-persistent fruit

Too close to path, too close to casita

Will prune back more to keep fire defensible, rake?

# Shrubs

woody perennials, cacti, yucca


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## Purpose

- Area definition/privacy
- Fragrance
- Seasonal shade
- Specimen – flowering, unique form
- Lifecycle needs for insects/pollinators
- Food (human)
- Food (birds, animals)
- Fall/winter interest
- Connection/Memories


## Selection

- Deciduous or Evergreen
- Mature height/width
- Growth Rate
- Placement
- Form
- Plant specific details
  - Fertility
  - Debris – fruit, pods, leaves, cones
  - Pollen considerations
  - Spread mechanism
  - Maintenance
- Native, adapted
- Recommended for area





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Here, shrubs are much like ‘small’ trees in consideration


Depending on the microclimate, you may be able to grow something that isn’t common –

Some plants need both sexes nearby to produce fruit (e.g. smooth sumac vs three leaf sumac) - if pollen is an issue, plant female

## Shrubs




Apache Plume –  
texture, native





Korean Spice Viburnum-



Bear grass –  
Spectacular floral spike  
attractive to pollinators



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Apache plume - native, different texture, pollinators  
 Viburnum - beautiful, pollinators, bird  
 Bear grass - interesting texture and pollinators love it  
 New Mexico Privet -



## How to plant trees and shrubs

- Ensure site is appropriate (including soil\*, level ground)
- Dig hole 2-3 x wide and at depth of root ball, check drainage
- Remove container by sliding out laterally (do not pull up from stem)
- Loosen dense or circling outer roots to encourage roots to grow outward
- Place in hole so that plant is at the same level as in container
- Backfill with same soil, firming as you go to eliminate air pockets
- Create water dam around the plant and water regularly!

\*native require very little amendments; fruit trees prefer well drained, loamy - avoid creating a bowl





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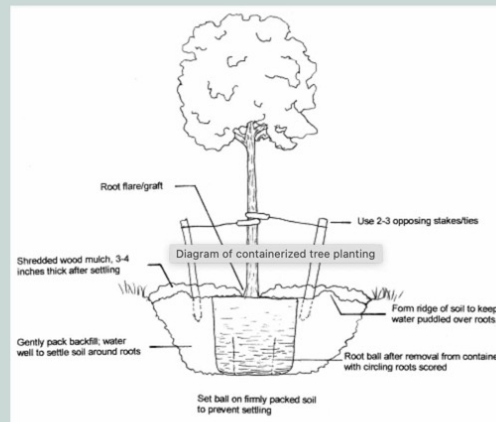


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Plant Selection

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Important structural elements, plant well



# Perennials

herbaceous perennials, grasses, bulbs/tubers/rhizomes/corms

## Purpose

- Theme
- Fragrance
- Dynamic canvas
- Specimen – flowering, unique form
- Lifecycle needs for insects/pollinators
- Food (human)
- Fall/winter interest
- Connection/Memories

## Selection

- Bloom color, time, duration
- Mature height/width
- Leaf color and texture
- Form
  - Upright
  - Loose
  - Mounding
  - Clumping
  - Groundcover
  - Vining
- Native, adapted
- Some evergreen
- Recommended for area
- Plant specific details
  - Pollen considerations
  - Spread mechanism
  - Maintenance



Plant Selection

Variety is the spice of life!

Plant odd numbers, consider a wave of color

Hollyhocks are biennials, but seeds well so a clump can function as an perennial.

herbaceous perennials

Purpose


- Theme
- Fragrance
- Dynamic canvas
- Specimen – flowering unique form
- Lifecycle needs for insects/pollinators
- Food (human)
- Fall/winter interest
- Connection/Memory

rhizomes/corms

- Drought-tolerant, adapted to evergreen
- Recommended for area specific details
- Pollen considerations
- Spread mechanism
- Maintenance







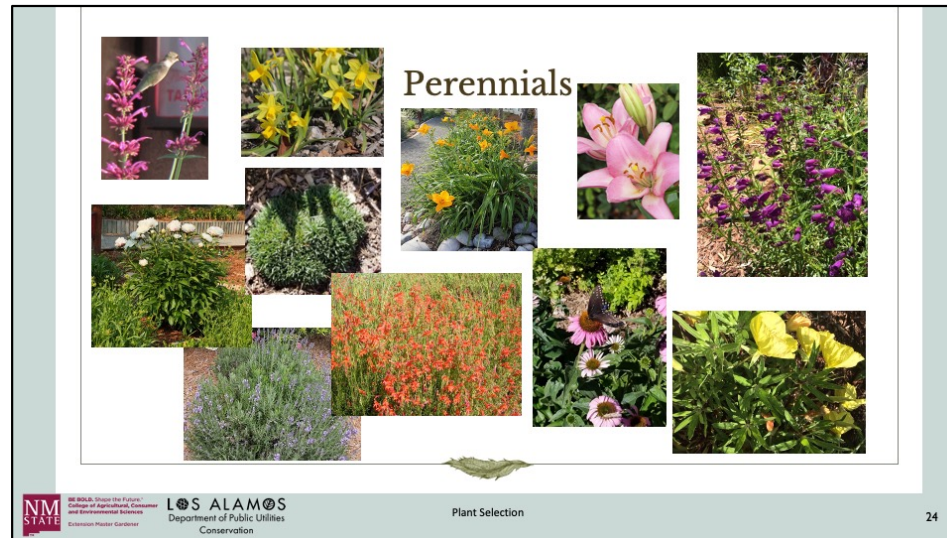
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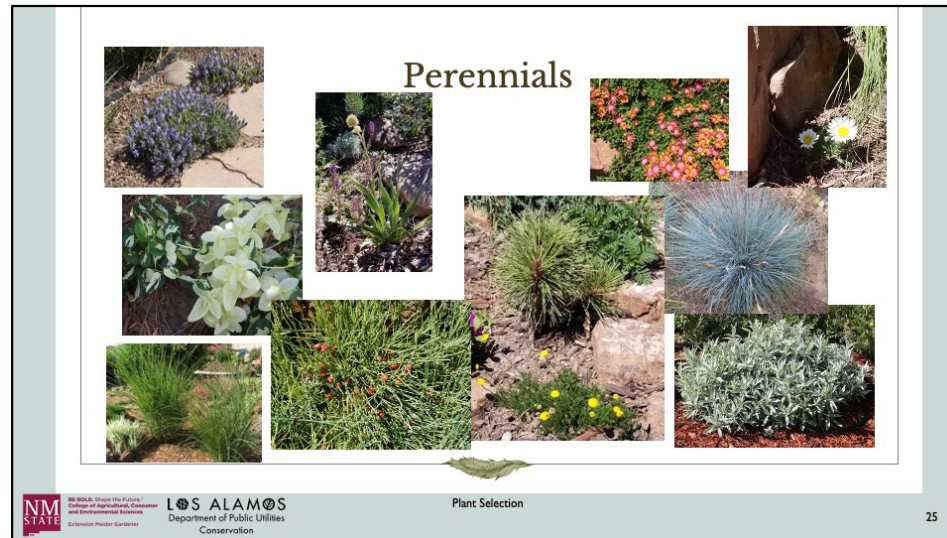
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Variety is the spice of life!  
Plant odd numbers, consider a wave of color



Agastache - pollinators  
 Daffodils (bulb) - spring  
 Daylilies (rhizome)  
 Oriental lilies  
 Pike's Peak Purple Penstemon  
 Missouri evening primrose  
 Coneflowers - butterflies adore  
 Pineleaf penstemon - pollinators, long bloom, evergreen  
 Lavender - scent, evergreen  
 Peonies - scent  
 Pincushion pink





- Wooly speedwell – groundcover
- Rattlesnake master - texture and color
- Ice plant 'Fire Spinner' - groundcover
- Grassleaf Mat Daisy - Rock garden
- Siskiyou Blue Idaho Fescue - winter interest and color
- White sage - texture and color
- Ponderosa Pine 'Dixie' - dwarf conifer - form
- Creeping gold buttons - groundcover, rock garden
- Morman tea - texture
- Switch grass - winter interest and texture
- Varigated vinca - groundcover

Groundcovers can be used in place of turf, depending on use  
Plants like thyme can take some traffic; others are too fragile

# Annuals

## Purpose

- Fragrance
- Fill in as perennials mature
- Containers
- Food (human)
- Food (animals, birds)
- Attract beneficials
- Distract pests
- Connection/Memories

## Selection

- Bloom color, time, duration
- Leaf color and texture
- Height/width
- Native, adapted
- Recommended for area
- Plant specific details
  - Pollen considerations
  - Spread mechanism
  - Maintenance



Annuals add summer interest in bare areas  
May divert pests from desired plants (e.g. marigolds/tomatoes, dill)  
Plants outside of our hardiness zone are annual unless protected over the winter  
(e.g. geraniums, Spanish lavender)  
Often can start from seeds or grow from reseeding

## Annuals


food for pollinators



Photo Aaron Rinker



Rocky Mountain Bee Plant -  
Hummingbirds and birds



Fragrant Petunia -  
Hummingbirds



Nasturtium –  
Edible, beneficial insects



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No Bee plant in the garden -

**Dwarf fruit trees** will grow 8-10 feet tall and wide and, depending on the environment, may start bearing fruit sooner than their larger counterparts.

**Semi-Dwarf fruit trees** will reach 12-15 feet tall/wide, and yield almost twice as much fruit as a dwarf-sized.

# Fruit



Fruit Varieties 2020  
 Dr. Shengrui Yao,  
 NMSU Sustainable Agriculture Center at Alcalde,  
 505-852-4241, yaos@nmsu.edu

Fruit Type	Recommended Varieties
Apple	Ginger Gold, Gala, Honeycrisp, Golden Supreme, Golden Delicious, Fuji, Arkansas Black
Peach	PF-1, Blazingstar, Challenger, Contender, China Pearl (white), Encore
Apricot	Goldcot, Harglow, both self-fertile, Harglow late bloom
Sweet Cherry	WhiteGold, Stella, BlackGold, Lapins, all self-fertile, BlackGold late bloom
Pie Cherry	Balaton, Danube, all self-fertile and late blooming. Large and sweet
Plum	Earlblue, Castleton, Stanley, all European type, self-fertile, late bloom
Jujubes	Alcalde #1, Maya, Sugarcane, Honeyjar, Li, Lang, Redland, Sandia
Thornless Blackberries	Triple Crown, Chester, semi-erect Natchez, Ouahita, upright
Raspberries	Polana, Caroline, Joan J. Polana(for cooler areas)
Strawberries	Cavendish, Mesabi, Kent, Jewel, all are June bearers Everest, Tribute, Seascape, all are ever bearers
Table Grapes	Himrod(white), Reliance(red), Venus(blue black), Jupiter (blue black)

**Local Suppliers:**  
 Tooley Trees, Truchas, 505-689-2400  
 Trees that Please, Los Lunas, 505-866-5027

**Mail Order:**  
 starkbros.com  
 hilltopfruittrees.com  
 acnurserly.com  
 vanwell.net  
 raintreenursery.com (jujube and exotics)  
 noursefarms.com (berries)  
 doublevineyards.com (grapes)

<https://pubs.nmsu.edu/h/H310/>

Plant Selection

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We've included a couple of slides specific to food production  
 Fruit (trees, berries, grapes) and Veggies on the next slide  
 Depending on the microclimate, seasonal variations and pollinator availability,  
 you may have no fruit or a healthy crop  
 Look for late bloom varieties and self fertile.

# Vegetables

## Cool Season

**Hardy:** Plant these as soon as the ground can be worked in the spring or plant in summer for the fall garden:

- Broccoli, Brussel sprouts
- Kale, Cabbage
- Spinach
- Peas
- Radishes

**Half-hardy:** Plant these near the average date of the last killing frost, or plant in summer for the fall garden.

- Beets, Carrots
- Lettuce, Endive, Swiss chard, Celery
- Potatoes
- Cauliflower

[https://pubs.nmsu.edu/\\_circulars/CR457/](https://pubs.nmsu.edu/_circulars/CR457/)

## Warm Season

**Tender:** Plant these after all danger of frost:

- Snap beans
- Sweet corn
- Tomatoes

**Very Tender:** Plant these after all danger of frost and when temps are consistently warm:

- Cucumber
- Okra
- Winter squash, Summer squash
- Melons, Pumpkin

## Vegetables for Alkaline Soils

Most vegetables like soils with a pH between 6.5 and 7.0. Alkaline soils have a pH of 7.0 or higher. Grow these in alkaline soils:

Asparagus (6.0-8.0)	Pea, sweet (6.0-7.5)
Beans, pole (6.0-7.5)	Pumpkin (5.5-7.5)
Beet (6.0-7.5)	Spinach (6.0-7.5)
Brussels Sprouts (6.0-7.5)	Crookneck Squash (6.0-7.5)
Cauliflower (5.5-7.5)	Tomato (5.5-7.5)
Garlic (5.5-8.0)	
Kale (6.0-7.5)	

<https://www.hamiltonswcd.org/vegetablesforalkalinesoils.html>

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There can be environmental issues that affect growth and production.

Vegetables benefit from different nutrients at different times - e.g. Nitrogen to grow, Phosphorus to bloom and set fruit, Potassium for root growth and water transport within the plant

Both soil and atmospheric temperatures affect seed germination and plant growth (hot days, cool nights)


Vegetable production is usually dependent on the presence of pollinators.

Consider raised beds,

Netting to discourage pests


shade cloth for temperature control (example raspberries)


Walls of water to protect tomatoes and to encourage early growth.



Meadow

# Turf





Ground cover

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**Cool-Season Grasses**

**Perennial Ryegrass**  
 Improved and newly released varieties of perennial ryegrass are well adapted to most of New Mexico, and thus their use has increased greatly. These varieties establish quickly and provide good cold tolerance and winter color.


**Kentucky bluegrass**  
 Kentucky bluegrass spreads by rhizomes and withstands moderate traffic. Because of the rhizomes, Kentucky bluegrass recuperates well from wear injury or heat stress. Newer Kentucky bluegrass varieties come with greater heat tolerance and reduced irrigation requirements, making it suitable for all of New Mexico.

**Tall fescue**  
 Due to its heat and drought tolerance, tall fescue is a good general-purpose turfgrass for New Mexico. It is a tall-growing, coarse- to medium-textured, bunch-type turfgrass that can be established by seed or sod. Tall fescue resists heavy wear and high temperatures. When adequately irrigated, it can be grown successfully.

**Warm-Season Grasses**

**Buffalograss**  
 Buffalograss is drought-tolerant. New varieties are denser and of higher quality (more attractive) than the older, varieties, yet not as dense as traditional lawn grasses. Special care must be taken during establishment, especially in weed control.

**Blue grama**  
 Blue grama is a drought-tolerant, cold-hardy, clumping native grass. It grows to 1-1.5 feet and seeds are enjoyed by birds in the winter.




Blue grama

<https://pubs.nmsu.edu/h/H508/>


Plant Selection

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Dark eyed juncos



Meadow



Ground cover

**Cool-Season Grasses**

**Perennial Ryegrass**  
Improved and newly released varieties of perennial ryegrass establish quickly and provide good cold tolerance.

**Kentucky bluegrass**  
Kentucky bluegrass spreads by rhizomes and stolons. Newer Kentucky bluegrass varieties are more drought-tolerant and wear-resistant.



**Tall fescue**  
Due to its heat and drought tolerance, tall fescue is a coarse- to medium-textured, bunch-type turfgrass that tolerates high temperatures. When adequately irrigated, it can provide excellent wear resistance.

**Warm-Season Grasses**

**Buffalograss**  
Buffalograss is drought-tolerant. New varieties are more drought-tolerant and wear-resistant than traditional lawn grasses.

**Blue grama**  
Blue grama is a drought-tolerant, cold-hardy, clumping native grass. It grows to 1-1.5 feet and seeds are enjoyed by birds in the winter.

<https://pubs.nmsu.edu/h/H508/>

Blue grama

Plant Selection

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Ajuga and lamium  
Dark eyed juncos on blue gramma

## A Re-landscaping Example

### Design Goals

- reduce water needs
- improve aesthetics
- remove unwanted trees
- attract birds, bees and butterflies
- no mowing!

### Before



crab apple ,fir, lots of blue grass, gravel in parkway  
Took master gardener class.



## Process

- Reduce water runoff with terraces and berm, channel water from gutter
- Replace blue grass with native meadow grasses
- Reduce amount of grass
- Use lower water needs shrubs and perennials
- Install drip zones
- Use mulch to conserve water



Fall 2000



May 2001



Plant Selection

## Stripped sod

Hired contractor to remove trees, prepare the soil, terrace the yard and create the berm, removed gravel from parkway strip and placed flagstone leaving space for ground cover roses, placed large landscape rocks and then installed a drip system (12 zones for front and sides and back) .

I designed the garden and did all the planting. 4 areas parkway flagstone and roses, perennial bed ( pecan shell mulch) , flagstone walkway, shrubs (apache plume, sand cherry, sumac, russian sage , ornamental grasses, rock wall meadow grasses

August 2001



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Plant Selection

A good time to talk about creating a data base of plants in your garden  
Suggested fields are scientific and common name, date planted, date removed or died, area where planted.  
Example – my front yard (after the 2000 relandscape) has 135 entries of which 34 have been removed or died.





Spring, summer, fall  
 Yellow yarrow-purple penstemon  
 shrubs remaining sand cherries, butterfly bush, apache plume.sumac.  
 wild honeysuckle




“ You can grow anything in this climate  
... *if resources were infinite.* ”

- Doug Bennett, Los Alamos Extension Horticulturalist, 1994



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Plant Selection

We do not have some of the issues that other climates experience, including too much water, too little sun, diseases, ...

Resources – replaced soil, time, maintenance, amendments, climate controls...

I've grown okra and blueberries, we have tried various plants at the demo garden (999 tag)

## Our Favorites (and least)



### Favorites

- Big tooth maple (autumn interest)
- Allegheny Viburnum (winter foliage, hardy)
- Whatever is in bloom now (in my garden)
- Chocolate flower (fragrance, pollinators, birds, reseeds)
- Rocky Mountain Bee plant (pollinators, birds, reseeds)
- Peonies, lilacs, fragrant roses (fragrance, nostalgia)

### Least favorites

- Russian sage (self-seeds, rhizomes, overused)
- Siberian elm (self-seeds - **PULL THEM UP**)
- Juniper (pollen)
- Lamb's ears (self-seeds, spreads, not-nice flowers)
- Ladybells (self-seeds, runners, deep rhizomes)
- Variegated Bishop's weed (aggressive spreader)

## Audience Favorites (and least)



### Favorites

- Maximilian Sunflowers
- Salvias
- Speedwell
- Hyssop
- Aspen
- Columbine
- Many! Salvia greggii
- Apricot tree
- Peony
- Rocky Mountain columbine
- Roses
- Rocky Mt. penstemon
- Bee Balm
- Christmas cactus
- Hosta
- Butterfly bush

### Least Favorites

- Russian sage X 4
- Bindweed
- Salvias
- Salsify
- Globe Mallow
- Euonymus
- Any kind of hedge
- Chamisa (smell)
- Cheatgrass X 2
- Ragweed
- Mock orange



## What's Next

November 2 – Irrigation

November 9 - Maintenance



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Plant Selection



## Resources

### Books

- *New Mexico Gardener's Guide*, Judith Phillips
- *Southwestern Landscaping with Native Plants*, Judith Phillips
- *Natural by Design: Beauty and Balance in the Southwest Gardens*, Judith Phillips
- *Plants for Natural Gardens*, Judith Phillips
- *The Xeriscape Flower Gardener: A Waterwise Guide for the Rocky Mountain Region*, Jim Knopf
- *Waterwise Landscaping*, Jim Knopf
- *Gardening Success with Difficult Soils*, Scott Ogden
- *Waterwise Plants for Sustainable Gardens*, Lauren Springer Ogden and Scott Ogden
- *The Undaunted Garden*, Lauren Springer
- *Passionate Gardening: Good Advice for Challenging Climates*, Lauren Springer and Rob Proctor
- *Cutting Edge Gardening in the Intermountain West*, Maria Tatroe
- *Durable Plants for the Garden: A Plant Select Guide*, Plant Select





## Resources

### Websites

- <http://www.lamonline.org/>
  - Information about areas and plants in the Demonstration Garden
  - Maintained by the Los Alamos Master Gardener volunteers
  - <http://www.lamonline.org/docs/JudithPhillipsXeriscapeWorkshop.pdf>
- <https://pubs.nmsu.edu/h/index.html>
  - Collection of horticulture publications curated by NMSU Extension professionals
  - Includes plant and varietal recommendations for entire state
- <https://extension.colostate.edu/publications-2>
  - Collection of horticulture publications curated by CSU Extension professionals
  - Includes plant and varietal recommendations for entire state
- <https://www.highbcountrygardens.com>
  - Repository of videos and information from late David Salman, founder and chief horticulturalist
  - Native and adaptive plants addressed
- <https://www.plantselect.org>
  - Non-profit plant testers and annual selection of top performers
  - Instructional site for design, including free, downloadable waterwise landscape designs
- <https://www.plantsouthwest.com>
  - Informative catalog developed over 40 years by Gail Haggard, proprietor
  - Native seeds and plants addressed



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Plant Selection

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Information from both New Mexico and Colorado Cooperative Extension Services are of value  
 The Los Alamos Master Gardeners website (as well as the Demonstration website) has information pertinent to our area



Thank  
you



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[lamgonline.org](http://lamgonline.org)

[losalamosextension.nmsu.edu](http://losalamosextension.nmsu.edu)

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