

# Selecting the Right Ornamental Plant for Maximum Effect and Minimum Pests

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## **Tips for proper plant consideration and success:**

- Make certain that the pH and soil type is compatible with your selection.
- Consider plants that readily grow in a multitude of conditions (average soils, droughty soils, water logged soils, compacted soils, etc).
- Select plants that are indigenous to the growing conditions in which they are to be planted or plants that are adaptable to a wide range of conditions. Plants that are stressed are much more likely to be impacted by insect and disease than those that are healthy.
- Mulch lightly. A light (2-3") dressing of mulch helps to reduce water loss. All organics become hydrophobic when dry. As a result, they repel water. Fine mulch that knits together only exacerbates the problem. Shredded leaves and fine bark nuggets are more easily wetted than shredded bark.
- Do not fertilize excessively if at all. Rapidly growing plants require more water and are more prone to disease problems.
- Initial watering should be long and slow to promote deep root growth.

## **Perennials and Grasses for a Successful Effect**

### Grasses

*Acorus gramineus* 'Variegatus' – Sweetflag

*Leymus arenarius* 'Blue Dune' – Blue Lyme Grass

*Panicum virgatum* – Switch Grass

'Cloud Nine'

'Dallas Blues'

*Schizachrium scoparium* – Little Bluestem

### **Spring Perennials**

*Amsonia hubrectii* – Blue Star Flower

*Amsonia tabernaemontana* – Blue Star Flower

*Baptisia australis* – False Indigo

### **Summer and Fall Perennials**

*Coreopsis verticillata* 'Golden Showers' – Tickseed

*Echinacea purpurea* – Purple Cone Flower

*Eupatorium maculatum* – Joe Pye Weed

*Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldsturm' – Black-eyed Susan

### **Woody Plants for a Successful Effect**

*Acanthopanax sieboldianus* 'Variegatus' – Acanthopanax

*Aesculus parviflora* – Bottlebrush Buckeye

*Cornus* x 'Ruth Ellen', *C.* x 'Celestial' – Rutgers Hybrid Dogwood

*Diervilla lonicera* – Bush Honeysuckle

*Gymnocladus dioicus* – Kentucky Coffeetree

*Parrotia persica* – Persian Ironwood