

Presentation Outline: Native Shrubs – A Symbiosis of Site, Structure & Sanctuary

- INSPIRATION FOR NATIVE SHRUBS
- WHAT IS A NATIVE SHRUB?
 - What is a native plant?
 - **NATIVE PLANTS** are endemic (indigenous) to a given area.
 - Plants that have developed, occur naturally, or existed for many years in an area (e.g. trees, flowers, grasses, and other plants). In North America a plant is often deemed native if it was present before colonization.
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_plant)
 - What is a shrub?
 - A **SHRUB** is distinguished from a tree by its multiple stems and shorter height, usually under 15–20 ft. tall. Plants of many species may grow either into shrubs or trees, depending on their growing conditions.
 - Shrubs in common garden practice are generally broad-leaved plants, though some smaller conifers are also shrubby in structure.
(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrub>)
 - What is a cultivar?
 - A **CULTIVAR** is an assemblage of plants that (a) has been selected for a particular character or combination of characters, (b) is distinct, uniform and stable in those characters, and (c) when propagated by appropriate means, retains those characters. Most cultivars have arisen in cultivation but a few are special selections from the wild. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultivar>)
 - The Four E's of Native Shrubs
 - (A)esthetic benefits – Provides year round color & texture
 - Environmental benefits – Less chemicals & water means a healthier planet (Don't forget about wildlife habitat too!)
 - Economic benefits – Limited maintenance
 - Educational benefits – Learn about your natural history
- NATIVE SHRUBS & THE DESIGNED LANDSCAPE
 - Woodland & edge environment
 - Plant fitness - Right plant for the right place (Plant health before aesthetics)
 - Soil & sun/shade conditions
 - Moisture & drainage
 - Road salt & plowing patterns
 - Plan for animal damage
 - Types of native shrubs
 - Large deciduous shrubs (4'-10' tall)
 - Small deciduous shrubs (2' -4' tall)

- (Medium shrubs make it too complex in smaller settings)
- USES FOR NATIVE SHRUBS IN THE DESIGNED LANDSCAPE
 - Functional
 - Screening
 - Directional – Views, circulation, & wind patterns
 - Security – Thorny &/or dense shrubs (Hawthorn, ribes, etc.)
 - Food production – Edible landscaping
 - Elderberries, chokeberries, serviceberries, plums, etc.
 - Controlling erosion – Spirea, snowberry, bush honeysuckle, etc.
 - Aesthetic
 - Spatial definition
 - Enclosure – Creating human scaled spaces (Thinking beyond the foundation!)
 - Backdrop - Accents & other plantings
 - Framing – Views & plantings
 - Layering – Reduce scale/height
 - Focal point or accenting
 - Softening – Harsh corners/edges & blank walls
 - Rhythm, unity & diversity
 - Specialty plantings
 - Shrubbery – Private pleasure garden (& gravel walking paths)
 - Rain Gardens
- PLANNING YOUR LANDSCAPE - Reducing 'shrub-sanity' and "one-of-each-'tis' "
 - Understanding the site – Conducting your own site inventory & analysis
 - Develop a program/set goals
 - Master planning & layout
 - Form vs. Function –
 - Some shrub species are better suited as accents, while others lend themselves to massing – Spacing for massing
 - Consider using most shrubs on your property as masses of several or more individual plants and using only a few species as individual accents
 - Diversity is important (Reduce potential for insect/disease issues)
 - Order & balance – Edges, symmetry, & fitting-in with the neighbors
 - Good planning allows for less maintenance later!
- MAINTAINING YOUR NATIVE SHRUBS
 - Allow shrubs to grow to natural size (limit pruning) – Right plant for the space
 - Prune if/as needed – Renewal, form-based, health/structure, etc.
 - Plants with suckering growth habits don't make good accent plants
 - Add hardwood mulch (3" thick) every other year to help keep weeds down