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Selecting Trees and Shrubs for the Home Landscape

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Selecting Trees and Shrubs for the Home Landscape
Plant Selection

- Plant Names
- Adaptability and Hardiness
- Plant Characteristics
- Maintenance Considerations
A plant may have many different common names such as *Nymphaea alba* (a white water lily) which has 15 English, 44 French, 105 German and 81 Dutch common names.

Several plants may have the same common name such as Dusty Miller among which are *Artemesia stellerna*, *Centaurea cineraria*, *Chrysanthemum ptamiciflorum*, *Lychnis coronaria*, and *Senecio cineraria*.

The scientific name uniquely identifies a plant.
Scientific names are binomial (two piece) names that uniquely identify a species.

The two pieces are *Genus* and *specific-epithet* and constitute the species name.

Genus names are capitalized; the binomial name is italicized.

A name in single quotes appended to the species name identify a cultivar of the species.

For example, a variety of the Sugar Maple is:

* Acer saccharum* ‘Legacy’

Genetic crosses between two species are identified by an x. *(Caryopteris x clandonensis)*
Adaptability and Hardiness

- Wasatch Front is a USDA zone 5 area
- Utah soil is alkaline, lacks organic material
- Water Requirements - Junipers vs. Grass
- Sun or Shade Requirements - Don't plant sun-loving plants under trees or shade-loving plants in full sun.
Plant Characteristics

- Size and Form - Consider mature size when selecting plants. A pine tree 5 feet from a house is in the wrong place.
- Color of Foliage
- Texture
- Fragrance
- Bloom
Maintenance Considerations

- Growth and Development Rate
- Pest and Disease Susceptibility
- Flower and Fruit Production
- Right Plant in Right Place
Special-use Considerations

- Does ground cover have to withstand traffic?
- Is a wall a wind break?
- Snow load?
- Winds?
Availability and Price

- What is your budget?
- Are the plants you select available from:
  - local nurseries
  - catalogs
  - cuttings or divisions from friends
Plant Size and Condition at Purchase

- Plants are sold by the size of the container. Compare the size of the plants, not the container.
- Select healthy plants. Dried out, dying, abnormally yellow plants may not be good selections regardless of price.
- Look for bargains toward the end of the season.
HELP!

- Your Local Nursery or Garden Center
- The County Extension Service
- Catalogs
- Books and Magazines
Your Local Nursery

- Find a nursery you can trust.
- Ask for help to select plants to meet your specifications.
- Ask if they will create a design and supply the plants.
- Expect to pay more than $500 to have a professional design your landscape not including plants or installation.
The County Extension Service

- Extension Gardening - 451-3204
- Fact Sheets
- Books and Other Publications
Catalogs

- Nursery catalogs are full of good information on size, color, hardiness, form, texture, etc.
- Subscribe to a gardening magazine and you will get some catalogs; buy from one catalog and you will get lots of catalogs.
Books

- Sunset Western Garden Book
- The American Horticultural Society Encyclopedia of Garden Plants
- The American Horticultural Society Flower Finder
- The Sunset and Ortho Series
- Landscape and garden design books
Magazines

- Garden Design
- Sunset
- Horticulture
- Fine Gardening
- Better Homes and Gardens
- Organic Gardening
- Garden Gate
Recommended Plant List

- The list is a selection of some of the trees and shrubs that grow well in Utah.
- There is no perfect plant; each has its strengths and weaknesses.
- No plant meets all needs or preferences.
- Don't limit yourself to the list.
Pruning

- Timing
- Pruning Cuts
- Multiple Stem Shrubs
- Rounded Trees & Single Stem Shrubs
- Conifers & Conical Trees
Timing

- When dormant
- Flowering shrubs flower on either
  - last years growth or
  - this years growth
- To preserve flowering prune:
  - shrubs that flower before June 1st -- after flowering
  - shrubs that flower after June 1st -- early spring
Pruning Cuts

- Thinning -- to point of origin (leave branch collar)
- Heading -- to smaller branch or bud
- Shearing -- between buds
- Deadhead -- remove spent buds
Multiple Stem Shrubs

- Remove Dead & Crossing Branches
- Remove 1/3 of Stems (Oldest)
- Trim to Shape
Trees and Single Stem Shrubs

- Remove Dead & Crossing Branches
- Develop Scaffold Branches
- Remove Vertical Shoots (Water Sprouts and Suckers)
- Remove Branches With Narrow Angles
- Remove Branches With Imbedded Bark
Conifers & Conical Trees

- Pine Family - prune very little (spruce, fir, pine)
- Cypress Family - dead in center so prune lightly (juniper, arborvitae)
- Taxus Family - can be pruned heavily (yews)