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Selecting Trees and Shrubs for the Home Landscape

Larry A. Sagers
Utah State University

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Selecting Trees and Shrubs for the Home Landscape

Plant Selection

- Plant Names
- Adaptability and Hardiness
- Plant Characteristics
- Maintenance Considerations

Plant Common Names

- 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 ptramiciflorum*, *Lychnis coronaria***, and ***Senecio cineraria***.
- The scientific name uniquely identifies a plant.

Plant Scientific Names

- 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)