

## Aesthetic Considerations Make Planting Memorable

**Color** – is not just about flowers. Seasonal blooms, foliage, and light also work together to create visual impact.

**Texture** – fine, medium, and bold add contrast and interest.

**Plant Form** – upright, mounding, or spreading sets the rhythm and guides where each plant belongs.

**Size** – plan for mature height/width of each plant to avoid overcrowding and the need for excessive pruning.



## Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Planting under mature trees without providing the extra water and nutrients needed due to competing roots.
- Choosing plants that will outgrow their space.
- Ignoring soil type and drainage.
- Disregarding the plant's sun/shade requirements.
- Overlooking wind exposure.

## Environmental Requirements

**Soil** – pH, fertility, and drainage affect how well plants grow.

**Light** – match plants to full sun, part shade, or deep shade.

**Water** – quality matters; chlorinated or reclaimed water may cause issues.

**Temperature** – check hardiness zone and nighttime lows.

**Wind** – note if the site is exposed or sheltered.

**Pests and Disease** – pick resistant varieties when possible.

**Maintenance** – choose plants that fit the care you can provide.

**Life Span** – mix long-lived structural plants with shorter-lived accents.



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Summary based on *Right Plant, Right Place: The Art and Science of Landscape Design – Plant Selection and Siting* by Geoffrey C. Denny and Gail Hansen, Environmental Horticultural Department, IFAS, University of Florida  
Pictures – courtesy of Master Gardener Kelly Kramer

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## Right Plant, Right Place



A simple guide to choosing plants that thrive where planted.



## Successful Perennial Gardening

## Why it Matters

Choosing plants that naturally fit their site conditions means:

- Lower maintenance
- Less water use
- Fewer pest and disease issues
- Reduced long-term costs
- Longer-lasting, healthier garden



Right plant, right place  
is the foundation of a  
successful perennial garden.



## Three Considerations when Selecting Plants

1. Function  
What do you want the plant to do?  
Is this plant to provide shade,  
block a view, stop erosion, or just  
look lovely?
2. Aesthetics  
Bold and dramatic? Soft and wild?  
Neat and tidy? Choose plants that  
match the look you are going for.
3. Environment  
What does it need to thrive?



## Site Inventory

To help guide the best choices

- Sun and/or shade
- Soil type; soil test results
- Moisture
- Wind
- Views
- How people move thru the space



## Functional Roles of Plants

### Climate Control

Nature's own air conditioning –  
plants provide shade, cool the air,  
block wind, and make outdoor  
spaces more comfortable.

### Visual Control

Living curtains – plants can provide  
screening, privacy, reduce glare, and  
direct views.

### Erosion and Water Control

Roots stabilize soil, foliage slows  
runoff, plantings protect waterways.

### Noise and Odor Control

Dense plantings help block sound  
and filter odors.