

Herbaceous Plants

Landscapes by Eric Bailey

Annuals

- Annual plants live only on growing season
- Their main purpose in life is to grow, Bloom, Produce seed, and die.
- Can grow easily from seed.
- Many will continue to bloom and produce seed all summer. Others need to be prevented from going to seed (by removing spent flowers) for continuous bloom.
- They must be planted ANNUALLY

Vinca - Annual



Perennials

- Many Perennials are herbaceous... Which means...(they die back to the ground with the first frost)
- Perennials are hardy- Which means (their roots persist through the winter) They do not have to be planted every year.
- Do not bloom all summer- but keep your garden constantly changing.
- Need to be cut back to keep them attractive- but do not require as much deadheading as annuals.
- Difficult to grow from seed, Most easily propagated by root division.
- usually need to be divided every 3 years - a good way increase and share your favorites
- Not all perennials are herbaceous - trees & shrub's are perennials.

Perennials



Rudbeckia Goldstrum

Biennials

- Complete their life cycle in two years.
- Most produce only leaves and do not bloom their first years
- They require a cold period to produce blooms the second season.
- Best to buy them in bloom and treat as annual
- Otherwise plant a few seeds every year to keep them going.

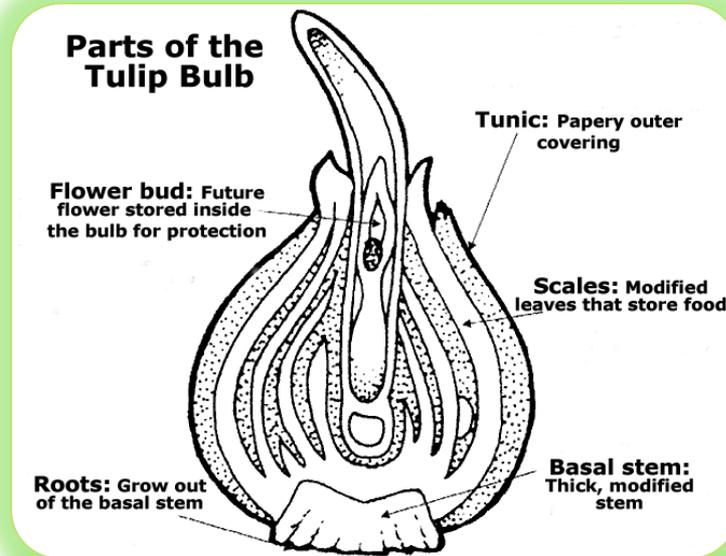
Biennials



Digitalis purpurea
(Foxglove)

Bulbs

- Term used to include corms, tubers, tuberous roots and rhizomes as well as true bulbs
- A “True Bulb” is a nearly complete miniature of a plant encased in fleshy modified leaves called scales.



Bulbs



Tulips

Corms

- Corms are the base of a stem that becomes swollen and solid with nutrients. It has no fleshy Scales.



Corms



Crocus



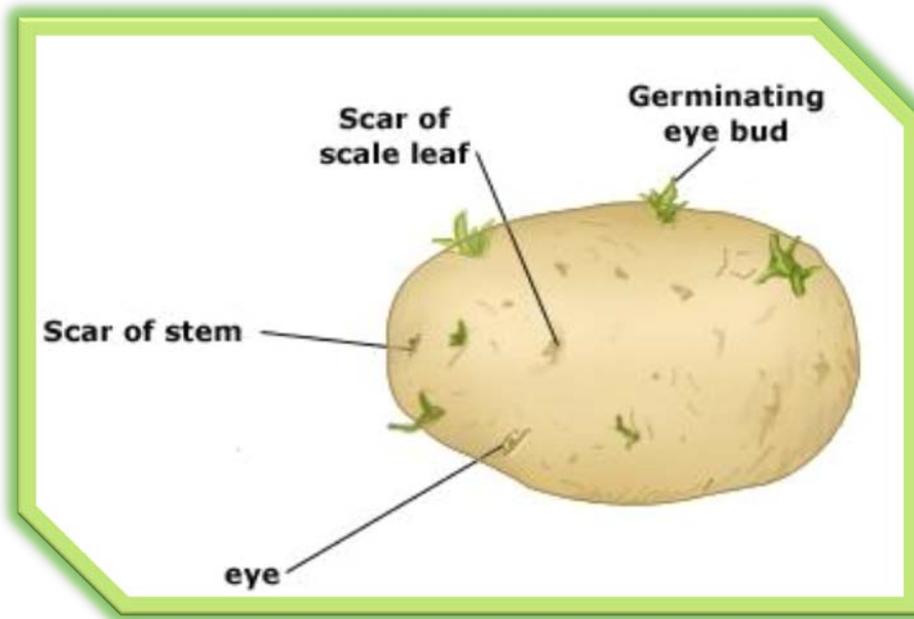
Cyclamens



Gladioli

Tubers

- A tuber is an underground stem that stores food. It has scale like leaves with buds or eyes from which new plants arise.



Tubers



Carrots



Potatoes

Tuberous Roots

- These are real roots.
- The food supply is kept in root tissue not in the stem or leaf tissue.



Tuberous Roots



Tuberous Begonia

Rhizomes

- Thickened stems that grow horizontally along the ground and at intervals send up stems above ground.



Rhizomes



Iris

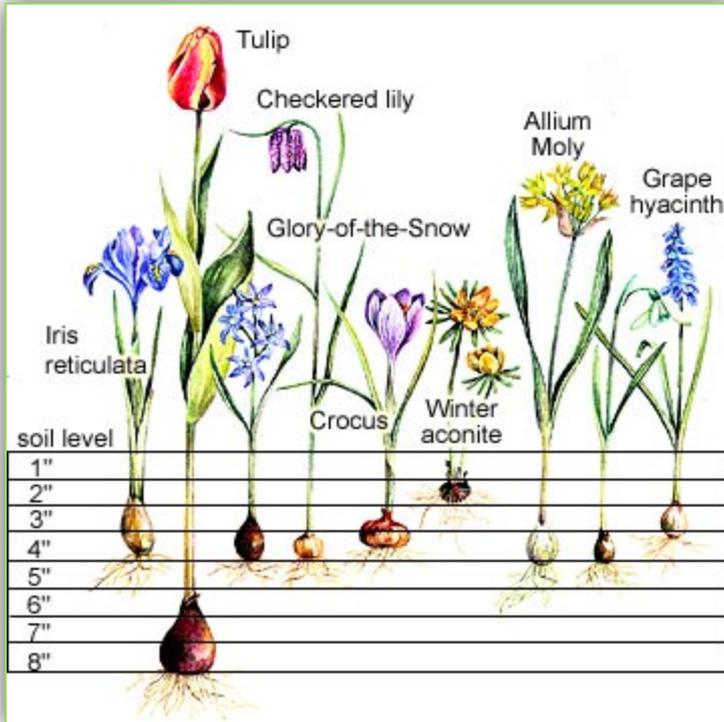
Site Selection

- If you are planning to grow a specific plant, a vegetable or cutting garden site selection is important.
- Since you can select plants for sun/shade or dry/moist - Its usually a case of selecting plants for your location and not a location for your plants.
- A site with Good Drainage is the key. Almost all plants require good drainage. (2 day / 8 hr. test)

Site Preparation

- Soil Test- Adjust for a neutral pH which is best for most plants
- If drainage is poor raise the bed
- Add 4-6" organic matter-humus, compost, soil conditioner etc.... it holds moisture, improves drainage, feeds the soil
- Turn soil to a depth of about 12"
- Add a high phosphorus fertilizer (9 for root growth) before planting.

Planting Bulbs



- Be sure you know which end is up!
- Plant only in well drained areas.
- Choose a location with 5-6 hours of sun.
- Plant 2- ½ to 3 times the diameter of the bulb in depth
- Plant spring blooming bulbs in early fall. Fall bloomers in August. Summer bloomers in Spring. Lilies in late fall

Planting Herbaceous Plants

- Last average frost date is April 15th.
- Select only healthy plants
- Harden plants off gradually before planting.
- Water plants well before removing them from pots

Watering

- Don't just leave it up to mother nature.
- Plan to water your plants regularly.
- A slow drip is best.
- Soak entire bed.
- Allow to dry out between watering.



Mulch

- Looks neat cuts down on weeds
- Keeps soil cooler, retains moisture
- Water well before mulching
- Adds organic matter as it decomposes
- Mulch can burn some perennials
- Don't bury your plants, too much mulch can provide a home for plant pest



Planting a Flower Bed

- Straight edged give you a formal look
- Curving lines are informal



They draw the eye and add visual interest!

Providing a Backdrop

A wall, hedge, building or shrubbery



Plant in groups large enough to form masses of color

Two main mass forms are?



Drifts



Clumps

Random Style

- A random mix of plants and colors presents an unorganized appearance that is neither pleasing or soothing to the sense



Plant Placement

- Tall flowers should be used in the back part of the bed with low plants along the front edge
- Try to limit plant height to $\frac{2}{3}$ the width of the border.
 - Allow adequate space between plants

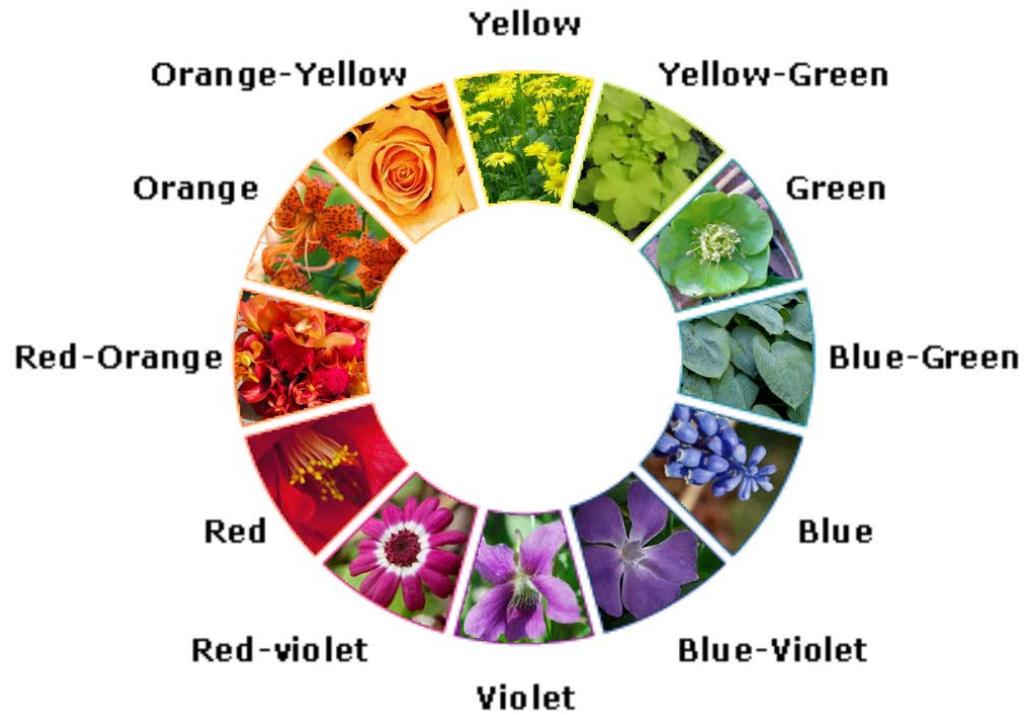
Plant Selection

- **FIRST** Choose the right plant for the location-hardiness zone, sun/shad, wet/dry, hot/cool
 - **SECOND** Choose by size
 - **THIRD** Choose for bloom time
 - **LASTLY** choose by bloom color!!!

Narrow it down

- Buy only healthy plants... Compact & Vigorous
- Read the Label. **Choose plants for specific Locations** (remember height and light requirement..etc.)
- Save money by shopping with a plan in mind
- Shop throughout the season for a summer of perennial blooms

Color in the Garden



Color Schemes



Triadic



Complimentary



Monochromatic



Analogous

Warm Colors

- Red, Orange and Yellow
 - Appears closer
- Used in a small yard makes it appear smaller



Cool Colors

- Blue, Green and Violet
 - Recede in the garden
- Give the impression of openness and space



Plan of Action

- Choose your site
- Choose your style: Formal / Informal
- Choose your backdrop
- Plan your beds: Clumps / Drifts
- Plan for your: Zone, Height, Bloom time and Bloom color
- Prepare your beds
- Purchase your plants
- Start digging!



Landscapes

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