

Choosing the Right Plant for the Right Place



Richland Backyard Landscaping Series Gardening for the Natural Environment Columbia, South Carolina

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Presented by
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Landscape Architect



FUSS & O'NEILL

committed to sustainable solutions

Location Location Location!

Zone – Both Hardiness & Heat
Exposure – sun and wind a factor
Soils – Sand, Silt, Clay, Organic Matter

Wet to Dry



Acid to Alkaline

Gerbers love
Lime!

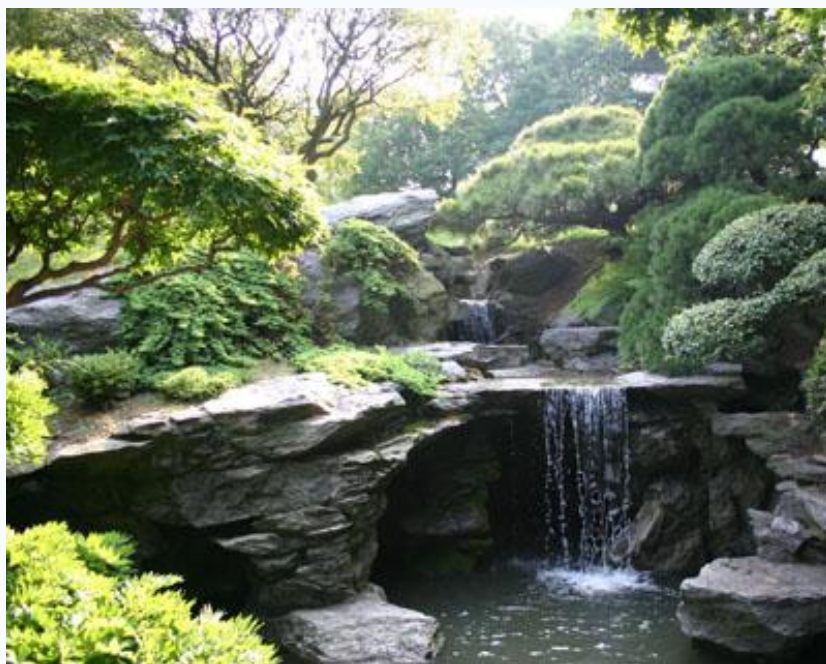
Friable to Compacted

Windswept to Courtyard

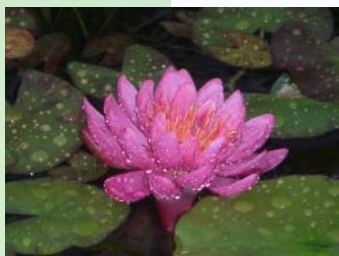


Understanding your site location!

Water Gardens vs Rain Gardens



**Japanese Garden with
Recirculating Water**

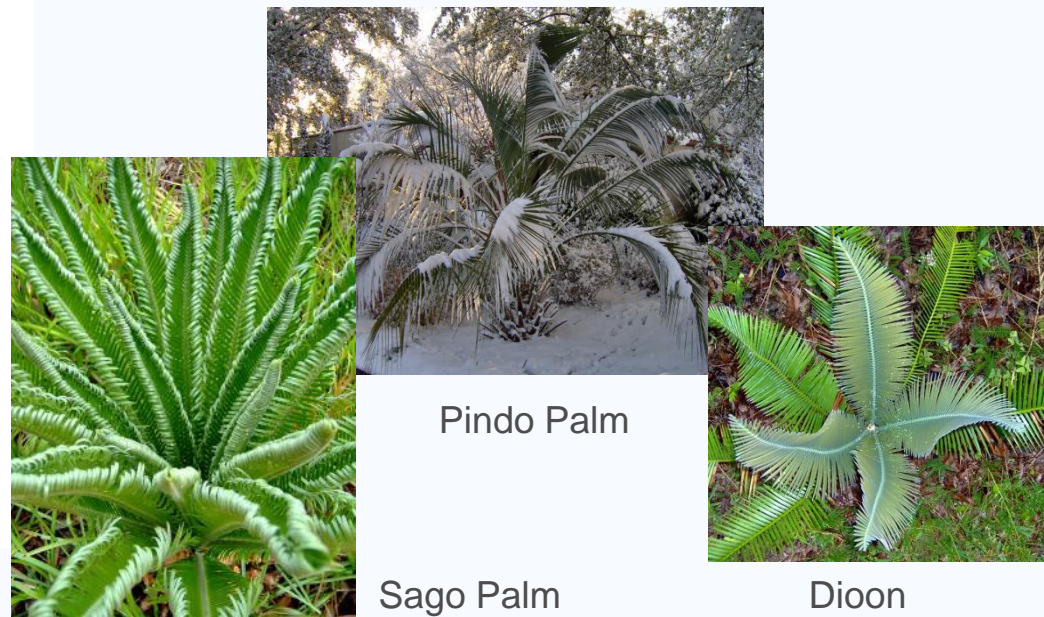
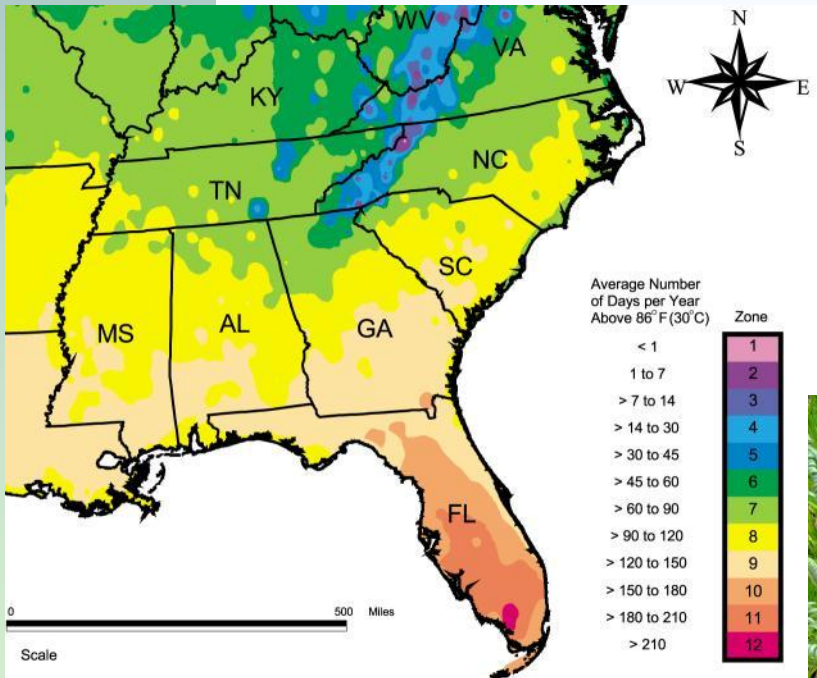
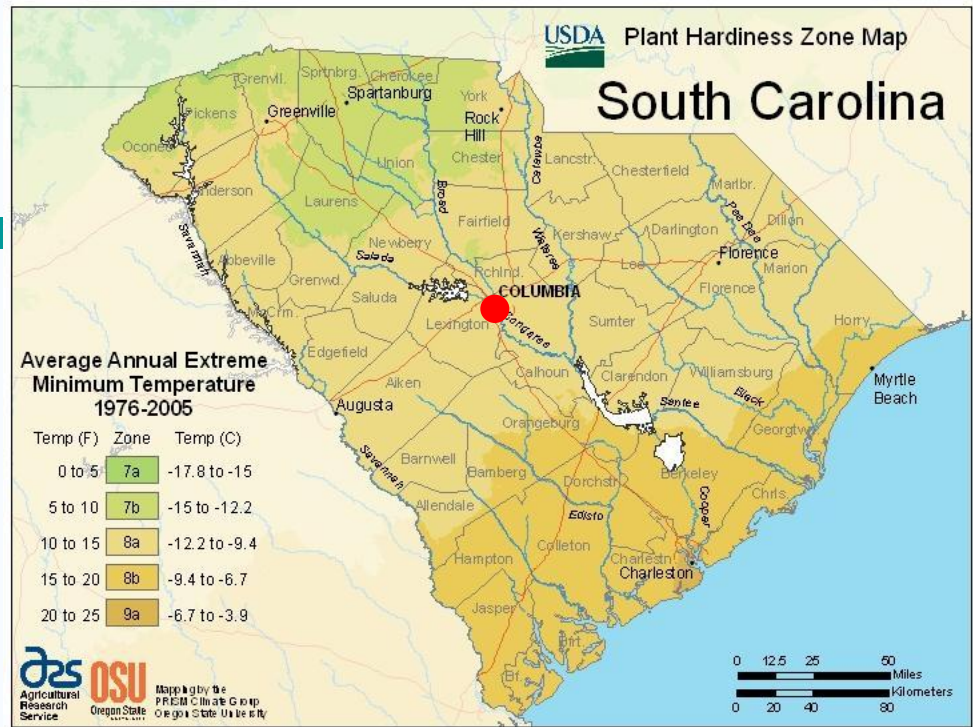


**Rain Garden with
Storm Water ONLY
must have drought resistance!**



Zone Maps

- **Columbia SC**
8a Hardiness
8 Heat (9 Urban)



Sun – Shade... Don't forget Reflected Heat!

- **Overstory Shade differs from Building Shade**
Root competition adds to challenge.



Old Growth
Forest
Athens, GA



Euphorbia

Lady Jane Tulip
Species Tulip that Loves to Bake

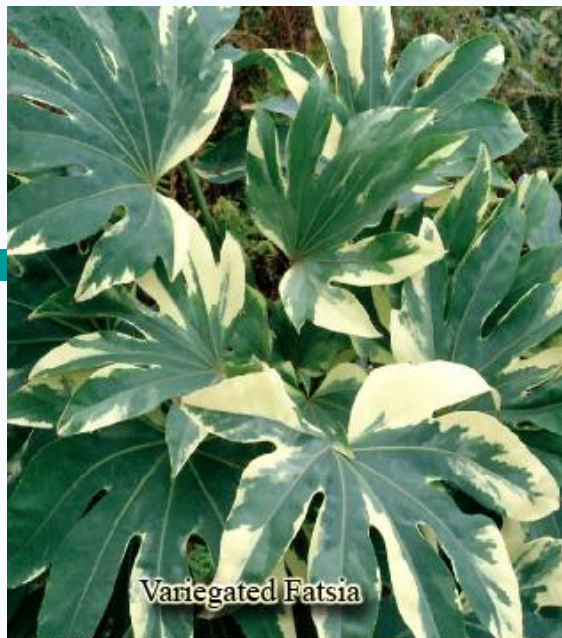
- **True 'Full' sun in SC**
can be brutal! Especially
on the west side of
buildings near paving.



Shade Tolerance



DRY Ruscus - Butcher's Broom
SHADE Nandina - Yellow Berry



Variegated Fatsia



Aucuba - Gold Dust Plant



Variegated Daphne



Variegated Pittosporum



Vinca Illumination



Variegated Liriope



Christmas Fern



Autumn Fern



Variegated Aspidistra

Western Exposure – North vs South



Fat Albert Blue Spruce



Rheingold Arborvitae



Jap. Garden Juniper



Blue Star Juniper



Dwarf Alberta Spruce



Silver Feather Maiden Grass



Feather Reed Grass



Dwarf Fountain Grass



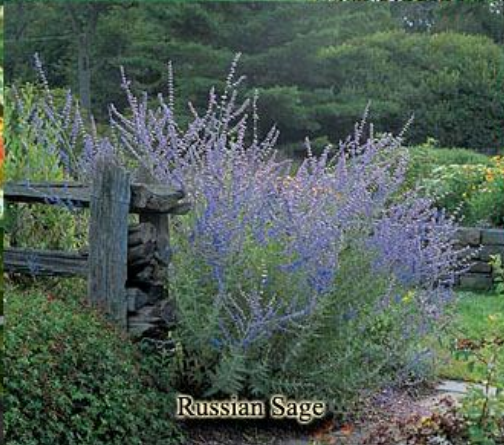
PJM Rhododendron



Yakusimanum Rhody



Magic Carpet Spirea



Russian Sage



Double Knock Out Rose



Gold Sword Yucca



Euphorbia polychroma

Western Exposure – north vs SOUTH

Hint: look for thick, silver leaves or fuzzy texture



Palmetto



Lantana



Mexican Sage



Yucca rostrata



Hollywood Juniper



Purple Queen



Crinum bulbospermum



Knock Out Rose



Teucrium azureum

Plant Size – Unless you're Pearl Fryar... Pruning should be for Form, not ultimate Height!



- Large Shade Trees – Deciduous and Evergreen
East/West shade/look for open branching if lawn desired
- Small Ornamental Trees (including Dwarf Fruit)
some of most appropriate for small lots
- Large Shrubs (can often be pruned up into tree)
try to avoid constant clipping tops off/creating yard waste
- Small Shrubs ('slow growing' can still get big!)
and remember – EVERYthing Starts small
- Groundcovers, Perennials, Bulbs and
Ornamental Grasses
- Lawn – actually one of easiest to maintain:
mow often and leave clippings for nutrients,
trade in that gas powered mower, and go electric!

Over-planting leads to eventual thinning...



Ornamental Grasses – Size Matters!



Variegated
Arundo
12-16' Tall!

Liriope 12-18"



Miscanthus Cabaret 5- 6'



Muhly Grass 3-4'

Preserve your TREES!

- Most valuable part of your property!
- Shading = Cooling
- Oxygen / Moisture
- Stormwater Reduction
- Neighborhood Character
- Stress Reduction/Community Beautification
- Crime Prevention/Recreational Improvements
- Charleston Study found every \$1 spent on care & maintenance paid back \$1.35 in benefits
- Pittsburgh found that their street trees — strictly those planted in sidewalks and medians — provided \$2.4 million worth of environmental and aesthetic value every year... Given the city's annual expenditures of \$850,000 on street tree planting and maintenance, Tree Pittsburgh concluded that the city received \$3 in benefits for every dollar invested.



Pest & Disease Resistance

- First and foremost – a healthy plant in **LIVING** soil fights most diseases on its own!
- Native plants are especially adapted to local rainfall, soils and environmental conditions.

Keep fussy plants in pots if you Must have them.
And remember not all bugs are BAD!



DRY

Cedar Varieties - Native need not be Boring!

Red Cedar



Grey Owl



Taylor



Brodie



Skyrocket



White Cedar



Heatherbun



Red Star



Winter Wonder



WET

Selected Native Shrubs

American Beautyberry

Lactea – Bok Tower

Welsh's Pink

dich. "Duet"



Yaupon Holly (Compact or Weeping)

Virginia Sweetspire

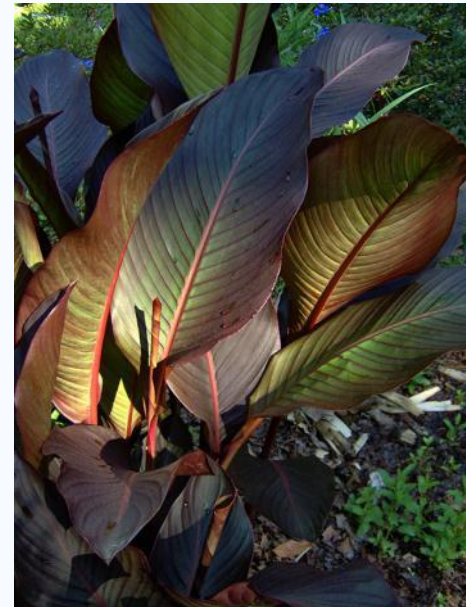
Henry's Garnet



'Weeds' – roots/seeds



- Boone Gladiola
- Giant Red Canna
- Spiderwort



Kudzu



Vines... Friend or Foe?



Honeysuckle: *Lonicera sempervirens*



Clematis
vs
Clematis

Wisteria:
Asian
vs
Native



Bulbs – Annuals vs Perennials

ANNUAL



A word on Annuals



Cardoon - Biennial



Coleus –
great from
cuttings
each year



Morning
Glory
Re-seeder



Trees for tough conditions

Red Cedar



Serviceberry



River Birch



Amer. Hornbeam



Redbud



Fringetree



Dogwood



Amer. Holly



Sassafras



Mayhaw (Hawthorn)



Sweetbay Magnolia



Blackgum



White Cedar



Bald Cypress



Wax Myrtle (36')



Highly Adaptable Shrubs

Chokeberry

Groundsel

Buttonbush

Summersweet

St. Johnswort



Possumhaw

Indigo Bush

Sweetspire

Swamp Rose

Wax Myrtle



Swamp Azalea

Carolina Rose

Dwarf

Palmetto

Elderberry

Viburnum



Grasses & Perennials tolerant of Moist conditions

Bluestem

Swamp Milkweed

Germander

Turtlehead

Gay-feather

Joe Pye Weed



Elliott's Aster

Texas Star

Rose Mallow

Woolly Groundsel Lobelia

Loosestrife



Beebalm

Sensitive Fern

Solomon's Seal

Ruellia caroliniensis

Ironweed



Grasses & Perennials - Drought Hardy once Established

Butterfly Milkweed New England Aster

Canna Varieties

River Oats



Stella D'Oro Daylily Blue Mist Flower

Muhly Grass

Heavy Metal

Shenandoah



Switch grass Obedient Plant Coneflower LittleBluestem Spiderwort Red Sweet Kate



Plants for Fragrance!

Old Man's Beard

Sweetbay

Azalea viscosum

Summersweet Clethra



Daphne odora

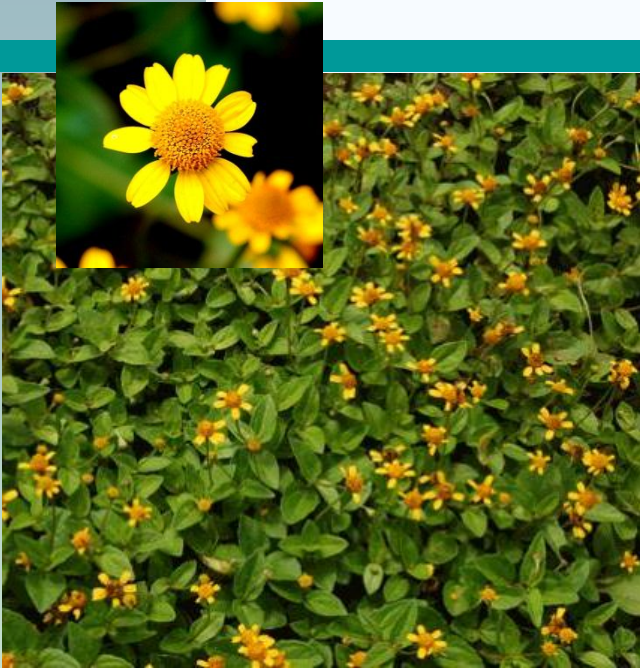
Ginger

Paperwhites

Sweet Olive



Tough Ground Covers



Acmella repens



Cast Iron Plant



Vinca major



Liriope Peedee Ingot



Downy Phlox



Trailing Lantana

Aspidistra versatility!



Snowcap



Nagoya Stars



Spektacular – 3' tall



green wall!



Stars n Stripes



Spangled Ribbons



Stretch Marks



Variegata

Crinum versatility!



Bradley



Milk & Wine



bulbispermum with mums



x herbertii



Cecil Houdyshel



en masse



Menehune

Design Rule #1 - Clean perimeter with well defined edges makes planting look intentional



...messy and untended looks threatening.



While the intent may be good...

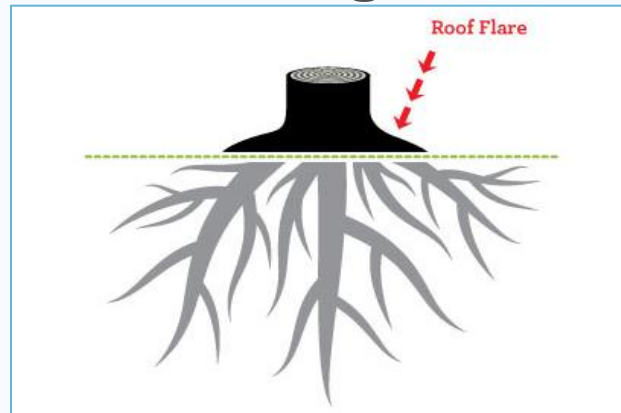


...this will be easier to accept.



Mulched Beds

- **Help retain moisture and add organic matter**
(*How to have a Green Thumb without an Aching Back* by Ruth Stout)
- **Keep edges neat** (use runners to fill in gaps in lawn)
- **Do NOT use weed mat under organic mulch**
- **ANY mulch inhibits germination**, but some may contain weed seed so be careful...
- **Do NOT mound mulch against the bark of any tree or shrub – leading cause of rot and death!**



QUESTIONS?

Choosing the Right Plant for the Right Place!

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