

Welcome to The Abbott's Run Inaugural Garden Club Social

The Mission:

To be a supportive group of like-minded individuals - People who enjoy gardening as a beginner, a want-to-be gardener or an avid gardener. A place to ask questions, share tips and ideas, and gather useful resources.

As the club grows, the hope is that attendees become influencers to other neighbors to help create a neighborhood filled with beautiful landscaped gardens.

WHAT IS CURB APPEAL and WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

- ▶ It is the attractiveness of the exterior of a home as viewed from the street.
- ▶ It is important to have a neat and attractive exterior as it's the first impression someone has of you and the neighborhood as a whole.
- ▶ A neat and well landscaped yard will attract home buyers when you're ready to sell.
- ▶ Your home is your most valuable asset. Well kept homes preserve or increase in value.

WHAT DOES GOOD CURB APPEAL LOOK LIKE



A

Or



B

Identify some of the landscaping issues you observe in these examples....



HARDSCAPE



**USE HARDSCAPE TO ENHANCE THE
LANDSCAPE NOT DETRACT FROM IT!!**



**GREAT USE OF HARDSCAPE
TO CREATE LINE**

WHAT MAKES UP A GOOD DESIGN IN LANDSCAPING

Some of the main design elements to take into account are:

1. Scale

- ❖ Varying heights and widths of trees, plants and shrubs within the space of the flowerbed and yard.

2. Line

- ❖ Controls movement such as a walking path and flowerbed. Adds visual interest to the a landscape and can be straight or curved created with hardscape materials like pavers and natural stone.

3. Color

- ❖ Color captures the eye and draws you in and is a key element in landscape design. Consider colors in your design for all four seasons.

4. Form

- ❖ Refers to the shape of a plant or hardscape. Height and shape of each plant controls the balance. A more formal garden will include more structured and trimmed shrubs while an informal garden will feature more natural and flowing plants.

5. Texture

- ❖ Tree or shrub of varying leaf structure, flowering, airy or dense as well as hardscape such as mulch, natural stones etc. adds a dimension to the design.

Examples of a well designed landscape



Can you identify the elements of design in these examples?

The example on the left is a formal design with very straight lines making use of more hardscape to create a modern, clean look.

The photo on the right has a more informal feel but uses a great mix of space, form, color and texture.

MANY HOMEOWNERS HAVE AN ISSUE WITH LARGE ROOTS OVERTAKING THEIR LAWNS

- ▶ THIS HAS BECOME A HUGE EYE SORE, NOT TO MENTION THE DAMAGE TO THE LAWN UNDER THE TREE CANOPY.
- ▶ THESE ROOTS ARE TYPICALLY THE FEEDER ROOTS OF THE TREE AND SOME SPECIES TYPICALLY ARE MORE PRONE TO HAVE SURFACE TREE ROOTS.
- ▶ TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF THE ROOTS, THE IDEAL SOLUTION IS TO PRUNE THE TREE AS IT IS GROWING IN ORDER TO CONTROL THE SPAN OF THE CANOPY AND PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE SOURCE OF DEEP WATERING. THE OLDER THE TREE, THE FEEDER ROOTS CONTINUE TO SPREAD TO THE WIDEST BRANCH OF THE TREE TO THE DRIP LINE IN SEARCH OF OXYGEN, WATER AND FOOD.
- ▶ ARBORISTS ADVISE NOT CUTTING OR PRUNING THESE ROOTS AS DOING SO COULD HARM THE OVERALL HEALTH OF THE TREE. HOWEVER, IF DONE CAREFULLY, DEPENDING ON HOW SEVERE A PROBLEM, SOME PRUNING MAY HELP RECAPTURE SOME OF THE LAWN.
- ▶ PRUNING TREES TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE CANOPY WILL ALSO LIMIT THE SPREAD. OF COURSE, THE EASY FIX IS TO COVER THE AREA WITH PINE STRAW OR MULCH WHICH HIDES THE ROOTS.



MULCH TO THE RESCUE

BUT WHAT IF ROOTS TAKE OVER MOST OF THE FRONT
LAWN?



IS THIS REALLY ADDING ANY CURB APPEAL?

OVER PLANTING AND GROUND COVER

- ▶ A BETTER OPTION IS TO OVER PLANT WITH GROUND COVER OR CREATE A RAISED BED AROUND THE TREE EXPANDING THE PLANTING AREA DEPENDING ON YOUR INDIVIDUAL SITUATION.
- ▶ AS THE NAME SUGGESTS, GROUND COVER ARE PLANTS THAT GROW LOW TO THE GROUND AND SPREAD OVER TIME. SOME SPECIES HAVE ROOT SYSTEMS THAT ARE PRETTY SHALLOW WHICH ALLOW FOR PLANTING IN SMALL SPACES IDEAL FOR BETWEEN THE SURFACE ROOTS OF TREES. THEY PROVIDE WEED CONTROL AND HAS LITTLE MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS.
- ▶ IF THERE IS ENOUGH ROOM TO PLANT LARGER PLANTS, THEN YOU CAN CREATE A MIXED BED OF SEVERAL SPECIES TO PROVIDE YEAR ROUND COLOR

RAISED BEDS AROUND TREES

ANOTHER OPTION FOR HIDING SURFACE ROOTS IS TO CREATE A RAISED FLOWER BED. TO ADD ADDITIONAL INTEREST AND COLOR, YOU CAN HAVE A MIX OF SMALL SHRUBS AND GROUND COVER PROVIDING COLOR YEAR ROUND.



AFTER SELECTING THE MOST SUITABLE GROUND COVER, FLOWERS AND LOW GROWING SHRUBS, THERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO AVOID.

1. DO NOT BUILD UP YOUR SOIL IN A RAISED BED DIRECTLY AGAINST THE TREE TRUNK. YOU COULD DAMAGE THE TREE.
2. LEAVE ABOUT 2 FEET SURROUNDING THE TREE TRUNK WITH JUST MULCH AND CLEAR OF PLANTS.
3. PLANTS SUCH AS ANNUALS AND SOME GROUND COVER EVERGREENS WITH RELATIVELY SHALLOW ROOTS CAN BE PLACED AROUND THE BASE WITHOUT CAUSING ANY HARM

BENEFITS OF GROUND COVER

- ▶ EVERGREENS PROVIDE CONTINUOUS COLOR AND SOME HAVE SEASONAL BLOOMS PLUS THEY ARE PRETTY LOW MAINTENANCE.
- ▶ THEY PROVIDE VISUAL INTEREST WHEN PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING ELSE IS DORMANT IN THE WINTER MONTHS.
- ▶ SOME SPECIES HAVE FIBROUS ROOTS THAT HELP WITH SOIL EROSION ON SLOPES.
- ▶ THEY ACT AS LIVING MULCH, SHADING THE SOIL AND LIMITING WEEDS.
- ▶ ALSO COST EFFECTIVE IN THE LONG RUN SINCE YOU NO LONGER NEED TO KEEP REPLACING WITH MULCH.

SUGGESTIONS OF GROUND COVER PLANTS

CREEPING JUNIPERS

- ▶ **CREEPING JUNIPERS:** THERE ARE SEVERAL SPECIES OF CREEPING JUNIPERS. MOST POPULAR ARE THE BLUE PACIFIC AND BLUE RUG.
- ▶ **FEATURES:** FAST GROWING, SPREADING ABOUT 2 FEET PER YEAR, HEAT TOLERANT AND EASY TO CARE ONCE ESTABLISHED. REQUIRES FULL SUN AND WATERING UNTIL ESTABLISHED.



ICE PLANT

- ▶ ICE PLANT: A SUCCULENT PERENNIAL WITH EVERGREEN FOLIAGE.
- ▶ FEATURES: IS DROUGHT TOLERANT AND FILLS THE TROUBLESOME DRY AREAS IN THE GARDEN. GROWS 3 TO 6 INCHES WITH A SPREAD OF 2-4 FEET. HAS VERY SHALLOW ROOTS SO VERY EASY TO SPREAD. BLOOMS PRETTY PINK OR ORANGE FLOWERS ALL SUMMER INTO FALL.



MINI MONDO GRASS

- ▶ MINI MONDO GRASS: THIS GROUND COVER IS THE SMALLEST OF SMALL AND PERFECT FOR SMALL SPACES.
- ▶ FEATURES: MAXIMUM HEIGHT 4 INCHES. REQUIRES FULL SUN AND TOLERATES COLD TO -10 DEGREES.

- Mini mondo grass (*Ophiopogon japonicus* 'Nana'):

This petite groundcover plant is the smallest of the small. Though it's only hardy down to -10 degrees F, the green tufts of mini mondo grass look spectacular in gardens. Maxing out at just 4 inches tall, it creates quick cover over full-sun areas. This excellent evergreen groundcover is also fun to use in between stepping stones and around the base of trees, instead of using shredded bark, gravel, or other mulches. ([Mondo grass starter plants](#))



LILYTURF

- ▶ LILYTURF: EVERGREEN GRASS SUITABLE FOR BORDERS, UNDER TREES AND SLOPES.
- ▶ FEATURES: VARIETIES INCLUDE A SOLID GREEN OR A VARIEGATED FORM. GROWS TO ABOUT 6 INCHES TALL AND PRODUCES A PURPLE SPIKED FLOWER IN SPRING. FAST SPREADING. CUT DEAD GROWTH BACK IN SPRING TO PRODUCE FRESH NEW GROWTH EACH SEASON

• Lilyturf (*Liriope muscari*):

This clump-forming evergreen groundcover is ideal for sloped sites or for garden beds under large trees with extensive root systems. Varieties with a solid green leaf are pretty, but I find the variegated form to be extra special. Hardy down to -30 degrees F, and reaching about 6 inches tall, lilyturf produces spires of purple flowers in the spring. It's tough and relatively fast-spreading, making it a wonderful year-round groundcover. Cut any dead growth back in the spring to generate fresh new growth each season. ([Source for lilyturf](#))



SEDUMS

- ▶ SEDUMS: EVERGREEN, THICK, SUCCULENT LEAVES IN MANY VARIETIES. LOOK FOR LOW GROWING SPECIES FOR GROUND COVER.
- ▶ FEATURES: DROUGHT TOLERANT AND EVERGREEN TO -20°F. GROWS TO 4 INCHES AND BLOOMS SMALL FLOWERS IN LATE SUMMER THROUGH FALL. PREFERS SUN TO SEMI SHADE. ADDS GREAT TEXTURE AND INTEREST.

- **Sedums (*Sedum spp.*):**

The thick, succulent, drought-resistant leaves of sedums make them among the very best evergreen groundcovers. While there are literally hundreds of different varieties, if you plan to use this plant as a groundcover, look for low-growing varieties. Some of my favorites are **Dragon's Blood**, **Blue Spruce**, and **Lime wister®** because of their interesting foliage and flower colors. These ground-covering sedums are evergreen in climates with milder winters, and semi-evergreen down to -20 degrees F. Reaching just 4 inches tall, they're covered in blooms in late summer through fall. In my Pennsylvania garden, they're evergreen through most of the winter.



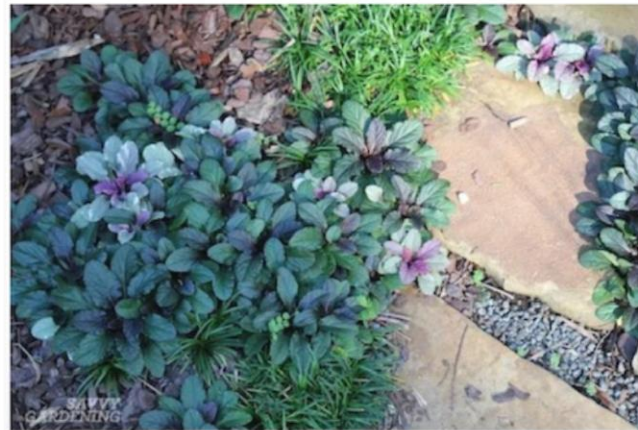
BUGLEWEED

- ▶ BUGLEWEED: MANY VARIETIES WITH GREEN, BRONZE OR PURPLE LEAVES.
- ▶ FEATURES: GROWS A MAX OF 8-10 INCHES DEPENDING ON THE SPECIES. PRODUCES A BLUE-PURPLE FLOWER IN SPRING. SHOWY AND COLORFUL EVEN WHEN NOT IN BLOOM DUE TO THE COLOR OF THE LEAVES. SPREADS TO FORM A MAT.

Evergreen Groundcover Plants for Sun

- Bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans*):

There are dozens of different varieties of bugleweed on the market. Some are green-leaved, while others are bronze, purple, or even variegated. There are even bugleweed cultivars with crinkled leaves. Standing just 8 to 10 inches tall and producing spires of blue-purple flowers each spring, this evergreen groundcover is showy and colorful even when it isn't in bloom. Hardy to -40 degrees F, bugleweed "creeps" around the garden, spreading to form a thick mat. ([Bronze ajuga source](#))



Ajuga, also called bugleweed, is a beautiful evergreen groundcover that produces spikes of purple

CANDY TUFT

- ▶ **CANDY TUFT: EVERGREEN PERENNIAL PRODUCING SMALL WHITE FLOWERS IN SPRING.**
- ▶ **FEATURES: MODERATE GROWTH RATE AND PREFERS FULL SUN BUT CAN TOLERATE SOME SHADE. PREFERS MOIST TO SEMI-DRY SOIL. REMAINS GREEN IN THE WINTER. SOIL MAY NEED TO BE AMENDED TO ALKALINE BY ADDING COMPOST OR SULPHUR.**

Once an exceedingly popular garden plant, candytuft seems to have fallen out of favor in recent years, for some unknown reason. What's not to love about an evergreen groundcover that spreads relatively fast, is covered with clusters of white flowers, is adored by pollinators, and is hardy down to -30 degrees and perhaps beyond? The only fuss-factor with Candytuft is its desire for well-drained soils and full sun. Shearing the plant back after bloom keeps it even more compact, but the practice isn't necessary.



Candytuft produces white flowers in the spring, atop evergreen foliage.

CREEPING PHLOX

- ▶ CREEPING PHLOX: A PERENNIAL WITH A SEMI-EVERGREEN HABIT PRODUCING A CARPET OF PINK AND SOFT PASTEL FLOWERS IN SPRING.
- ▶ FEATURES: PERFECT FOR TOUGH SOIL CONDITIONS AND SMALL TIGHT SPACES SUCH AS BETWEEN PAVERS, ROCKS AND ROOTS OF TREES. LITTLE CARE NEEDED ONCE ESTABLISHED. SPREADS ABOUT 2 FEET OVER TIME. REQUIRES SUN.

- Creeping phlox (*Phlox subulata*):

I have six creeping phlox plants along the top of a stone retaining wall, and everyone who visits in the spring when the plants are in bloom wants to know what they are. Extremely cold-tolerant (down to -40 degrees F!), creeping phlox is an evergreen groundcover with needle-shaped leaves that create a dense mat. The deer don't touch it, but the pollinators sure do enjoy the blooms on this 6-inch-tall plant. ([Source for creeping phlox](#))



GREAT DESIGNS DO NOT HAVE TO BE COMPLICATED



CREATE VARYING HEIGHTS BY LAYERING SHRUBS AND PERENNIALS IN FRONT OF FOUNDATION SHRUBS.



PLANT GROUPS OF 5-7 OF THE SAME FLOWER TYPE TO MAKE AN IMPACT



CHOOSE 3 COLORS TO BE THE DOMINANT COLORS IN THE FLOWERBED

A CHALLENGE AND PLANNING AHEAD

- ▶ Are we all excited to get started in our garden makeover?
- ▶ **The challenge:**
 - ❖ Choose one flowerbed in your garden
 - ❖ Create a new and improved one based on what you learned today!
 - ❖ Take a before and after photo of your flowerbed.
- ▶ At the end of May, our garden club members will vote on the most improved flowerbed.
 - ❖ The winner will receive a prize and bestowed the honor of Garden of The Month!
- ▶ **Topics and activities to come:**
 - ❖ Vegetable gardening
 - ❖ How to add pops of color the easy way, season by season
 - ❖ Xeriscaping and water conservation
 - ❖ Garden tours with plant sampling
 - ❖ All members of our club are encouraged to contribute and speak on a subject that interests them. Please contact the ACC committee with your suggested topics.