

Hello neighbors,

The ACC committee was very encouraged by the attendance at our first garden club meeting and we are hopeful that we can keep up the momentum as it seems the spring weather is here to stay. Spring is the perfect time for pruning and planting before the summer heat sets in! If you were unable to attend but are interested in being a part of the club, please check the Abbott's Run website under Forms and Documents to access last week's presentation. There was quite a bit of information on blooming ground cover plants.



Here is Creeping Phlox in full bloom. If you take a walk around the neighborhood, try to spot the garden where this beautiful display can be found!

As a reminder, here's the challenge for the month of April and May:

Choose a flowerbed at the front of your house to do a landscape makeover! Don't forget to take a before photo so we can see the changes that are made. Members will vote on the best makeover at the end of May. The member with the highest number of votes will win a prize and be awarded Garden of The Month.

Here are a few tips as you plan your makeover:

Begin with a clean slate and a well defined flowerbed by creating a clean edge.



Be sure to choose shrubs and plants with similar requirements eg. Full sun versus shade, soil type, and water frequency so that all of the plants will thrive. Most plants dislike clay so providing an amendment such as compost and a top soil mix is a great start for young shrubs and plants. Water regularly until established and fertilize as recommended, typically during the growing season.

A rule of thumb for design is using odd numbers. Plant the same plant in a group of three, five or seven, depending on the size of the flowerbed and if its a larger shrub, perennial or annual.

Arrange plants around a focal point like a tree or large planter.

Remember to layer. Foundation plants are typically closest to your home. Check the maximum growth height and place colorful evergreen shrubs in front of and lower than the foundation plants, followed by perennials and then annuals.

The color palette should have two to three dominant colors to create the highest impact. If uncertain, refer to the color wheel for two colors close to each other and one across from them for a great combination of complementary colors.

Don't forget to combine plants and shrubs with different textures for a more interesting look.

Low maintenance colorful evergreens to check out: Kaleidoscope Abelia, Dwarf King's gold False cypress, Sunshine Ligustrum, Loropetalums, Lemon Lime Nandina and the Dwarf burning bush.

Summer blooming hydrangeas and seasonal perennials will provide great color to your landscape throughout the year without having to replace every year!

Below are summer blooming varieties of hydrangeas that like sun but prefer a bit of afternoon shade. Be sure to follow planting instructions for best results! Let's get out and plant together!



Red Slippers



Vanilla strawberry



Endless Summer

