

## ***Welcome to the world of woody perennials....***



*What is **woody**? Having woody tissues – xylem, phloem and cambium.*

*What does that mean to us? Creating year- round structure, interest and growth in our gardens.*

*What is **ornamental**? Plant cultivated for the purpose of aesthetics/enjoyment – increasing the beauty in a garden.*

*But what are we trying to create? Adding overall function, purpose and suitability to garden space and area.*



*What is a **tree**? Trees can be defined as...*

*A woody perennial plant typically having a single stem or trunk growing to a considerable height and bearing lateral branches at some distance from the ground.*

*A perennial woody plant having a main trunk and usually a distinct crown.*



*What is a **shrub**? - Shrubs can be defined as...*

*A woody perennial plant with persistent woody stems above ground. Typically having multi-stems and growing under 15 feet – 5 m.*



What is a **vine**? A vine can be defined as...

*Plants that cascade or climb.*

*Diverse varieties that have different ways of achieving their growth - twining, leaf and stem tendrils, aerial roots, lianas and scandent climbers.*



What is a **plant's form**?

*The plant's natural shape. Its outside silhouette.*

*What is a plant's structure and shape...*





What is a plant's **growth habit**?

*The branching pattern. How the branches are growing.*



What is the **texture** of a plant?

*The size of the leaf, the airiness (light penetration) of the branches, the tactile quotient – fuzzy, matte or glossy.*

*Impressions/feelings/movement/ contrasts – most of the year.*



*What is colour?*

*Colour is complicated and fabulous! It is generally what we are attracted to in a garden. It is very personal and subjective. It can evoke many emotions and feelings – from the calm to the dynamic.*

*Contrasts – cool/warm – pastels to bolds*

*The colour wheel – what looks good with what*

*The shades/tones/tints of green – yellow green/true greens to blue greens*



*What makes a favorite plant?*

*What is yours? What do you like about it?*

*What do I want out of a plant? Everything!*

- *Aesthetics – colour, texture, form and structure*
- *Pest and disease resistance – healthy*
- *Fragrance – movement*
- *Grows well in our climate – wet/heat/heavy snow – hardy*
- *Adapts well – tolerant to stresses – pollution, drought, wet – clay soils/poor drainage – shallow rooted*
- *Availability – multi purpose – easy to grow – all year-round interest*
- *Grow well in containers – small spaces – manageable*
- *Biodiversity – sustainability – success! Readily available and cost effective*
- *Value – year-round interest*

## **Groups of woody perennials.... Broadleaf evergreen**

**What your favorite broadleaf evergreen? What do you like about it?**

*Broadleaf evergreen – a plant that retains most of their leaves (waxy- leaf shape) throughout the winter.*

- *All year-round interest – flower, foliage, and form*
  - *Texture, colour and character*



*Some of my favourites...*

- *Cistus x corbariensis*
- *Rhododendrons varieties*
- *Japanese azaleas - varieties*
- *Pieris varieties*
- *Camellia japonica*
- *Camellia sasanqua*
- *Kalmia varieties*
- *Sarcococca ruscifolia*
- *Sarcococca hookerana 'humilus'*
- *Choisya ternata 'Sundance'*
- *Daphne odora 'Marginata'*
- *Nandina 'Gulf stream'*
- *Viburnum davidii*
- *Skimmia japonica 'Rubella'*
- *Leucothoe 'Scarletta'*
- *Lonicera 'Lemon beauty'*
- *Prunus laurocerasus 'Otto luyken'*
- *Ceanothos 'Victoria'*

## ***Deciduous trees***

***What is your favorite deciduous tree? What do you like about it?***

*Deciduous tree is a plant that has their leaves fall off at the end of the growing season or at maturity. Trees are generally classed as plants with a main trunk and branch canopy.*

*They are enjoyed and planted for their...*

- *All season interest – with bark, scale/size, presence, structure, branching pattern, form, foliage, flower – fall colour and fragrance*



*Some of my favourites...*

- *Koelreuteria*
- *Magnolia stellata*
- *Magnolia soulangiana 'Galaxy'*
- *Magnolia sieboldii*
- *Stewartia pseudocamelia*
- *Cercis canadensis 'Forest pansy'*
- *Cercis canadensis 'Hearts of gold'*
- *Cornus 'Eddie's white wonder'*
- *Cornus kousa 'Satomi'*
- *Cornus kousa var. chinensis*
- *Cornus mas*
- *Acer palmatum*
- *Acer palmatum 'Bloodgood'*
- *Acer palmatum 'Seiryu'*
- *Acer palmatum 'Sangu kaku'*

- *Acer shirasawanum*
- *Ginkgo biloba* 'witch's broom'
- *Malus floribunda*
- *Malus* 'Royal raindrops'
- *Syringa vulgaris*
- *Hamamelis mollis*
- *Laburnum*
- *Cercidiphyllum japonica* 'pendula'
- *Fagus sylvatica* 'Darwykii gold'
- *Styrax japonica*
- *Styrax obassia*
- *Amelanchier* 'Autumn brilliance'

### **Deciduous shrub**

**Whats your favourite deciduous shrub? Why?**

*A plant that typically sheds leaves seasonally or after each growing season – usually in the fall.*

*Planted and enjoyed for their...*

- All year-round interest
  - bark, structure, foliage, flower – fall colour – fragrance





Some of my favourites...

- *Viburnum plicatum* 'Popcorn'
- *Viburnum plicatum* 'Summer snowflake'
- *Spiraea japonica* 'Gold mound'
- *Cornus alba* 'Elegantissima'
- *Deutzia gracilis*
- *Azalea mollis*
- *Syringa* spp.
- *Syringa meyeri* 'Palabin'
- *Hibiscus syriacus* 'Red heart'
- *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Piamina'
- *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Grandiflora'
- *Cotinus coggygria* 'Royal purple'
- *Weigela florida* 'variegata'
- *Berberis thunbergii* - dwarf
- *Euonymus alata*
- *Rosa* 'meideland'
- *Ribes sanguineum*
- *Corylopsis pauciflora*
- *Enkianthus campanulatus*
- *Physocarpus* 'Diablo'

### **Coniferous evergreens**

**What is your favorite conifer? What do you like about it?**

Coniferous evergreen – Cone bearing trees – generally known as softwoods. Plants that have needles, scales or awls.

- all year-round interest – foliage and form
  - texture, colour, and character



*Some of my favourites...*

- *Juniperus squamata* 'Blue star'
- *Chamaecyparis obtuse* 'Nana gracilis'
- *Pinus mugo* 'Pumilio'
- *Abies balsamea*
- *Sciadopitys* - Japanese umbrella pine
- *Picea abies* 'pendula'
- *Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca pendula'
- *Pinus strobus* 'Pendula'
- *Cryptomeria* 'Globosa nana'

**Vines...**

*Woody climbing plants – also called lianas.*

*Planted for their character, structure, growth habit, texture, foliage and flowers.*

**What is your favourite vine? What do you like about it?**



*Some of my favourites...*

- *Wisteria sinensis*
- *Parthenocissus* - Boston ivy
- *Parthenocissus* - Virginia creeper
- *Clematis armandii*
- *Hydrangea anomala* subsp. *petiolaris*
- *Campsis radicans*

- *Lonicera 'Halliana'*
- *Akebia quinata*
- *Actinidia kolomikta*
- *Rosa 'Royal sunset'*
- *Vitus 'concord' – grape*

### **What are the benefits of plants?**

- *Economic*
  - *Value*
  - *History*
    - *Establishment*
- *Social*
  - *Aesthetics*
  - *Welcoming*
    - *Community*
  - *Nature*
- *Environmental*
  - *Function and purpose*
  - *Life - filters – air, water*
    - *Biodiversity*
    - *Sustainability*
  - *Medicinal, food, construction*

***If you had to describe “plants” in one word what would it be?***

***What do plants need? Where can they grow?***

***Where do plants grow best? Hopefully where we plant them!***

*In our limited spaces we have many planting challenges - from exposure to the weather. We seem to have less and less in the ground garden space and more hardscape surfaces that we want to add style, colour, texture and scale to our spaces. So we look at containers!*

*Growing plants in containers have their own benefits and limitations. But as far as I am concerned well worth the effort!*

*As with anything we design for in our green spaces - we need to analyze, plan and understand what the potential can be.*

*Everyone will have different opinions and thoughts – myself included!*

*Good/bad? Difficult or easy? Worth the effort?*

- *Plant selection is one of the keys – what should we look for?*
  - *Drought and stress tolerant*
  - *Slow growing – dwarf and weeping forms*
  - *Hardy*
    - *We lose one hardiness zone as soon as we plant in a container – due to the limited soil volume*
  
- *Plant purpose and function*
  - *Accents*
  - *Screen – privacy*
  - *Focal points*
    - *Permanent or seasonal*
    - *Patio or integrated into existing garden area*
  
- *Then we look at the logistics – what can we find? What can we handle?*
  - *Container size?*
  - *Container shape?*
  - *Container weight?*
    - *Soil type?*
    - *Soil volume?*
    - *Watering?*
    - *Drainage?*

***Permanent plant successes...***

***Deciduous trees...***

- *Acer palmatum - weeping and upright forms*
- *Acer shirasawanum 'Aureum'*
- *Acer griseum*
- *Fagus sylvatica – darwykii/weeping forms*
- *Ginkgo – dwarf grafted varieties*
- *Syringa vulgaris*
- *Styrax japonica 'Fragrant fountain'*
- *Malus, Pyrus and Prunus - Dwarf fruit trees*
- *Cercis canadensis ' Ruby falls'*
- *Hamamelis mollis*



### **Deciduous shrubs...**

- *Buddleja davidii* 'Petit blue heaven'
- *Cotinus coggygria* 'Royal purple'
- *Spiraea* 'Van houtei'
- *Spiraea japonica* 'Gold mound'
- *Viburnum plicatum* 'Popcorn'
- *Viburnum x bodnantense* "Dawn"
- *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Grandiflora'
- *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Piamina'
- *Hydrangea quercifolia*
- *Vaccinium* – blueberry
- *Azalea mollis*
- *Weigela florida* 'Variegata'
- *Syringa meyeri* 'Palabin'
- *Hibiscus syriacus* 'Diane'
- *Ribes sanguineum*
- *Euonymus alatus* 'Compacta'

### **Conifers...**

- *Picea glauca* 'Conica'
- *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Gracilis'
- *Pinus strobus* 'Horsford'
- *Juniperus squamata* 'Blue star'
- *Picea abies* 'pendula'
- *Cryptomeria* – dwarf varieties
- *Cedrus atlantica* 'glauca pendula'
- *Taxus x media* cvs.

### **Broadleaf evergreens...**

- *Viburnum davidii*
- *Buxus sempervirens*
- *Camelia japonica*
- *Azalea japonica*
- *Ilex crenata* 'Sky pencils'
- *Lonicera* 'Lemon beauty'
- *Rhododendrons* – H1
- *Pieris japonica* 'cvs.'
- *Euonymus fortunei*

## ***The art and science of planting...***

***If you had to describe “planting” in one word what would it be?***

*When I create my landscape designs, I also try and look at some of the practical aspects of plant/tree selection ...*

- Are they **available? Cost effective?**
  - Can we find it???
  - How is it grown?
    - Container grown stock, B&B stock and bare root stock
      - Can we move it?
- Do they work and fit in my space – ie. **usability and manageability?**
  - **Does it like growing here?**
    - Exposure – soil, water and shade tolerance
    - Pest and disease resistant
- And the of course the big one – **aesthetics and enjoyment!**
  - Size, structure, shape
    - Colour, texture, scent, light and movement
    - Drought tolerant – stress tolerant

*The success of creating and planting a space – starts with a few key factors!*

- Selection – what can we use?
  - Choices
- Light - what do we have?
  - Duration, quality and intensity
  - Ambiance – feelings and presence
- Water – what do we have? What do we need?
  - Natural
  - Irrigation
  - Recycled
- Soil – what do we have? What do we need?
  - Quality – texture and structure
  - Depth – root growth
  - Compaction
  - Organic or sandy
    - Drainage

- *Food/nutrients*
  - *Organic matter*
  - *Amendments*

***What do plants put up with in our gardens/environment?***

*Some of our issues though are what we have to often put up with...*

- *Weather extremes – floods and fires*
- *Changes...*
  - *Construction and development*
    - *Compaction and grade changes*

***What can we do to make a garden more successful?***

*Janis' keys to a successful garden...*

- ***Knowledge***
  - *understanding your individual site*
    - *infrastructure*
  - *understanding the function and purpose*
  - *understanding the overall goal*
    - *plant choices to suit the above*
      - *Choices and limitations*
        - *Container stock*
        - *Balled and burlap stock*
        - *Bare root stock*
- ***Good quality soil***
  - *If the roots are happy – the plants and garden will be successful!*
    - *Root establishment*
      - *Needed nutrients, moisture and light*
      - *Time of the year – precipitation and soil temperature*
- ***Attention when planting...***
  - *Hole size - size and depth*
  - *Soil preparation*
    - *Utilizing existing soils*
    - *Amending existing soils*
      - *Root growth – 12-18 inches viable root area*
    - *Scarifying*
      - *Backfilling - connection/compaction – no air pockets*

- *Analyzing roots*
  - *Girdled, kinked or ripped*
    - *Remove*
    - *Clean cut*
    - *Tease out*
  - *Intact and healthy*
    - *Burlap – do we leave or remove*
    - *Cage – leave or remove*
    - *Twine – leave or remove*
  - *Identifying the root flare*
    - *What is it?*
    - *Where is it?*
    - *Why is it important?*
      - *Depth of planting*
- *The positioning and placement*
  - *the view - the aspect*
  - *the face*
  - *the liabilities – infrastructure*
    - *How and where is it going to grow?*
  - *Straight – vertical*
    - *Level with grade*
- *Watering - before, during and after*
  - *A slow drip, a spray, a bucket or a hose?*
- *Transplanting*
  - *Change – dynamics*
    - *Root ball – large as possible*
    - *Heeling in – timing*
    - *Watering*
    - *Root pruning*

***What can we do to help a plant succeed?***

### ***The caring of plants....***

*The caring – the management – the maintenance*

- *Pruning, fertilizing, watering, staking, tree wells and mulching*



## *Trees v. turf...*

- *Should trees be planted in turf?*
  - *Nutrient and root competition*
  
- *After care – establishment - tree protection*
  - *Tree well*
    - *limit compaction*
    - *mechanical damage*
    - *limit root competition*
  
  - *Tree staking and guying*
    - *Limitations and ideals*
  
  - *Organic mulching*
    - *Mulches*
      - *Varieties and types*
    - *Benefits*
    - *Purpose*
    - *The ideals*
      - *Temperature moderation*
        - *Ideal root growth*
      - *Placement and depth*
        - *Fluffy or compacted?*
        - *Course or fine?*
      - *How often?*
  
    - *Organic vs. inorganic*
  
  - *The idea of drought tolerance*
    - *Over time - root establishment*
    - *Plant selection*
      - *Which plants can handle stress?*
    - *Organic bark layer*
    - *Retaining moisture and increasing humidity*
    - *Limiting temperature extremes*