

COLOR AND THE COLOR WHEEL

COLOR is one of the most visible ways of expressing your personality in the garden.

COLOR BASICS AND THE COLOR WHEEL

- Primary Colors – red, yellow and blue.
- Secondary Colors – mixing two primary colors together: orange (red and yellow), green (yellow and blue) and purple (red and blue).
- Intermediate Colors – colors created by mixing a primary and a secondary color (blue-green).
- Neutral Colors – black, white and gray (silver).

COLOR SCHEME – Way of combining color for different effects. Color changes depending on its surroundings, such as neighboring color, light, texture. A color's brightness will be enhanced when placed next to a contrasting color (one that falls opposite on the color wheel). This is called a complementary color. It will decrease in intensity when placed next to an analogous color (one that lies next to it on the color wheel).

COLOR DESIGN TIPS

- When combining colors, remember the rule of repetition. A design will look too busy unless you repeat colors and shapes throughout the design.
- The changing conditions of outdoor light change the appearance of color. Colors appear more saturated in summer sun and more subdued in winter light. Colors also are brighter in morning sun and deeper in evening light.
- Choose several dominant colors and accent with subordinate colors.
- Pale colors, yellows and whites reflect light and illuminate shady spots.
- Bright colors work well in full sun. Pastels fade to a grayish white in bright light.
- Cool colors (blues and purples) and pale shades create a sense of depth in the garden. Bright colors bring makes the garden look closer.
- When using bright and dark colors, pay attention to the value of the color (how light or dark it is). Bright yellow can compete with bright blue, but will look out of place with a pale blue.

- Yellow is an intense color and should be used sparingly.
- White neutralizes loud color combinations. It separates colors and stops them from blending into one another. White shows up well at night, creates a sense of depth in the garden and will brighten any planting – making other colors look richer.
- Blue in a dark-green setting will disappear.
- The warm colors (such as red, orange and yellow) add energy and excitement.
- The cool colors (such as blue, green and violet) are calming and soothing.
- Combining different shades of green can be a sophisticated composition. Foliage and texture are important in a green combination.
- Silver foliage picks up light and creates drama. Gray intensifies other colors making them glow.

TERMS

- **Hue** is a pure color that contains no black, white or gray. Its value is an indication of how light or dark it is.
- **Tint** is a color that is mixed with white.
- **Tone** is a color with gray.
- **Shade** is a color mixed with black.
- **Saturation** is the intensity of the color – how bright or dull it is.