

The Roles of Plants in Garden Design

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Plants can be used to play different functions in a garden:

Ground cover

Low level plants that fill the ground, soften hard edges and link planting to hard landscaping.

Focal Point

Plants that bring focus, lead the eye and punctuate the garden. Strong form, patterns, emphasis, bold foliage, coarse texture, vibrant colours.

Structural

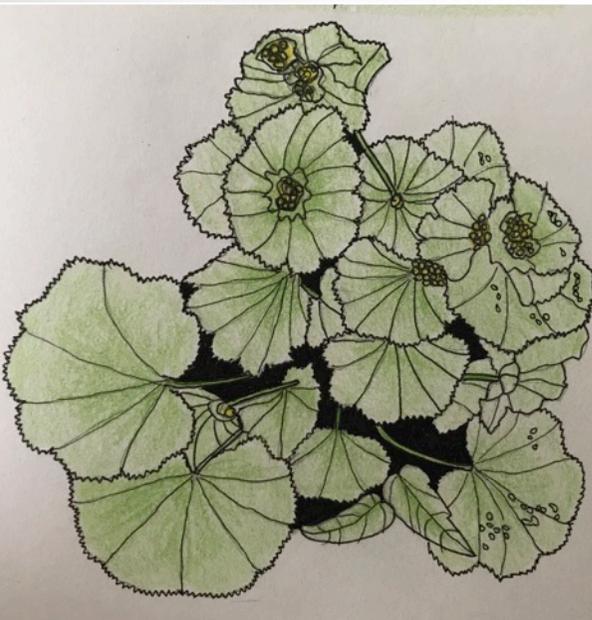
Planting that provides an year round framework for the garden. Creates enclosure, height, screening, backdrop, division, framing.

Ornamental

Pretty plants that add interest and lighten up the garden. Attractive flowers, fruits, texture, shape, colour.

You can see some examples on the next pages.





Alchemilla mollis

- Hardy Herbaceous Perennial
- Spreading, mound form
- Medium-coarse texture
- Round, pale, crinkled leaves & tiny lime green flowers in Summer
- Ground cover, Ornamental



Pulmonaria 'Sissinghurst White'

- Semi-evergreen Herbaceous Perennial
- Mound form
- Medium texture
- White spots on leaves & white flowers in Spring
- Ground cover, Ornamental



Heuchera 'Blackberry Jam'

- Hardy Herbaceous Perennial
- Mound form
- Medium texture
- Purple, lobbed leaves & white flowers in Summer
- Ground cover



Buxus sempervirens

- Evergreen Shrub or small Tree
- Bushy, rounded
- Fine texture
- Glossy, dense foliage, can be clipped to sculptural shapes
- Focal Point, Structural





Phormium 'Evening Glow'

- Evergreen
- Herbaceous Perennial
- Arching form
- Coarse texture
- Strapped, pink leaves
- Focal Point



Wisteria sinensis 'Alba'

- Woody deciduous Climber
- Weeping shape
- Fine-Medium texture
- Pinnate leaves & fragrant white flowers in late Spring- early Summer
- Focal Point, Ornamental



Taxus baccata

- Evergreen Tree
- Conical form
- Fine texture
- Dark, 2-ranked leaves & cones in Spring
- Structural



Magnolia grandiflora

- Evergreen tree
- Conical form
- Medium texture
- Dense, glossy, dark leaves & scented cream flowers in late Summer - Late Autumn
- Structural, Ornamental





***Cotinus coggygia* 'Royal Purple'**

- Large Shrub, small Tree
- Bushy, broadly round form
- Fine-Medium texture
- Oval, purple leaves turning red in Autumn
- Ornamental, Focal point



Persicaria polymorpha

- Semi-evergreen
- Herbaceous
- Perennial
- Broadly round form
- Medium texture
- Lance shaped leaves & small creamy flowers in Summer
- Ornamental



***Rodgersia pinnata* 'Superba'**

- Rhizomatous
- Herbaceous Perennial
- Mound form
- Coarse texture
- Palmate, veined, purplish bronze leaves in reddish stalks
- Pink flowers in Summer
- Ornamental



***Delphinium* 'Bellamosum'**

- Hardy herbaceous perennial
- Upright, branching form
- Medium texture
- Palmately lobed leaves and blue flower spikes
- Ornamental

