

Kewaunee County Garden Club

Gardening with 'Texture'

When one thinks about texture it relates to fabric or how something feels. The most popular element in a landscape design is **color** with **texture** as a **building block!** Color lacks dimension without texture which softens spaces, gives visual interest, and can set the mood in a garden.

In gardening, using texture can make a garden look smaller or larger. There are three kinds of textures that are used in a garden to give visual interest: fine, bold, and medium. Fine textured plants are usually light, airy, and wispy. Bold textured plants have wide, strong leaves or blooms and demand a lot of attention. The majority of plants that gardeners have in their gardens are in the medium textured category.

Some fine textured plants: Coreopsis, baby's breath, lavender, maidenhair fern, cosmos, asters, ornamental grasses, verbena (*tall*), prairie dropseed, fern-leaf bleeding heart, and sedge.

Some bold textured plants: Lupine, red hot poker, ligularia, umbrella plant, hostas, rhododendrons, coleus, cannas, sunflower (*maximum*) Oakleaf hydrangea, and giant coneflower

Some medium textured plants: Bugloss, Japanese anemone, bergenia, impatiens, daisies, camellias, etc.

How do you add texture in a garden? There are three ways to accomplish this.

1. **Foliage**

The shape, size, with or without a pattern or variation, and color of the leaves makes a difference. . A hosta with variegated leaves will look finer in texture than one of the same size that doesn't have any variation. Dark foliage looks bolder than lighter/brighter leaves.

2. **Selection of flowers/vegetables**

Roses are quite bold in texture, while lavender is much finer. Consider grouping finely textured plants in clusters of three, five, or seven for the best effect. Use plants with delicate foliage or blooms in areas to soften sharp edges or add soft contrast to bold leaves. One could select harmonious colors of blooms in an array of sizes and structures to create a garden rich in texture without it feeling chaotic.

Bold textured plants closest to the front, medium plants in the middle, and fine textured in the back makes the setting appear more distant. Whereas the reverse of those plantings makes a garden look smaller.

For vegetables, consider bold texture with color such as purple kohlrabi and Swiss chard. Or, the colorful foliage of beets alongside the fine texture of carrot tops. Tomatoes, basil, and peppers have medium texture while lettuce, Swiss chard, and corn are bold or coarse textured. The finer textures of dill, fennel, thyme, asparagus, and lavender sway or dance in the breeze.

3. **Hardscaping**

Winding pathways, fine gravel, large jagged flagstone, or herringbone laid brick, fountains, and furniture gives a sense of visual texture with four season interest.

Plant Sale—May 29, 2021



**Kewaunee Co Garden Club
Annual Plant Sale**

Saturday May 29th, 9am – Noon
Downtown Kewaunee, Harbor Park, -223 Harrison Street

“Featuring”
**Perennials locally grown
and hardy in our area,
Vegetables, Natives,
Vines, Succulents and
Garden Décor.**

For details go to www.kcggardenclub.org



Needed for the Sale:

“Flowers always
make people
happier; more
helpful. They are
sunshine, food,
and medicine for
the soul”

-Luther Burbank

Perennials
Natives
Succulents
Vines
Tomatoes
Peppers
Other Vegetables



Send photos of what
you plan to bring to Barb
Smith so she can pub-
lish it on the website and
Facebook. Good adver-
tising to get folks
interested in
attending!



Gardening Kits

The gardening kits will be offered at the plant sale, Lakehaven Outdoor & Living Event, and the two food pantries in Algoma and Kewaunee. The last couple years there has been a big increase in 'newbie' gardeners. To help them along, there will be kits for the very young and old to take home to start their very own garden. They can choose between flowers, vegetables, succulents, or herbs.

We still are in need of small containers for the kits. For the very young or grade school age kids, containers could be a deep dump truck, sand pail, Frisbee, baseball glove, etc.

The adult kit containers could be made from a pair of old bib overalls, shirts or blouses with front pockets, small salad bowls, old pizza pans, old birdhouses, rustic garden ornaments, driftwood, etc.

If you have any items that could be used, **please get them to Sue Hepp by May 15**. This will give enough time to get the kits assembled and delivered.

Thanks to Rosemary for the adorable jeans' containers she made. Also, thanks to Sharon and Mary for supplying containers and kits. Very much appreciated!



Gardening 'hints' for Spring

Prune spring-flowering shrubs as soon as they are done blooming by early June so the plants have enough time to set flower buds for next spring.

Remove diseased, yellow or dried foliage of spring flowering bulbs. Leave the remaining leaves intact so that the bulbs produce the needed energy for next year's flower display.

Dig and divide overgrown summer and fall blooming perennials. Plant divisions by adding compost to the soil before planting, or plant in containers for the May 29 plant sale.

Maximize your planting area and extend the growing season with containers filled with flowers, herbs, and vegetables.

Dana Farm Gardening Opportunities

Work Day: Tuesday, May 18 at 2:00 p.m.
Bring your favorite gardening
tools and gloves!



Easy-to-Grow Herbs

Herbs can soothe, assist healing, and even make your home smell wonderful! There are many reasons why one should grow herbs. They definitely add beauty to a garden or landscape, add flavor to foods, are very aromatic especially in our homes, and offer medicinal properties to heal our bodies. Many of the favorite and easy to grow herbs have powerful antioxidants in their leaves and flowers. The aromatic appeal of herbs often makes them unattractive to pests. Most herbs are low-maintenance and they don't need a great deal of TLC.

In the garden, herbs are one of the best pollinator-friendly plants. The pollen and nectar attract and sustain birds, butterflies, and bees. They add color to the garden as well as movement. Growing herbs in a container on your deck or patio is beneficial in that it is easily accessible and the container can be brought inside during the colder months. A container planted with a lettuce mix, herbs, and strawberries definitely would make a very palatable lunch. One can also plant herbs inside for quick access in the kitchen.

Some of the best herbs for containers are:

- Sweet Basil (*don't allow to flower as it gets bitter*)
- Lavender
- Oregano
- Parsley
- Rosemary
- Thyme

Some herbs to try:

Lavender, rosemary, and sage tolerate dry conditions.

Sweet Basil, cilantro, and parsley prefer a consistent supply of water.

Parsley, oregano, thyme, fennel, and chives are other easy to grow herbs.

Herb leaves, flowers, and seeds are edible. The leaves and flowers are used to make syrup, flavored teas, infused oils, butters, flavored water, decorations, and sachets. One can easily make an herb brush or bouquet to baste when grilling poultry, pork, or seafood.

Herb Companions to try:

Rosemary: in bread, pork, potatoes, vegetables

Sage: butter, poultry, stuffing, vegetables

Oregano: in bean soup, pasta, pizza, sauces

Basil: pasta, pesto, pizza, salad, tomato dishes

Chives; eggs, potatoes, salad dressing, seafood

Parsley: dips, salad, soup, stew



Garden Tour 2021 *(possible)*



West of the Lake Gardens in Manitowoc

The six acres of gardens on the former estate of John and Ruth West features a rose garden, red and white garden, formal garden, sunken garden, Mae West garden, path garden, pond garden, and The Loop.



Van der Brohe Arboretum and Bird Sanctuary, Two Rivers

The Arboretum was established in 2018 on the grounds of the former Emerald Hills Golf Course. The Arboretum features nine gardens. A big emphasis is placed on that all plants selected must provide forage and habitat for birds and wildlife.

Kewaunee County Garden Club



Website: www.kcgardenclub.org

www.facebook.com/kewaunee-county-garden-club

President: Tom Zenner

V. President: Cheryl Eberle

Treasurer: Ann Brunner

Secretary: Sue Hepp

Marketing Committee: Barb Smith, Tom Zenner, Cheryl Eberle, Mary Novak, Nancy Lamack, and Joel Weichelt

Scholarship Recipients 2021

Two seniors will receive the Kewaunee County Garden Club 2021 scholarship. Both students will be pursuing degrees in Environmental Science. Sandi will present certificates to the two students at their Award's ceremony later this month. The students who qualified for the scholarship are:

Morgan Hrivnak and Justice Saxby

Each will receive \$1000.00 once they complete their freshman year of college.

Congratulations!

Gardening Ideas for the Pavilion

Kathy Daul has been asked to do some gardening at the Luxemburg fairgrounds pavilion. Kathy would like design ideas and old farm machinery for this project. Looking at the image below, how about an antique plow with a milk pail at the base filled with annuals? Or, there could be a rusty milk can or two with annuals. Other possibilities could be a milkhouse tub or small feed trough filled with flowers. An old scythe, wagon wheel, or rakes could be hanging on the outside of the building. A watering tank is another possibility filled with flowers and grasses. If someone has an old potato planter, that would make a great holder for flowers. Just some teasers to get you thinking of possibilities. Please let Kathy know what your ideas are and if you have any old farm equipment that can be used.

