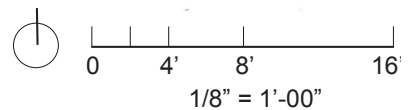


- Herbaceous plants
- Trees
- Shrubs
- Materials

Wild Ones
 — Greensboro, North Carolina —
 by Preston Montague



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Plant Communities and Materials

Herbaceous

Plant graminoids in drifts, herbaceous plants in blocks. Choose one species in each plant group to focus on, rather than an even mix of species. Plant in odd numbers, and plant larger drifts and blocks of small species, and smaller drifts and blocks for larger species. The following correspond to the landscape plan provided and are meant to be followed like a recipe:

1. **Structural Edge:** 60% short graminoids like *Carex cherokeensis* and *C. pensylvanica*, *Juncus tenuis*, and *Sporobolus heterolepis*, and 40% forbs like *Aquilegia canadensis*, *Coreopsis lanceolata*, *Asclepias tuberosa*, and *Achillea millefolium*. Plant everything 18” apart. You can also seed these forbs in winter to get an extra dense planting. Plant bed can be mown occasionally to keep plants more compact. Plantings can also be replaced with a stand of *Bouteloua gracilis* from plugs for a simpler look.
2. **Low and Flowery:** 40% medium graminoids like *Carex vulpinoidea*, *Juncus effusus*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, *Andropogon ternarius*, and 60% forbs like *Liatris spicata*, *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*, *Rudbeckia fulgida*, *Echinacea pallida*, *Bidens aristosa*, and *Eryngium yuccifolium*. Plant everything 24” apart. Substitute forbs with *Aquilegia canadensis*, *Chasmanthium latifolium*, *Monarda fistulosa*, *Eupatorium perfoliatum*, and *Eurybia divaricata* if planting in the shade.
3. **Sunny Corners and Edges:** *Gaillardia pulchella*, *Phlox paniculata*, *Bouteloua gracilis*, *Helenium autumnale*, *Coreopsis verticillata*, *Juncus tenuis*, *Zephyranthes atamasco*, *Stokesia laevis*. Plant everything 18” apart, except for phlox, which needs more room between one another.
4. **Rain Garden:** 40% graminoids like *Rhynchospora colorata*, *Carex cherokeensis* and *C. muskingumensis*, *Juncus effusus*, and 60% forbs like *Monarda punctata*, *Verbena hastata*, *Asclepias incarnata*, *Lobelia cardinalis*, *Zephyranthes atamasco*, *Iris virginica*, and *Packera aurea*.
5. **Buffers and Screening:** 60% large graminoids like *Panicum virgatum* and *Sorghastrum nutans* and 40% medium forbs like *Rudbeckia fulgida*, *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*, *Rudbeckia maxima*, *Helianthus angustifolius*, *Vernonia noveboracensis*, *Pycnanthemum muticum*, and *Eutrochium purpureum*. Plant everything 48” apart. Seed *Aquilegia canadensis*, *Rudbeckia hirta*, and *Achillea millefolium* as a weed control barrier beneath the larger plants.

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6. **Complicated Shade Patterns:** 60% graminoids like *Carex cherokeensis* and *C. vulpinoidea*, *Juncus effusus* and *J. tenuis*, and *Chasmanthium latifolium*, and 40% forbs like *Monarda fistulosa*, *Eurybia divaricata*, *Aquilegia canadensis*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Polystichum acrostichoides*, *Eupatorium perfoliatum*, and *Packera aurea*. Plant everything 30” apart.
7. **Weed Control for Under Trees and Shrubs:** 60% graminoids like *Carex vulpinoidea* and *Sporobolus heterolepis*, and 40% *Rudbeckia fulgida*, *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*, and *Pycnanthemum muticum*. Plant everything 36” apart.
8. **Path Edge (facing east):** 60% graminoids like *Carex cherokeensis* or *C. pensylvanica*, *Chasmanthium latifolium*, *Polystichum acrostichoides*, *Heuchera americana* and *H. villosa*, *Tiarella cordifolia*, *Iris cristata*, and *Eurybia divaricata*. Plant everything 18” apart.
Path Edge (facing west): 40% graminoids like *Carex cherokeensis*, *Juncus tenuis*, *Zephyranthes atamasco*, *Aquilegia canadensis*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Hypericum prolificum*, and *Coreopsis verticillata*. Plant everything 18” apart.
9. **Cut Flower Bed:** 40% graminoids like *Carex vulpinoidea*, *Juncus effusus*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, *Muhlenbergia capillaris*, *Sporobolus heterolepis*, and 60% forbs like *Rudbeckia fulgida*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Phlox paniculata*, *Monarda fistulosa*, *Echinacea purpurea*, *Helianthus angustifolius*, *Hibiscus coccineus*, *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* and *S. oblongifolium*, *Eryngium yuccifolium*, and *Coreopsis lanceolata*. Plant everything 36” apart and seed *Aquilegia canadensis* and *Achillea millefolium* in as weed control.
10. **Veggie Garden Companions:** *Carex cherokeensis* and *Juncus tenuis*, *Aquilegia canadensis*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Monarda fistulosa*, *Verbena hastata*, *Coreopsis lanceolata*, *Stokesia laevis* planted 18” apart from each other.
11. **Lawn:** Zoysia sod or fescue and white clover from seed.

Woody Plants

Plant woody plants singly in small beds, or in larger quantities using odd numbers as bed size increases.

Plant woody plants in triangle formations and don't be too careful about spacing them evenly.

12. *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus* can be used to add winter interest and bird resources to add complexity and persistent structure (albeit floppy) to large herbaceous plantings.
13. *Ilex decidua* makes a good translucent screen where having some visibility is important, particularly around driveways and in parking lots.
14. *Hypericum densiflorum* and *Yucca filamentosa* make good, low foundation plants, especially against south and west faces of a building.
15. *Clethra alnifolia* makes an excellent focal point plant for rain gardens and other areas where moisture is abundant for at least six months per year.
16. *Vaccinium virgatum* makes a lovely shrub against the house where it can be more easily defended from birds competing with you for fruit. *Vaccinium* also has interest in all four seasons and can be hedged if a little more formality is desired.
17. *Viburnum nudum* and *Viburnum dentatum* make good, all-purpose screening shrubs and can tolerate complicated shade patterns beneath trees.
18. *Alnus serrulata* makes an excellent fast-growing screen in wet to moderate conditions and is good along property edges because it does not produce fruit or seed that will be a concern for neighbors.
19. *Ilex glabra* makes an excellent fast-growing evergreen screen in wet to moderate conditions.

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20. *Hydrangea quercifolia* can be sensitive to sun and drought and enjoys the protection of structures that provide relief from afternoon sun.
21. *Hydrangea arborescens* is a nice addition to patio areas and as an accent to evergreen screening plantings.
22. *Aesculus sylvatica* is a shade tolerant and highly ornamental shrub. Note that seeds are poisonous, so best to avoid them if dogs or young children may ingest them.
23. Herbs and edible plants do very well planted into grit and gravel areas, and can be accompanied by *Carex eburnea* or *Carex bicknellii*.
24. *Acer rubrum* is a classic, fast-growing street tree for sun or part-sun with outstanding fall color and little mess, which is ideal near walking areas.
25. *Ilex opaca* makes a great screening tree and evergreen focal point in both sun and shade. Excellent plant for bird nesting as well.
26. *Cercis canadensis* is the perfect small tree for under power lines, or as accent trees in the front of the house.
27. *Asimina triloba* is an excellent small tree that bears fruit that is fun to share with the neighborhood.
28. *Magnolia virginiana* is a striking focal point plant and a good, casual screening evergreen tree, and is particularly useful in wet areas.
29. *Betula nigra* is a very fast-growing, keystone species that is good for growing fast in shade, but does drop a lot of limbs and has thick surface roots that make it a bad candidate for lawn or patio areas, but fine for side yards and buffers.
30. *Nyssa sylvatica* is a striking tree with unusual structure and outrageous fall color. Can occasionally bear tremendous amounts of fruit.
31. *Quercus* species are critical keystone species and excellent for the backyard, as a street tree, or in a buffer. Toggle both white and red oak species for variety.
32. *Cornus florida* is the state flower of North Carolina and has tremendous, four-season character, as well as superlative resources for wildlife. A favorite for birds to nest in.
33. *Liriodendron tulipifera* makes a very fast growing screen or shade tree and can be a great candidate for a treehouse.
34. *Chionanthus virginicus* is an outstanding small tree around the house and can tolerate deeper shade than many understory trees.

Materials

Select materials that are available within 300 miles if possible.

- A. Granite or limestone boulders create microclimates in the landscape.
- B. Decomposed granite as a mulch can create a dry microclimate and superior drainage for plants that naturally occur on slopes, rocky outcrops, or sandy environments. Does have some limitations as a pathway material, so provide granite, limestone, or slate stepping stones.
- C. Wood chips make an excellent mulch when allowed to compost for a year. Regular applications of wood chips help prevent weeds from occurring in paths.
- D. Trellises, pergolas, arbors, and posts can be made from cedar or black locust for natural longevity.
- E. Granite and slate stones make for a warm hardscape surface in the winter and can be regularly or irregularly shaped.

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<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Carex cherokeensis</i>	Cherokee sedge
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	Pennsylvania sedge
<i>Juncus tenuis</i>	Path rush
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie dropseed
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Wild columbine
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Lanceleaf coreopsis
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly milkweed
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Blue grama
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Fox sedge
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft rush
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little bluestem
<i>Andropogon ternarius</i>	Splitbeard bluestem
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Dense blazing star
<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	Narrowleaf mountain mint
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	Orange coneflower
<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	Pale purple coneflower
<i>Bidens aristosa</i>	Tickseed sunflower
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Rattlesnake master
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	Northern sea oats
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Eastern beebalm
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Common boneset
<i>Eurybia divaricata</i>	White wood aster
<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Blanket flower
<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Garden flower
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Sneezeweed
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	Threadleaf coreopsis
<i>Zephyranthes atamasco</i>	Atamasca lily
<i>Stokesia laevis</i>	Stoke's aster
<i>Rhynchospora colorata</i>	Narrowleaf whitetop sedge
<i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	Palm sedge
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Spotted beebalm
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue vervain
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp milkweed
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal flower
<i>Iris virginica</i>	Southern blue flag iris
<i>Packera aurea</i>	Golden ragwort
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indiangrass
<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England aster
<i>Rudbeckia maxima</i>	Giant coneflower
<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>	Swamp sunflower
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	New York ironweed
<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>	Blunt mountain mint

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<i>Eutrochium purpureum</i>	Sweet Joe-Pye weed
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed susan
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas fern
<i>Heuchera americana</i>	American alumroot
<i>Heuchera villosa</i>	Hairy alumroot
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Foam flower
<i>Iris cristata</i>	Dwarf crested iris
<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	Shrubby St. John's wort
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	Pink muhly grass
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple coneflower
<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>	Scarlet rose mallow
<i>Symphyotrichum oblongifolium</i>	Aromatic aster
<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>	Coralberry
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	Possumhaw
<i>Hypericum densiflorum</i>	Bushy St. John's wort
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	Yucca
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Sweet pepperbush
<i>Vaccinium virgatum</i>	Rabbiteye blueberry
<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	Possumhaw viburnum
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood viburnum
<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	Tag alder
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oakleaf hydrangea
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Smooth hydrangea
<i>Aesculus sylvatica</i>	Painted buckeye
<i>Carex eburnea</i>	Ivory sedge
<i>Carex bicknellii</i>	Bicknell's sedge
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red maple
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American holly
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern redbud
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Pawpaw
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay magnolia
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River birch
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black gum
<i>Quercus</i> spp.	Oak species
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering dogwood
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip poplar
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	White Fringe tree