BELLEVUE: GOING GREEN

RESOURCES FOR INSPIRATION AND IDEAS

These excellent references can help provide ideas, guide garden planning, and identify plants that will thrive in each garden condition:

Books
- Savvy Western Garden Basics
- Ann Lovejoy’s Organic Garden Design School
- The Pacific Northwest Gardener’s Kid’s Guide to Gardening with Native Plants of the PNW
- Art Kruckeburg’s Pacific Northwest Gardener’s Book
- Sunset Western Garden Book
- Ann Lovejoy’s Organic Garden Design School
- The Pacific Northwest Gardener’s Book
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Web Sites
- Bellevue’s Botanical Garden Collection Search
- Bellevue’s Natural Lawn and Garden www.bellevuewa.gov/natural_lawn_intro.htm
- The Garden Hotline
- Great Plant Picks www.greatplantpicks.org
- King County Native Plant Guide
- WSU Puget Sound Rain Gardens
- Bellevue’s Natural Lawn and Garden www.bellevuewa.gov/natural_lawn_intro.htm
- Call Before You Dig

For copies, or call Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-6932.

Garden Design

A well planned garden can do a lot for you—without requiring a lot in return. Carefully selected plants can provide year-round garden interest, food, privacy, shade, and more—with little care, fertilizers, pesticides, or water. That means more time for you to enjoy the garden, and more clean water in streams and Puget Sound for fish and people.

These simple steps will help you select plants that will thrive in your garden.

1. Map Your Garden

Paying attention to sun and shade patterns, soil quality, and other conditions in your garden will help you choose plants that will thrive with little care. A simple sketch of garden conditions will let you try garden layouts on paper before you plant. Take this map to nurseries for help selecting plants.

What You’ll Need:
- A tape measure, straight edge, graph paper, colored pencils, and erasers. Paint things up by initially drawing a trend to help make measurements. If you have a plan showing the property lines and house location, use it as a base.
- What To Do: Make a scaled map (1 inch = 8 or 10 feet is easy) showing buildings and paved areas, contours, trees, and fences. Once you have drawn the major features, use colored pencils to show the conditions listed on the following page.

2. Put your garden to work!

Paying attention to sun and shade patterns, soil quality, and other conditions in your garden will help you choose plants that will thrive with little care. A simple sketch of garden conditions will let you try garden layouts on paper before you plant.

3. Make a plan that fits your style.

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1. Map Your garden conditions.
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3. Make a Plan That Fits Your Style

Once you have decided how to use each garden area, select plants and materials to create the spaces you want. Lay out by copying tracing paper over your garden map to experiment with varied layouts. Pick plants that will provide the functions you want in each area.

2. Put Your Garden to Work!

Plants and garden structures can provide beauty, privacy, shade, food, and many other benefits. Think about what you want from your garden before you choose plants or lay out paths, arbors, and other features. Look at other gardens and the Resources listings for inspiration. Some features to consider include:

- Decks in patios for outdoor living
- Colorful flowers, ferns, and foliage in all seasons
- Habitat for birds and other wildlife
- Privacy screens
- Enclosure for pets
- Children’s play areas
- Spaces for composting, potting, and other work
- Pathways, bricks, terracotta, and cut flowers
- Arbors or other plants for shade and cooling
- For easy taking clusters. Fill most of your garden with plants that thrive with little care and water.

Gardens with many types of plants resist pests and diseases better than gardens with little variety—and are more interesting!

Celebrate Diversity! Gardens with many types of plants also smother weeds. Gravel or wood chips placed on weed barriers make low maintenance paths, and ground covers in all areas for a lush feel.

Trees provide shade and cooling and ground covers in all areas for a lush feel.

Try the Layered Look. Include trees, shrubs, and ground covers in all areas for a lush feel.

Think EverGreen. Use overgrown shrubs to divide the garden into “rooms” and provide garden structure in winter. Evergreen shrubs and ground covers also smother weeds.

A Plan for All Seasons. Include plants that flower in different seasons, have variegated leaf colors and textures, and colorful bark or berries in winter.

Plan for Easy Maintenance:

At every stage of planning consider how to minimize watering and up-keeping.

Choose the right plants. Use the Plant Right guide and Resources for Inspiration and Ideas section to find plants that will thrive in each area.

Use evergreen shrubs to divide the garden into “rooms” and provide garden structure in winter. Evergreen shrubs and ground covers also smother weeds.

Multinursery and catalog promotions introduce trouble-free varieties. WSU Cooperative Extension and Great Plant Picks also have lists of easy-to-grow varieties.

Plan practical laws. Keeping lawns green and weed free takes lots of water and work. Plant only as much lawn as you need for recreation and other needs. Don’t plant lawns on steep slopes or soggy soil, in narrow strips, or irregular shapes that are hard to water.

Create low-maintenance zones. Plant slopes and other hard-to-reach spots with tough, quick-growing perennials that crowd out weeds. Gravel or wood chips placed on weed barriers make low maintenance paths, work, or storage areas.

What to Look For:

- Sunny and shady areas
- Hot spots on south and west sides of slopes, walls, or fences
- Shady, rocky, or compacted soil
- Poorly-drained and seasonal wet spots
- Slopes and areas below fences that are hard to mow or access
- Dry spots under roof eaves or evergreen trees

Where to Dig: Dig several one foot deep holes around the plant to check soil quality and depth and any problem spots. See the Soil guide for help identifying soil conditions and problems.

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- Dig several one foot deep holes around the plant to check soil quality and depth and any problem spots. See the Soil guide for help identifying soil conditions and problems.

Addition of composting, potting, and other work

Pathways, bricks, terracotta, and cut flowers

Arbors or other plants for shade and cooling

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Plan practical laws. Keeping lawns green and weed free takes lots of water and work. Plant only as much lawn as you need for recreation and other needs. Don’t plant lawns on steep slopes or soggy soil, in narrow strips, or irregular shapes that are hard to water.

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What to Look For:

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• Hot spots on south and west sides of slopes, walls, or fences
• Shaded, rocky, or compacted soil
• Poorly-drained and seasonal wet spots
• Steep and areas suitable for fenceline that are hard to mow or access.
• Dry spots under roof eaves or evergreen trees
• Vines to block or preserve
• Fights needed for trees and garden maintenance
• Special plants you want to keep, and problem plants or lawn to remove

Where to Dig:
Dig several one foot deep holes around the yard to check soil quality and depth and any problem spots. See the Soil guide for help, identifying soil conditions and problems.

What to Look For:

• Loamy soil

SHADE PATTERN

SUN AND SHADE

PART SUN

FULL SUN (all day)

MODERATE

NONE

HIGH

SUMMER

WATER USE

NONE

MODERATE

HIGH

(once established)

FRONT

GROUND

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Easy-to-grow varieties.

WSU Cooperative Extension and Great Plant Picks also have lists of easy-to-grow varieties.

Back yard

• Trees for shade

• Composting, potting, and other work

• Enclosure for pets

• Habitat for birds and other wildlife

• Privacy screens

• Edible Landscape and Edible Gardens

Plants that will thrive in each area. Add trees, shrubs, and ground covers in all areas for a lush feel.

• Capsules

• Variegus

Plants and garden structures can provide beauty, privacy, shade, food, and many other benefits. Think about what you want from your garden before you choose plants or lay out your garden map to experiment with varied layouts. Pick plants that will provide the functions you want in each area.

Grocery plants that need a lot of care into small, easy-to-access clusters. Fill most of your garden with plants that will thrive with little care and water.

Look for pest- and disease-resistant varieties. Many nurseries and catalogers promotes trouble-free varieties. WSO Cooperative Extension and Great Plant Picks also have lists of easy-to-grow varieties.

Consider the right plants. Use the Plant Right guide and Resource for Inspiration and Ideas section to find plants that will thrive in each area.

Try the Layered Look. Include trees, shrubs, and ground covers in all areas for a lush feel.

Think EverGreen. Use evergreen shrubs to divide the garden into “rooms” and provide garden structure in winter. Evergreen shrubs and ground covers also attract birds.

A Plan for All Seasons. Include plants that flower in different seasons, have varietal leaf colors and textures, and colorful bark or berries in winter.

Celebrate Diversity! Gardens with many types of plants resist pests and diseases better than gardens with little variety—and are perfect for small gardens. Trees are Tree-mendous! Many trees grow only 10-20 feet tall and provide shade to keep lawns and garden water needs by half! Many trees grow very, very 20 feet tall and are perfect for small gardens. Choose the right plants.

Fits Your Style

At every stage of planning consider how to minimize watering and upkeep. At every stage of planning consider how to minimize watering and upkeep.

Consider the right plants. Use the Plant Right guide and Resource for Inspiration and Ideas section to find plants that will thrive in each area.

GROUP plants that need a lot of care into small, easy-to-access clusters. Fill most of your garden with plants that will thrive with little care and water.

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3. Make a Plan That Fits Your Style

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Plan practical laws. Keeping lawns green and weed free takes lots of water and work. Plant only as much lawn as you need for recreation and other needs. Don’t plant lawns on steep slopes or rocky soil, in narrow strips, or irregular shapes that are hard to water.

Create low maintenance zones. Plant slopes and other hard-to-mow spots with tough, quick-growing perennials that crowd out weeds. Gravel or wood chips placed on weed barriers make low maintenance paths, work, or storage areas.
What to Look For:
- Sunny and shady areas
- Hot spots on south and west sides of slopes, walls, or fences
- Shady, rocky, or compacted soil
- Poorly drained and seasonal wet spots
- Slopes and areas suitable for fenceline that are hard to mow or access
- Dry spots under roof overhangs or evergreen trees
- Trees to block or screen
- Pits needed for trees and garden maintenance
- Special plants you want to keep, and points of interest to maintain

Where to Dig:
- Dig several one foot deep holes around the yard to check soil quality and depth and any problem spots. See the soil guide for help identifying soil conditions and problems.

1. Simplify your garden for a more efficient, low maintenance landscape.

2. Put Your Garden to Work!
- Plants and garden structures can provide beauty, privacy, shade, food, and many other benefits. Think about what you want from your garden before you choose plants or lay out your garden map. Look at other gardens and the Resource listings for inspiration. Some features to consider:
  - Decks in patios for outdoor living
  - Colorful flowers, beds, and foliage in all seasons
  - Habitats for birds and other wildlife
  - Privacy screens
  - Entrance for pets
  - Colorful planting areas
  - Spaces for composting, potting, and other work
  - Paths and grading areas
  - Trees, hedges, vegetation, and cut flowers
  - Areas or plants for shade and cooling

3. Make a Plan That Fits Your Style
- Once you have decided how to use each garden area, select plants and materials to create the spaces you want. Lay out drafting paper over your garden map to experiment with various layouts. Pot plants that will provide the functions you want in each area.

Plan for Easy Maintenance:
- At every stage of planning consider how to minimize watering and upkeep.
- Choose the right plants. Use the Plant Right guide and Resources for inspiration and ideas section to find plants that will thrive in each area.
- Group plants that need a lot of care into small, easy-to-access clusters. Fill most of your garden with plants that thrive with little care and work.
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Neat ideas? Visit the Waterwise Garden at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Textures, flowers, foliage, and fruits provide year-round beauty. Interpretive signs and garden guides provide tips for success.

Water / Maintenance Sun Soil
Do You Have What Your Garden Needs?

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- The Pacific Northwest Gardener’s Book of Lists, by Ray and Ian Miller
- Gardening with Native Plants of the North Will by Art Kruckeburg
- The Shade Diamond, by Ken Shaner
- Kitchen Gardens, by Joy Lakota
- The New Low-Maintenance Garden, by Valery Easton

Web Sites
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  - Washington Native Plant Society
    - www.wnp.org
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Soil
- High
- 6-12” fertile and well drained.
- Medium
- Most moderate
- 6-12” fertile and well drained.
- Low
- 6-12” fertile and well drained.
- Mixture
- Mostly fall to partial shade.
- Full sun to partial shade.
- Partial sun
- 6-12” fertile and well drained.
- No soil

Water / Maintenance
- Water
- High: Full sun
- Medium: Partial shade
- Low: Shade
- Soil
- High: Full sun
- Medium: Partial shade
- Low: Shade

GARDEN DESIGNS

1. Map Your Garden

Paying attention to sun and shade patterns, soil quality, and other conditions in your garden will help you choose plants that will thrive with little care. A simple sketch of garden conditions will let you try garden layouts on paper before you plant. Take this map to nurseries for help selecting plants.

- What You’ll Need:
  - A tape measure, shovel, graph paper, clipboard, and several colored pencils. Speed things up by enlisting a friend to help make measurements. If you have a plan showing the property lines and house location, use it as a base.

- What To Do:

  1. Map Your Garden
  2. Put your garden to work!
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Produced by the City of Bellevue with funding from: Bellevue Botanical Garden
- Washington Park Arboretum
- Washington Native Plant Society
- WSU Puget Sound Rain Gardens

NATURAL GARDENING GUIDES

All images courtesy of: Joeb Woelk.

City of Bellevue Utilities
450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA 98004
425-452-6932

Welcome to Bellevue’s Natural Lawn and Garden program. Your yard is an important part of the community’s environment. A well planned garden can do a lot for you—without requiring a lot in return. Carefully selected plants can provide year-round garden interest, food, privacy, shade, and more—with little care, fertilizers, pesticides, or water. That means more time for you to enjoy the garden, and more clean water in streams and Puget Sound for fish and people.

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