



## **UUCville Gardens and Grounds Committee Planting Guidelines**

### Design goals:

- Design, plant and manage a landscape that exemplifies the UU 7<sup>th</sup> Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
- Provide environs for respite and spiritual renewal.
- Provide spaces for congregational gatherings and faith development programs.
- Design spaces for outdoor events and rentals.

### Purpose

These guidelines guide the Gardens and Grounds Committee members, the Adopt a Spot program participants, volunteer groups, and individual congregants in the design and plant choices for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Charlottesville (UUCville) landscape.

### Plant Choice Considerations

The following should be considered when designing a garden and making plant selections:

- The use of native plants is encouraged! Our goal is to sustain a landscape of at least 70% native plants. Plantings that are most beneficial to pollinators, butterflies, birds, and wildlife are encouraged. Links are provided in the Resource section that provides lists of native plants in this region.
- Nonnative ornamentals are appropriate in some circumstances. Nonnative ornamentals and annual plantings can contribute to the seasonal color, attracting pollinators including butterflies, and highlighting a garden area. Fruits and vegetables are also encouraged in the designated areas. Our goal is to sustain a landscape with no more than 30% nonnative plants.
- Invasive plants may not be planted! The links to a list of prohibited plants are found in the Resource section. There may be other non-natives with the potential to be invasive that are also prohibited. Just ask.
- Understand the conditions of the specific garden area. Choose plants that meet the soil and light conditions of the particular space.
- Consider the mature size of the plant. Plants should fill the space at maturity and not outgrow the area. Be mindful of space requirements at the time of planting.
- Consider the utilities in the area, including overhead lines. The plant should grow to an appropriate height at maturity, not growing into overhead lines. If in doubt of the location of underground utilities, coordinate a request to mark utilities with the Director of Finance.
- Choose plants that are low in susceptibility to pests and diseases. The use of pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides is strictly limited and approval must be sought before using these chemicals. Organic and integrated pest management is encouraged.

- Choose plants that are water-wise and drought-tolerant. Perennials generally require less water than annuals.
- Choose plants that have low maintenance requirements. Avoid plants that require continual pruning, pest and disease management, and heavy fertilization.
- If appropriate for the area, consider mass planting and group planting to benefit wildlife and for a visual statement. A singular specimen plant is certainly appropriate in some circumstances.
- If you are considering a memorial planting, refer to the Gift, Memorials, and Plaque section of the Gardens and Grounds Resource Manual.
- Design for sustainability! Give thought to the mature landscape and create spaces that can be cared for and nurtured over time. Avoid plantings that create maintenance issues in both the short and long term. Care not only for today's gardens but also for the hands, knees, and backs that will tend the gardens in future years.

### Process

- All planting must be approved by a subcommittee and the chair of the Gardens and Grounds Committee. Plans should be submitted to the chair of the Gardens and Grounds Committee.
- Plantings must follow the guidance of other elements of the Gardens and Grounds Resource Manual i.e., Gifts, Memorials, and Plaques
- Plantings must follow the guidance of approved Master Plans, Landscape Plans, and Site Plans for the UUCville gardens and grounds.

### Resources

Many members of the Gardens and Grounds Committee have knowledge and experience in the design, planting, and maintenance of landscapes. The committee members are very willing to share their knowledge. The Gardens and Grounds Committee also provides resource books and materials in the library in Summit House, Room 2.

In addition to the Gardens and Grounds team, links are provided to valuable resource lists for native and invasive plants and tree recommendations.

#### **PIEDMONT NATIVE PLANTS: A GUIDE FOR LANDSCAPES AND GARDENS**

<https://www.plantvirginianatives.org/native-plants-for-northern-piedmont>

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation- invasive plant list

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invspdflist>

City of Charlottesville- Tree List

<https://www.charlottesville.gov/DocumentCenter/View/898/Charlottesville-Master-Tree-List-PDF>

Invasives Plants found on UUCville grounds (attachment)