Stunning plants for low-maintenance landscapes

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Most desired attribute in the landscape?

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Typical yard maintenance

- Weeding
- Fertilizing
- Managing pests
- Managing disease
- Pruning
- Mowing
- Watering
Examples of low-maintenance landscapes
Low maintenance ≠ unattractive

• General guidelines:
  – Have a plan in mind
  – Keep the plan simple
  – Use mass plantings
  – Select plants that fit in the spot they will be planted
  – Select durable plants

Use the best plants and put them in the right spot
Colorful shrubs

- **Buddleias (Butterfly bush)**
  - CranRazz 5-6’ t x 5’ w
    - Grows to cover spent blooms, great color
  - Buddleia Flutterby Petite™ Tutti Fruitti Pink 24-30” t/w
  - Reblooming azaleas (Bloom-a-thon, or Encore; flowers last 4-6 weeks in spring and 12-16 weeks in the late summer/fall)

*Maintenance: cut back heavily in early spring and add compost*
Other shrubs

- Caryopteris ‘Petit Bleu’ 24-30” t x 24-36” w. Really well behaved shape. Needs well-drained soil.
- Hydrangea Let’s Dance ‘Big Easy’ 24-36” t x w
- Rosa ‘Home Run’. More disease tolerant than Knock out. More prolific bloomer. 42-48” t x w
- Oso Easy roses come in lots of colors and bloom prolifically. Drift roses also an great option. No deadheading required.

Maintenance: cut back in early spring and add compost
Worthwhile perennials

- Rudbeckia ‘Little Gold Star’ day neutral blooms 3 months.
- Leucanthemum ‘Real Dream’
- Salvia ‘Mystic Spires’. 24-48” t x 14-18” w. Hardy to zone 7a.
- Coreopsis ‘Sunshine Suzie’ 18 – 24” t x w. Upright variety with continuous blooms
Really neat grasses

- Grasses look great planted by with larger leafed plants with tidy habits
- Muhlenbergia ‘Pink Muhly Grass’ 3-4’ t x w
- Miscanthus ‘Gold Bar’. Great stripes on a 2-3’ t x 2’ w
Annuals worth planting

• These plants looked fantastic in our beds all year and required almost no maintenance after planting
  • Lantana ‘Little Lucky Orange’
  • Angelonia ‘Angelmist Purple’
  • Zinnia ‘Zahara Cherry’
More annuals worth planting

- Angelonia ‘Serenita Pink’
- Zinnia ‘Zahara Sunburst’
- Celosia ‘New Look’
- Verbena ‘Enduro Red’
Big, striking accents

- Certain plants really grab your eye and they require almost no work
- Alocasia ‘Portora’ Hardy to zone 7b. 5-6’ tall
- Colocasia ‘Black Coral’ about 4’ tall. Hardy to zone 7b
- Pennisetum ‘Black Stockings’. Hardy to zone 8. 6-7’ tall
Take home messages

• Use plants in the landscape that are durable, compact and require little maintenance.
• Reduce the number of different types of plants, and buy larger quantities of them.
• Look for the new varieties because they often perform better, bloom longer, and are more disease resistant.