



Planting Design for New Landscapes or Renovation Projects



Smart Landscapes:

Require less money and energy to maintain

Less impact on the surrounding environment

Increase your neighborhood biodiversity and support area wildlife

DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR CREATING “SMART LANDSCAPES”

Home Landscape Design



Figure 1. Front landscape. Drawing by Richard Martin III.

A well-designed and functional home landscape can add to your family's joy and increase the value of your property. Modern landscapes are meant to be beautiful and useful. A well-planned landscape provides your family with recreation, privacy, and pleasure. Conscientious homeowners know that the

BEGIN WITH A PLAN!

Guides you through the steps to take in your design project whether a new landscape or a renovation of an existing one.

Extension Publication No. 2698

There are 7 basic steps to creating a landscape plan (see Pub. #2698)

CREATE A BASE PLAN:

- Locate house (and floor plan)
- Decks, patios, A/C units
- Driplines, walls, fences, utility boxes
- Utility easements & R.O.W.'s
- Property line, existing vegetation

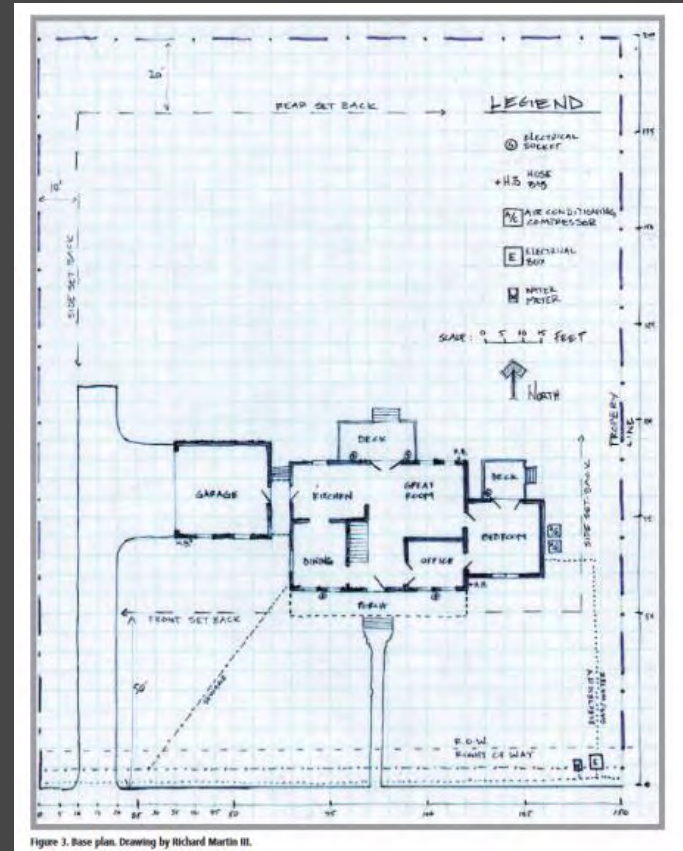


Figure 3. Base plan. Drawing by Richard Martin III.

For new construction projects, the plan may be very simplified.

A renovation is usually more complex as it will contain more existing site features - buildings, structures, vegetation, etc.

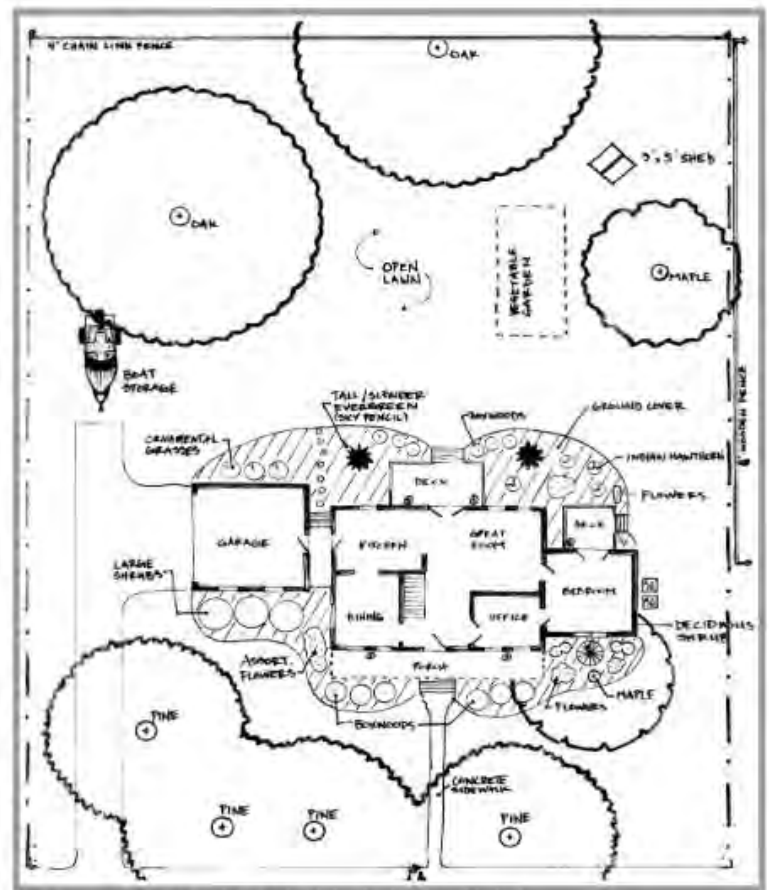


Figure 6. Inventory of existing plant material and physical structures. Drawing by Richard Martin III.

Needs/Wants

Areas for entertaining

Pets, recreation, cooking

Storage areas

Theme gardens: butterflies,
pollinators, roses, herbs

Water features, paths



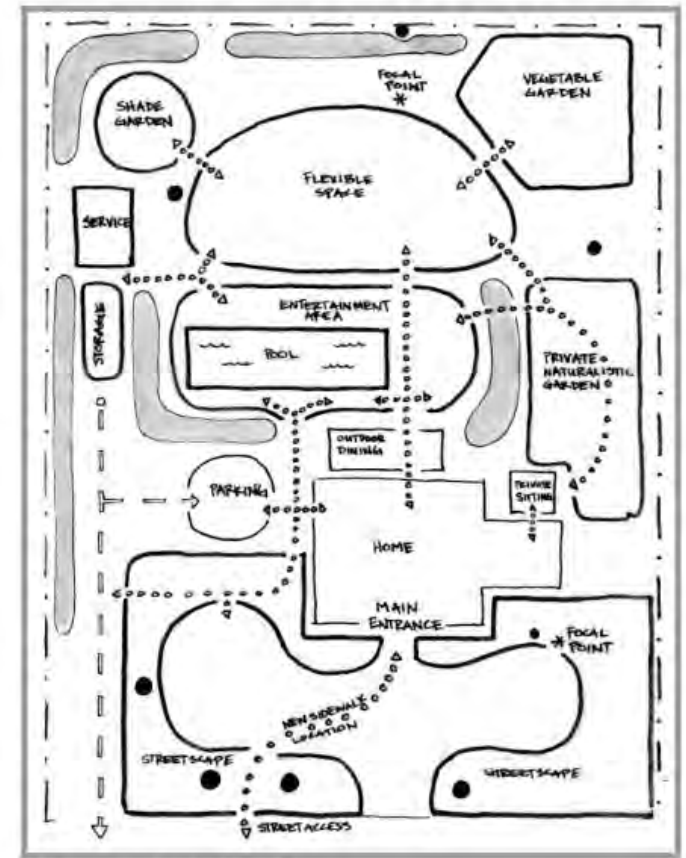
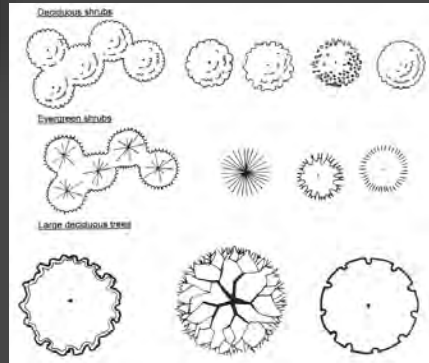
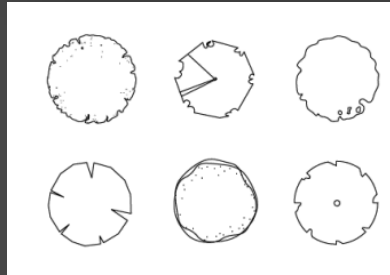
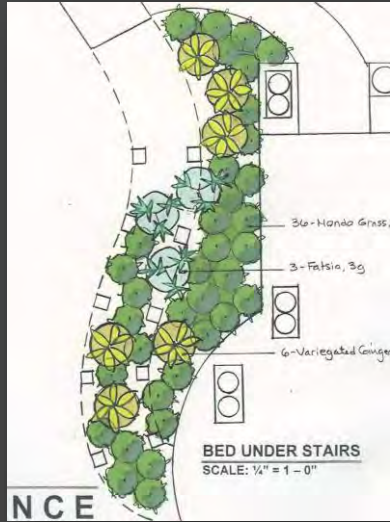


Figure 13. Locating use areas. Drawing by Richard Martin III.

A PLANT PALETTE CAN HELP VISUALIZE COMBINATIONS

- See publication
- Practice drawing symbols
- Use color to highlight specific plants



PRIORITIZE THE IMPLEMENTATION

- Advise client on need for adequate care for plant establishment (watering)
- Advise client on proper maintenance techniques (i.e. avoid Cape Murder, add mulch rings for trees in lawn)
- Plan for low maintenance (consider mature plant size)
- Don't locate plants too close to buildings
- Retain/protect ex. trees





BLANK SLATE:

Define beds vs.
turf areas

PHASING

Front vs. back



BLANK SLATE





BLANK SLATE:
Phasing the installation



Plant in several phases:
Trees, shrubs, groundcovers



'Natchez' Crape Myrtle
and Cleyera japonica



BLANK SLATE: Installing turf areas following construction





Field measuring to confirm beds are the width on plan







Plants may be installed year-round.

But remember you will need to monitor water!



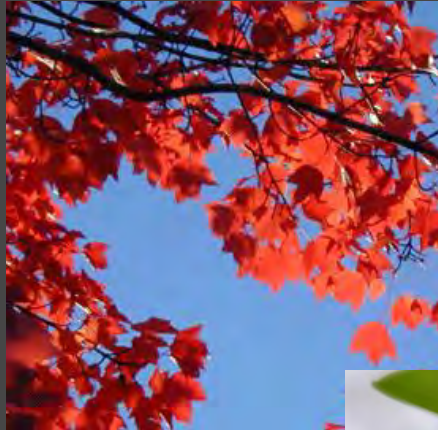
COMPACTED SOILS?

Many native plants are ok with that!

Natives for compacted sites/soils



Sweetbay Magnolia



Red Maple



Wax Myrtle



Rudbeckia



Hollies



Gaura

Native Trees for Mississippi Landscapes



The use of indigenous trees in homes, gardens, and communities is not new to Mississippi. Indigenous trees form the very fabric of our surroundings and create our state's own unique regional identity. Even noted Mississippi authors Eudora Welty and William Faulkner recognized the importance of Mississippi's native flora and landscapes to help create a sense of place in their writings.

Selecting native trees for the home landscape is a wise choice. In addition to their beauty, there are several additional reasons to use Mississippi's native trees.

- Native trees are better adapted to Mississippi's soils. Mississippi's predominantly acidic mineral soils make it difficult for many ornamental trees from other areas to perform well. Native trees are better adapted to our varying soil types.
- Native trees are better adapted to Mississippi's climate. Local trees are better suited to the average temperature and rainfall patterns found in our state.

access to irrigation and care. Trees that are tolerant of these growing conditions are the best choice.

The following list describes 40 tree species native to Mississippi, all of which have performed well in a variety of urban landscapes. These plants were chosen for their durability, ornamental qualities, wildlife value, and tolerance to a wide spectrum of soil, moisture, and sun exposure. Many are familiar features of Southern landscapes; others are not as common but deserve greater consideration for ornamental use. Each tree species description includes:

1. Native habitats
2. Associate plant species
3. Flowering, fruit, leaf, and form characteristics
4. Wildlife values
5. Cultural tips
6. Effective landscape uses

Most trees, when appropriately sited, can be planted directly into the native soil without amendments.

Publication No. 2330



Shade trees reduce energy usage.

Evergreen trees north and west of your house block winter winds.

Deciduous trees shade in summer.
In winter, allow sun to warm home.

SWAMP CHESTNUT OAK – (Quercus michauxii) deciduous; native to Mississippi



Planting a tree is a small act with a big pay-off. Shade also reduces watering & weeding needs.



RED MAPLE
Acer rubrum



WAX MYRTLE
(AKA Southern
Bayberry)





Taxodium distichum

Photo: Greenforest Nursery, Inc.





Magnolia virginiana 'Jim Money' AKA 'Moonglow'



Chionanthus virginicus

Tough & Attractive Native Trees: Grancy Graybeard



Quercus michauxii



AMERICAN HOLLY
Ilex opaca



SAVANNAH HOLLY

DAHOON HOLLY
'Perdido'





Ilex decidua 'Warren's Red'

RENOVATIONS!!



Identify site conditions and existing plants, i.e., declining or high-maintenance plants, hazard trees, invasive species, weeds, health: Insect pests and diseases

ADDRESSING (DRAINAGE) ISSUES



RENOVATIONS

Removing thinning sod





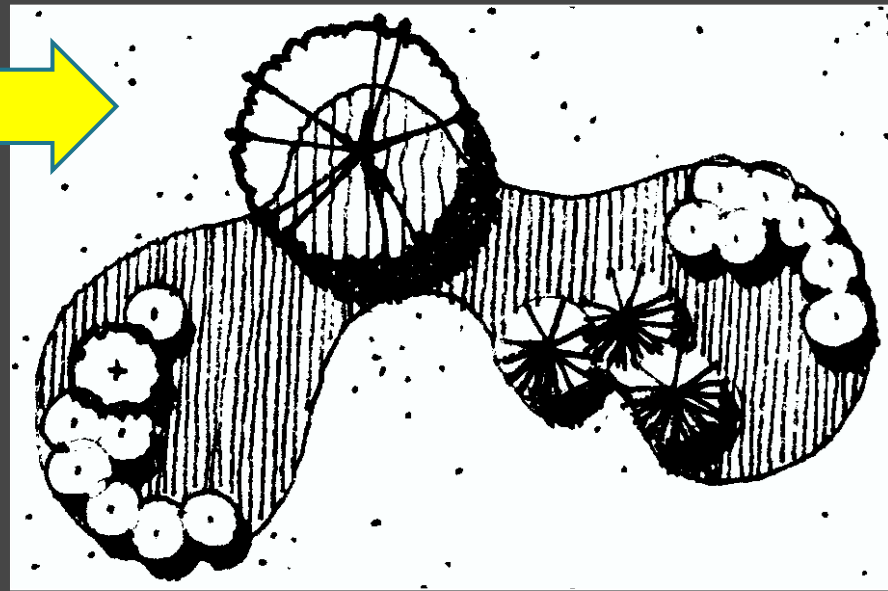




Consider mulched areas rather than sodding.














Protects from string trimmers and mowers.

Allows for more water to reach the tree roots.



A group of people are engaged in planting saplings in a wooded area. In the foreground, a person wearing a camouflage jacket, a cap, and rubber boots is using a long-handled tool to plant a sapling in a hole. Several other saplings in black plastic pots are scattered on the ground. In the background, other people are visible, some working with tools near a pond. The scene is set in a wooded area with many bare trees, suggesting a late fall or winter setting.

Install plants in late fall & winter to allow for optimum plant establishment.



Native Shrubs for Mississippi Landscapes



There are 30 shrub species native to Mississippi that can be successfully used in home landscapes. The following descriptions of each species include:

- Native habitats
- Flowering, fruit, leaf, and form characteristics
- Wildlife values

Each listing also contains cultural tips and effective landscape uses. While many of these plants tolerate conditions not found in their native environments, it is always preferable to choose plants that are best suited to the site. Wholesale nurseries in your area may produce some of these plants; ask the manager about availability.

Red Buckeye
Aesculus pavia L.
Family: Hippocastanaceae



yellow in the fall. For a natural look, plant the buckeye in shrub masses underneath trees that form a canopy.

Sunlight: Part sun to shade
Soil type: Dry to moist
Shrub type: Deciduous
Wildlife value: Medium
Flowering: Spring flowers

Tag Alder
Alnus serrulata (Ait.) Willd.
Family: Betulaceae





Vaccinium elliotii



Viburnum dentatum





Callicarpa americana





OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA
Hydrangea quercifolia



VIRGINIA SWEETSPIRE *Itea virginica*

Wildflowers for Mississippi Meadows and Gardens



Those uncultivated flowers found growing naturally along roadsides, in meadows and fields, and in forests throughout an area are called wildflowers. Wildflowers include a wide variety of plant types, including reseeding flowering annuals and hardy perennials, selected vines and small shrubs, ferns, and even showy native grasses. Many are well-suited for use in home gardens and landscapes because they are adapted to the general climate and soils of an area. With a little planning, you can easily plant and enjoy them for years.

Some wildflowers are perfectly useful in formal plantings and gardens where neatness is important; however, most are better suited for use in informal, meadow-

or as true perennials from bulbs, corms, roots, stems, or rhizomes.

There are no "maintenance-free" gardens. Because wildflowers have a natural ability to spread vigorously, many may become rampant invaders requiring some control. Many weedy, less desirable plants also appear in wildflower gardens and require removal, making even wildflowers "low-maintenance" at best. Winter mowing of wildflower meadows, regular pruning of faded foliage and dead seed stalks, careful use of selected herbicides, and other general gardening techniques are necessary to ensure success and enjoyment from the use of wildflowers in the landscape.

Site Selection

Success with wildflowers depends mostly



Extension Publications: <http://extension.msstate.edu/>



Rudbeckia spp.



Iris

Gaura

Stokes Aster



Stokesia laevis



Mother bed of milkweed
(*Asclepias incarnata*) at Crosby
Arboretum Pollinator Garden





Plants in The Crosby Arboretum Pollinator Garden

SUMMER



Swamp Milkweed
(*Asclepias incarnata*)



Fire Bush (*Hamelia patens*)



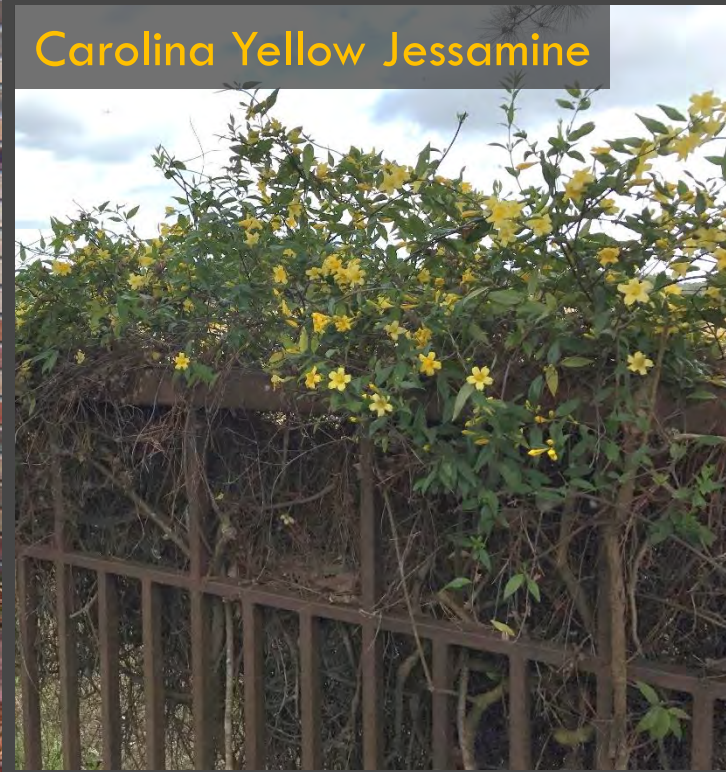
Scarlet Sage (*Salvia coccinea*)





Coral Honeysuckle

Carolina Yellow Jessamine



Host plant for Gulf
Fritillary Caterpillars



Passiflora incarnata

Tough & Attractive Natives: Passion Vine





Follow the 7 basic steps to creating a landscape plan and:

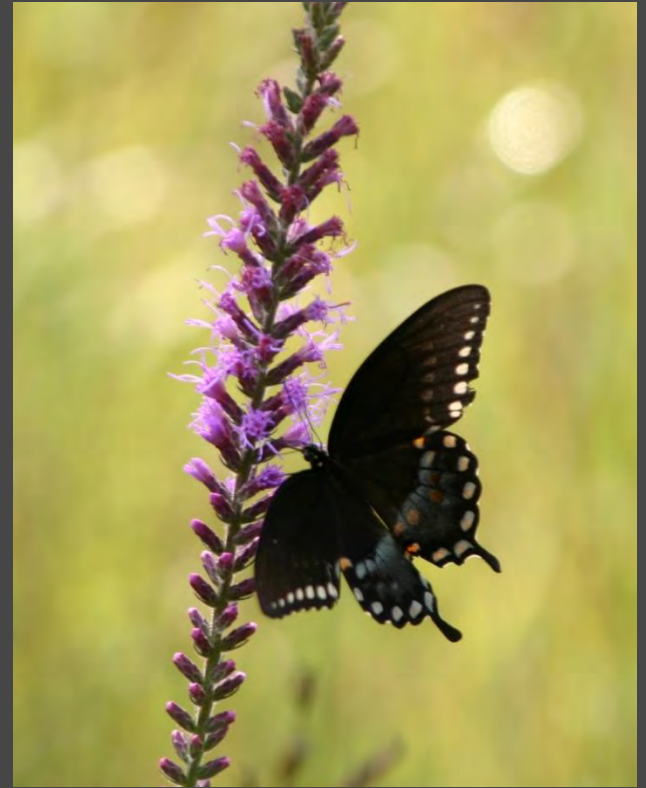
- Get to know your plants
- Locate them properly
- Give them room to grow
- Group according to needs
(Light, moisture, soils)

Consider using more native species in your landscapes

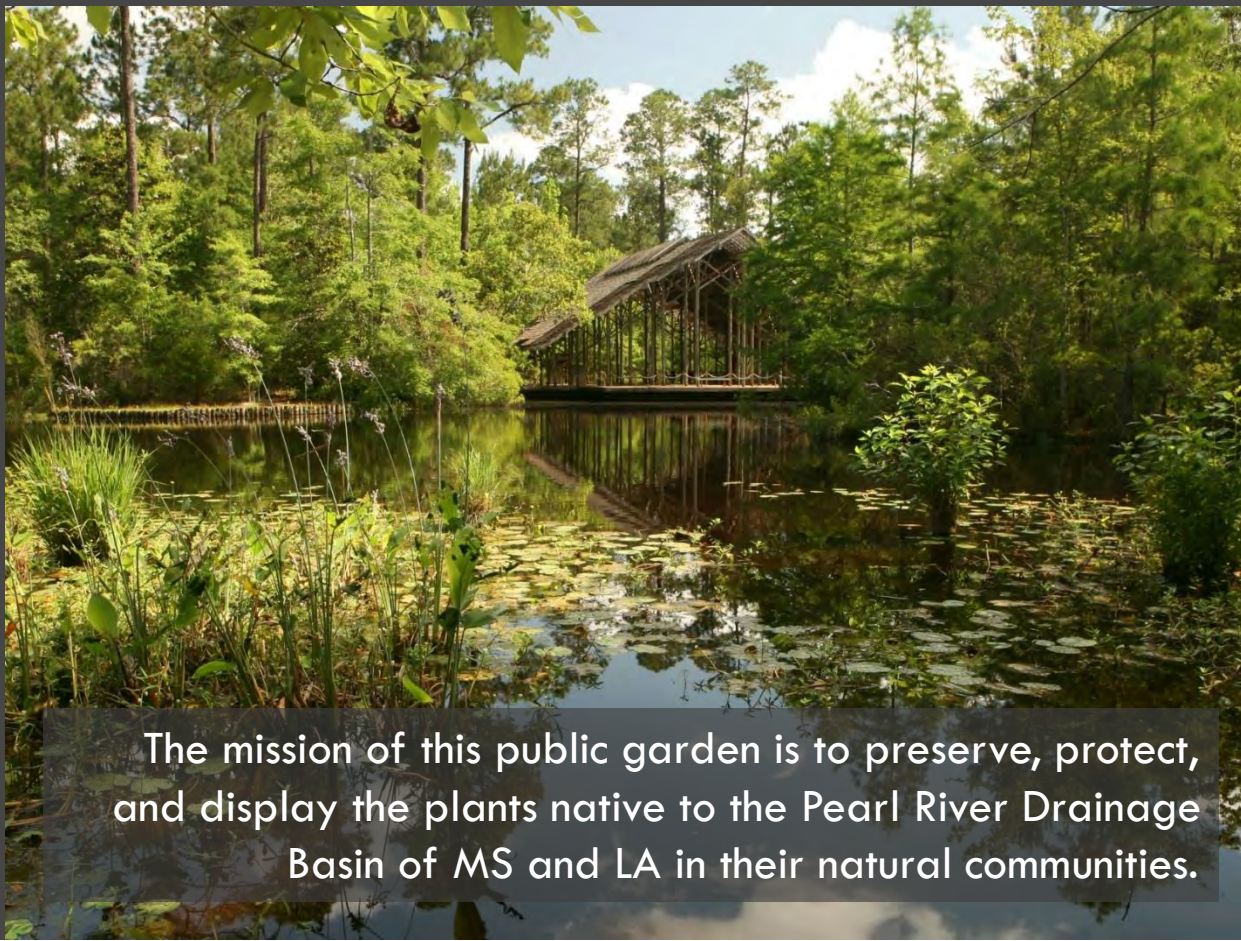
Well-adapted to local environmental conditions.

When located in the site conditions they prefer, require far less water and chemicals to support.

Save labor, money, and water.

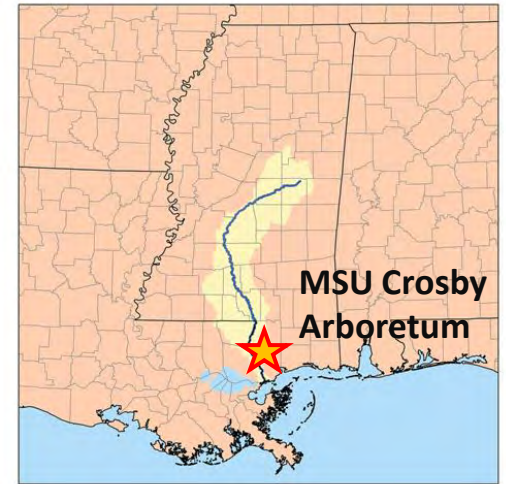


Liatris spicata



The mission of this public garden is to preserve, protect, and display the plants native to the Pearl River Drainage Basin of MS and LA in their natural communities.

Pearl River Drainage Basin



Mississippi State University's Crosby Arboretum is located in Picayune, MS (Pearl River Co.)

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Home Landscape Design



Establishing a Backyard Wildlife Habitat

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"Nature, in her blind search for life, has filled every possible cranny of the earth with some sort of fantastic creature."
Joseph Wood Krutch (1893-1970), American critic and naturalist

Creating a landscape to attract wildlife is a goal of many homeowners. As natural areas for wildlife have decreased because of urbanization, more and more homeowners are realizing there is more to a landscape than a sterile arrangement of plants. It can and should be a vibrant mix of elements in which animals, plants, and humans happily coexist.

Many people envision gaily colored butterflies and birds feeding and flitting about the yard. That is the more visible aspect of a backyard habitat. Striving for biodiversity in

needs will attract wildlife to your backyard habitat. It takes only a small investment of time to make your yard or garden "wildlife friendly" by adding these essentials.

Food

You can provide food in two ways:

1. Artificial feeding—bird feeders, squirrel feeders, and such.
2. Natural vegetation—planting a variety of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowering plants that provide nuts, seeds, nectar, fruit, and other sources of nourishment.

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Selecting Landscape Shrubs

With Special Comments on Invasive and Native Plants



Figure 1. Shrubs have many roles in the home's front landscape. They are used extensively in the foundation planting around the base of the home. They create a background for other plantings and provide a screen or barrier along the property lines. Low-growing shrubs are used to edge the landscape beds in front of the garage. The tree beds, at the entrance of the driveway provide an accent to the area. Shrubs also are used to provide a screen to attract wildlife to the front lawn to the right of the home.

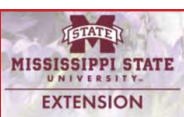
For more Smart Landscapes info and media, be sure to visit:

1. Mississippi Smart Landscapes website:

<http://extension.msstate.edu/smartlandscapes>

2. Our Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/smartlandscapesmsu/>



Mississippi Smart Landscapes media

Contact the MSU-ES Smart Landscapes Team:



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