

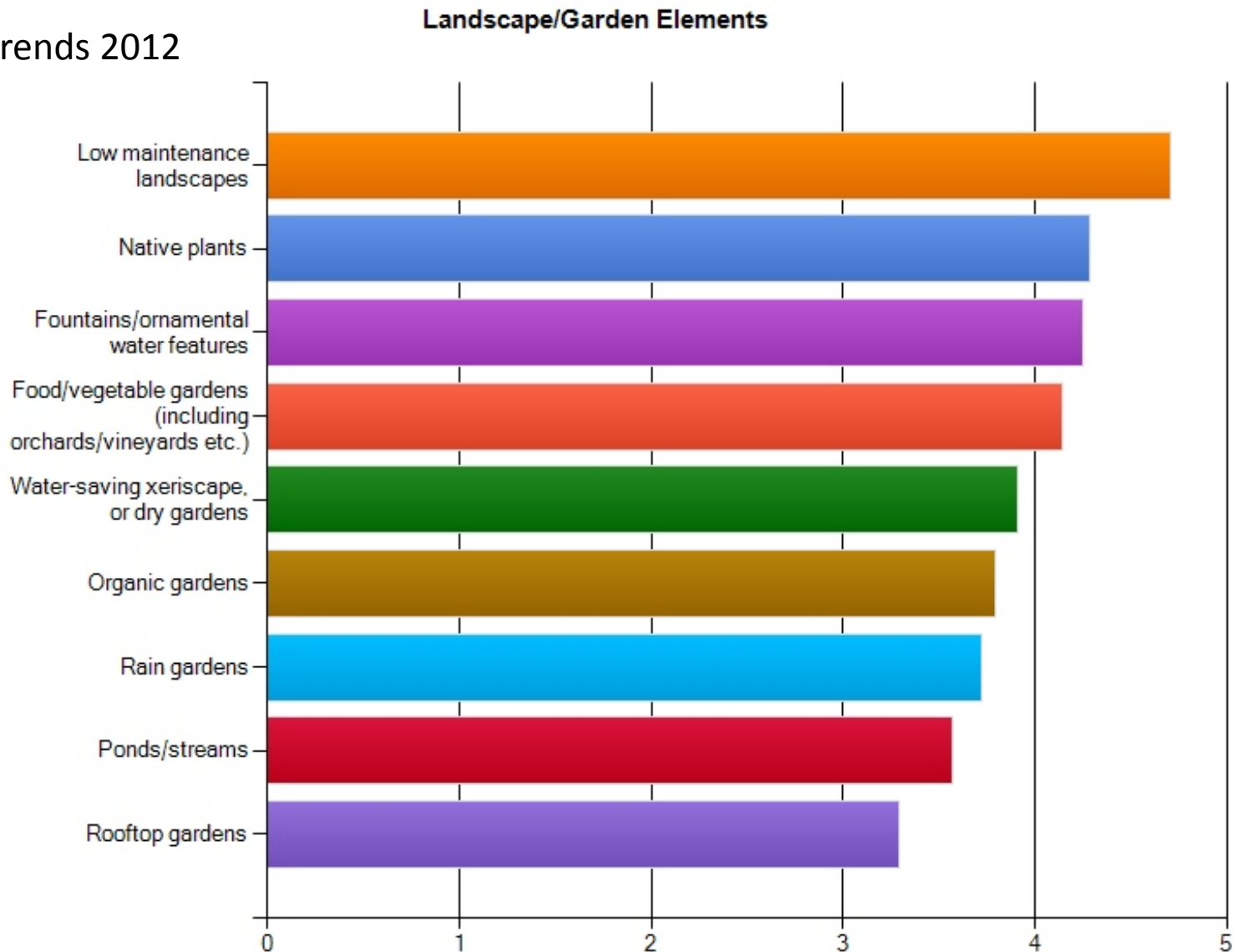
Stunning plants for low-maintenance landscapes

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Most desired attribute in the landscape?

ASLA, trends 2012



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 an 12-16 weeks in the late summer/fall)



Maintenance: cut back heavily in early spring and add compost



Other shrubs

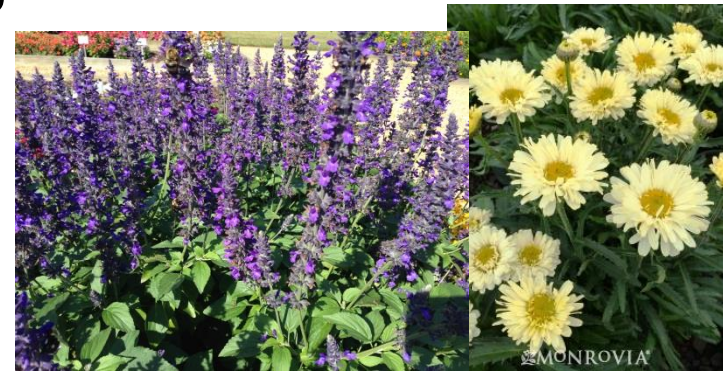
- Caryopteris 'Petit Bleu' 24-30" t x 24-36" w. Really well behaved shape. Needs well-drained soil.
- Hydrangea Let's Dance 'Big Easy' 24-36" t x w
- Rosa 'Home Run'. More disease tolerant than Knock out. More prolific bloomer. 42-48" t x w
- Oso Easy roses come in lots of colors and bloom prolifically. 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
- Cuphea 'Vermilionaire' Neat habit. Long blooming. Very heat tolerant. Hardy to zone 8a.



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



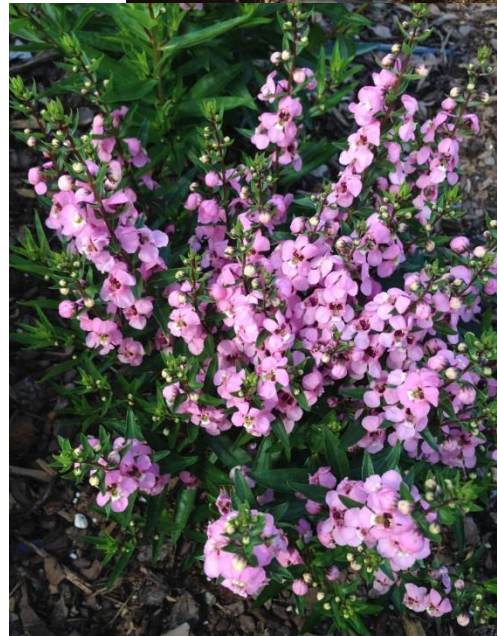
Annuals worth planting

- 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.