

The Pleasures of Color, Texture, and Resilience in the Native Garden

Richard Sidy, President, Gardens for Humanity www.gardensforhumanity.org

Native Plant Workshop – Notes and Overview:



This holiday wreath shows the harmonious co-existence of native and non-native plants.

It is a visual microcosm of a garden in winter that was designed with plants that have similar needs as their native companions, but offer diversity of color and texture.

This garden palette respects the native plant community and lets *IT* set the standards for the human-made environment.

[Pictured in Wreath: Arizona Cypress, Fremont Barberry, Basil-dried flower, Blue Grama Grass, Deodar, Dusty Miller, Garlic chive seedpods, grape tendril, Heavenly Bamboo- *Nandina domestica*, Juniper, Lavender, Lemon Balm-dried seedpod, Marjoram, Narcissus, Oregon Grape- *Mahonia aquifolium*, Pine, Ornamental Pomegranate, Rosemary, Rue, Sages, Santolina, Shrub Oak, Texas Ranger Sage- *Leucophyllum*, Wormwood, Yucca-seedpods/leaves.]

Q: Why call it a “Native Garden” if you also have non-native plants?

Taking cues from Nature: ***What is a plant community?***

Landscape planning and stewardship

Establishing a plant community – Habitat, regenerative gardening

Creating diversity

Gardening by zones

Human/Nature relationship – meeting your needs while supporting natural systems

A: The Natives set the tone and create the backdrop for non-natives; choose non-natives that have similar needs and habits as Natives. The “Native Garden” is the “country,” non-natives are the “immigrants” who you invite to live there.

Color, texture, shape, biodiversity

Leaves, foliage, bracts

Pods, berries, cones, fruit, seeds

Flowers – fresh and dry

Lichen, moss, fungi, rocks

Exposure – Wet, Dry, Sun, Shade, Heat, Frost

This determines the zones you create

Plant zones and plant communities in Sedona and the Verde Valley

Desert Grasslands

Pinion - Juniper

Riparian

Transition zones – ranges

Non-natives

USDA Hardiness Zone 8 for Sedona and the Verde Valley**Biomimicry – imitation of the models, systems, and elements of nature.**

Understory

Compost

Weed prevention and weed selection

Nurse Plants

Propagation

Perennial and Annual

Seeds – what, how, and timing

Layering

Transplanting

Naturalizing

Deciduous and Evergreen

Foliage

Flowers

Fruit

Water and other needs

Irrigation

Water harvesting in soil and landscape

Related Articles by Richard Sidy: Use the link below to access these notes and related articles:

<https://gardensforhumanity.org/category/articles/>

Color in the Winter Garden

The Pleasures of Perennials

Gardening by Zones

Build Soil to Eliminate Weeds

Case Study – Sidy Garden Tour

Reference Books:

- *Shrubs and Trees of the Southwest Uplands*, by Francis H. Elmore
- *Southwest Landscaping with Native Plants*, by Judith Phillips
- *Plants of Arizona*, by Anne Orth Epple
- *An Illustrated Guide to Arizona Weeds*, by Kittie F. Parker