

WHEN WORKING WITH COLOR MIDWEST GARDENERS SHOULD CONSIDER...

When working with color Midwest gardeners should consider massing. Massing is the grouping of like plants in sweeping drifts to achieve a number of different goals.

Consider the Midwest: Large groups of single species whether they be perennials, annuals ornamental grasses or shrubs, are evocative of the prairie which is certainly appropriate for the Midwest. That is not to say that there is no room for variety as each color is improved by its neighbor if chosen properly.

Consider the Midwestern Lifestyle: Massing allows maintenance to be reasonable. A “onsie twosie” approach can have a cluttered appearance and if you don’t know your plants well, it is difficult to know which are weeds and which are not. If fifteen or twenty or fifty plants in a group are the same, the “different” one is probably the undesirable one.

Consider the Midwestern People: The Midwest is known for its work ethic and appreciation for the simple things in life. A simple color scheme with bold massings reads better. Although there may be many colors and textures, a level of discipline in choosing how those colors and textures are combined results in a landscape that is uncluttered and easily readable. This “uncluttered” approach can result in a peaceful, soothing, comfortable garden or it can create an abundance of drama and impact depending on the site and plants chosen.

Much is possible with masses.