



Van Zelst inc.

Landscape Development & Management

Art *and* Nature

Enrich Your Enjoyment— and Curb Appeal

A stunning landscape is all about making your home more attractive and livable—right? Absolutely. But many homeowners are surprised to find out how a professionally designed and maintained environment can amplify their homes' appreciation as well. In fact, *The Wall Street Journal* has estimated that you can add as much as 15% to the value of your home—not to mention making it more attractive to potential buyers in the first place.

Of course, it's not all about planning for the day you want to sell. At Van Zelst, we help our clients design landscapes that beautifully suit the way they live and entertain. We create a seamless flow from street to home to yard, incorporating color, structure and rhythm to make every view remarkable and fresh.

At the same time, we help our clients look forward. What trends are gaining traction today? What additions will offer the greatest return on their investment? What types of plantings will offer the greatest impact this year, and grow to lush maturity over the next several seasons?

As experienced landscape architects, we will also help you create a landscape that conserves. This also comes as a pleasant surprise to many of our clients, as they're looking for ways to reduce energy use and live greener. We'll talk more about this on page 2, but a well-landscaped home can do more than just look green. It can actually help reduce energy consumption and costs. Beauty and brains—a great combination to strive for in your home's landscape, and something on which Van Zelst regularly delivers.



Van Zelst inc.

Landscape Development & Management

Van Zelst, Inc.

39400 N. Highway 41
Wadsworth, IL 60083

847-623-3580
www.vanzelst.com

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oak Brook, IL
Permit No. 100

◀ A sign of spring, Crabapple flowers perfume the air. In winter, the tree's striking shape adds interest to the landscape.

Van Zelst inc.

Landscape Development & Management

**SIGN UP FOR OUR
E-NEWSLETTERS,
WITH FREE
LANDSCAPE TIPS**

Visit
www.vanzelst.com

Going Greener Starts in Your Own Backyard

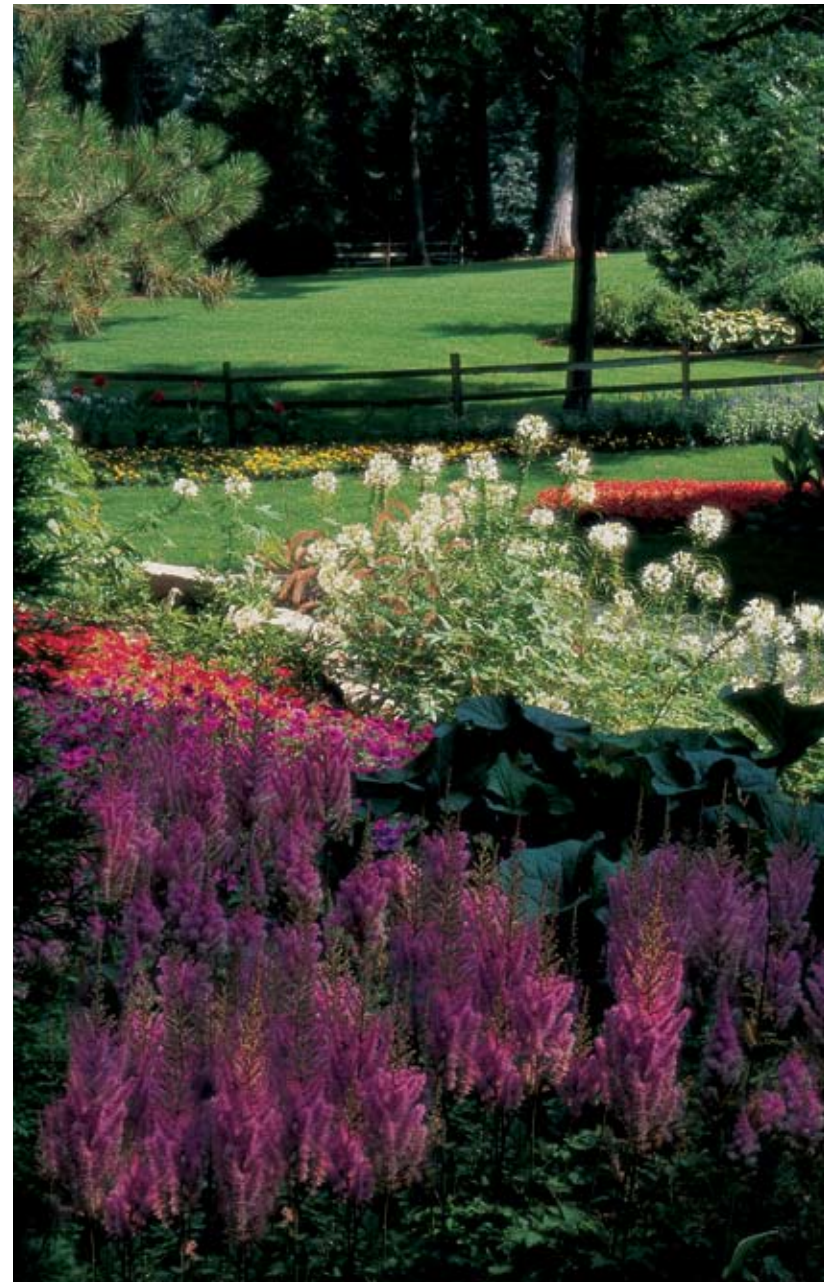
Is your family trying to minimize your impact on the environment? Look to your garden. You'll find it filled with opportunities to create a more eco-friendly home.

Naturally, this is also a goal of the Van Zelst team. Landscape architects have long been using trees as windbreaks, positioning shade trees to protect homes in summer and let low winter sunlight in, and selecting plants that adapt well to the region, limiting the need for excessive watering and care.

In addition to benefiting the environment, many of these ideas can aid you as well:

- Shading your home can reduce air conditioning costs by 15 to 50 percent.
- Creating a shady spot for your air conditioning unit can improve its performance up to 10 percent.
- Trees planted as windbreaks can reduce heat loss from walls in winter and help channel summer breezes where they're needed.
- Shrubs provide an insulating effect around your home's foundation, saving energy throughout the year.
- Plantings create habitats for birds and beneficial insects, for natural pest control.
- Trees and plants have a cooling effect as they pass water into the air.

Talk to Van Zelst, Inc. today about how to make your home more beautiful, comfortable and green.



Living Green





Consider Containers

As mini-flowerbeds, container gardens can complement the colors and shapes in your plantings, adding dimension to your garden and creating consistency right up to the doors of your home. Consider one or two dramatic containers overflowing with flowers and interesting foliage of varying heights. Or create groupings of containers to help define your space.



Opposite Top: Purple Astilbe thrive in a shady spot, while white Cleome reach toward the sunlit sky.

Bottom: Mounds of blue Nepeta create a natural division between the stone path and rocky outcropping. Daylilies and Snapdragons soak up the sun.

Above Left: Rudbeckia (Black-Eyed Susans) and Echinacea (Purple Coneflower) at the height of the season. Oversized Annabelle Hydrangeas add a classic touch to the bank of wildflowers.



Show Your Bright Side

Even those who favor dark suits or neutral attire tend to have a bold streak when it comes to landscaping. After all, a bright, colorful garden never goes out of style. At Van Zelst, we love to use the full palette of colors and textures that Mother Nature provides.

Orange-colored Black-Eyed Susans, cadmium-orange Daylilies, bright white Hydrangeas and purple-blue Russian Sage—where else could such diversity give rise to such harmony? Planted in large, flowing drifts of flowers against a green backdrop, the impact is incredible.

Whether you appreciate the full spectrum of color, or prefer a monochromatic or two-color garden, the Van Zelst team can help. We'll ensure that your garden is awash with color from Spring through Fall, with new blooms coming into season as others take their final bows.

Van Zelst inc.

Landscape Development & Management

ENHANCE THE VALUE OF YOUR HOME

Call us at
847-623-3580.
www.vanzelst.com

**SIGN UP FOR OUR
E-NEWSLETTERS,
WITH FREE
LANDSCAPE TIPS**

Visit
www.vanzelst.com

Maintenance Matters

Beautiful lawns and gardens require careful tending. That's why many busy Van Zelst clients turn management over to us. Our professional crews can:

- Ensure that each type of plant, tree and shrub is properly watered
- Weed, deadhead and provide ongoing care
- Test soil, apply fertilizer and manage pests
- Take care of lawns from season to season

Talk to Van Zelst about a weekly or monthly maintenance program.



Above Right: A mix of bricks and tumbled pavers, as well as brick pillars, create a welcoming, grand entrance that suits the home.

Right: A Lannonstone wall contains and defines a generous bluestone patio. The precise angles of the wall contrast the naturally curving flower beds just beyond.

Achieve Rhythm, Proportion and Balance

What do you remember most about a stunningly landscaped home—the abundant mounds of flowers? The rolling banks of green? The serene, bubbling pond? What you may not have realized is how your eyes were led to those features in the first place. The answer is likely to be the hardscape.

Hardscape includes the stone, brick and other building materials that create the foundation of any well-designed landscape. Hardscape delineates spaces, establishes a sense of permanence and initiates the flow a visitor will follow through the garden. When hardscape is an afterthought, it shows. Instead, a landscape should be looked at as a whole, with hardscape and softscape—the plants, trees and turf—working together to yield something greater than the sum of its parts.

How can hardscape make an impact?

Reimagine your patio. Extend your living space outdoors in a way that complements your home and makes the most of your green spaces. The wooden backyard deck has been upgraded to stone for its solid presence and its greater value as an investment. Choose colors, patterns and textures that echo and enhance the style of your existing architecture.

Add an outdoor kitchen. Design something as simple—or elaborate—as you like. Over the past few years, we've helped families install entertaining areas that include state-of-the-art built-in grills with side burners, refrigerators, sinks, fire pits and more.



Consider your driveway. What do people see when they approach your home from the street—a straight concrete drive to a two- or three-car garage? Or something that instantly envelops them in the mood of your home? Curvilinear paver design, a welcoming fountain, or a bench with plantings can impart a sense of graciousness before your guests have even stepped through the door.

Mix in height and visual interest. Archways, pergolas, walls and fences can further define the space and add dimension. Whether made of stone, modular concrete, wood or a combination of materials, structures and ornaments can bring more of your personality into the landscape.

Bring Focus with Hardscape





Creative Solutions

Sometimes replacing the whole drive or pad isn't an option. But asphalt or concrete can harmonize beautifully with brick or stone pavers to achieve a more contained effect that fits with the overall design intent.



Left: Complemented by shades of green, a stone koi pond and benches create a quiet respite. The fish and perennials introduce new colors into the scene.

Below: Granite boulders seem to tumble along with the water into the Lannonstone-bordered pond.

The High-Water Mark

What are your hopes for your garden? Do you want to create a personal sanctuary—someplace that inspires contemplation and peacefulness? Then you may want to look to Japan for the answer. There, water is often considered crucial to the garden, enhancing tranquility and bringing in the relaxing sounds of nature. You can close your eyes and still enjoy the soundscape of your garden.

The best way for you to incorporate water into your landscape depends upon your overall plan. A granite fountain set among vivid perennials can add light music to the environment. A natural-looking pond surrounded by stone slabs, blocks or boulders can make a beautiful home for intensely colored koi. Rocky waterfalls provide continuous movement and sound. Or a contemporary reflecting pool can create a place for your eyes to rest amid the mix of colors and shapes that surround it. Whatever your personal style, for many gardens, a water feature is the perfect finishing touch.



Van Zelst inc.

Landscape Development & Management

**LET YOUR LANDSCAPE
REFLECT YOU.**

Call us at 847-623-3580.
www.vanzelst.com

Van Zelst inc.

Landscape Development & Management

**ENHANCE THE BEAUTY
OF YOUR HOME.**

Call us at
847-623-3580.
www.vanzelst.com

Right: Choose trees for all seasons—shade and noise buffers in summer, interesting architecture and shapes in winter.

Below: Mixing species of trees encourages a spectacular show of color each autumn.

Opposite Inset: Mixing different types of Hostas creates an interesting palette of texture and muted color.

Opposite Bottom: Gooseneck Loosestrife lights up the shade. The graceful crook of their flowering necks adds movement to the garden all summer long.

Poetic and Practical Trees

Trees inspire. They symbolize strength and greatness. And they're wonderful to look at. There's no question that trees should be an important part of any completed landscape—it's really just a question of what types and where to place them.

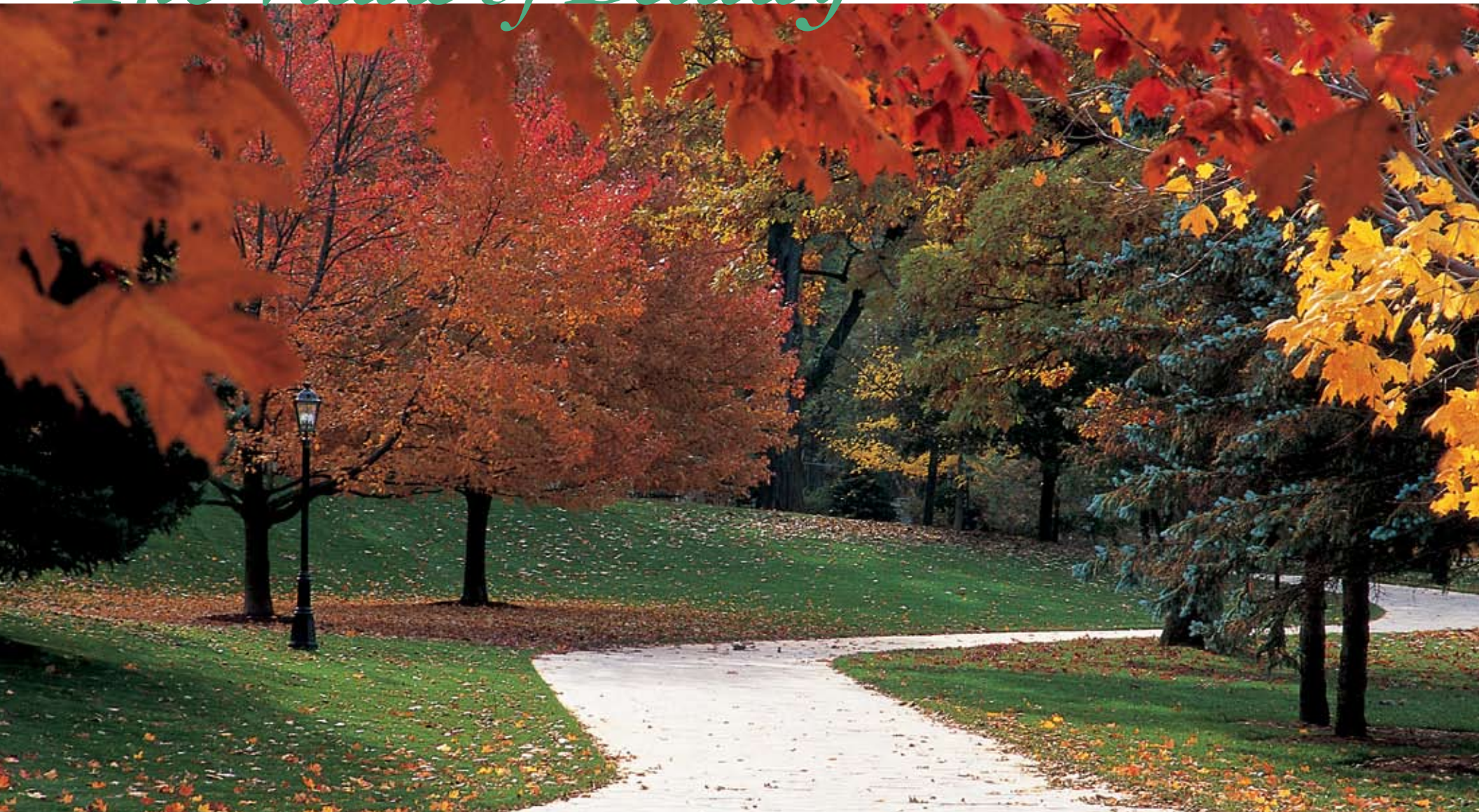
When selecting trees and determining where to plant them, there are some key issues to discuss. Of course, these are questions the Van Zelst team answers every day.

For example, have you considered planting trees as a privacy screen or noise buffer? Many Van Zelst clients use Arborvitae or other types of evergreens to make their yards more intimate and quiet. Knowing how shade will evolve as a tree matures will help you determine where to orient it near a patio or eating area. And, of course, positioning trees to act as wind breaks or provide shade to the house itself can reduce your heating and cooling costs (see our article on page 2 for details).

Trees will help you clean carbon and impurities from the air around you. They'll provide homes for songbirds throughout the spring and summer months. And they can add significantly to the value of your home. It's no wonder people write poems about them.



The Value of Beauty



Made for the Shade

Mysterious and rich, shade gardens are great places to explore the interplay of shapes and textures. While many perennials love the sun, there are tremendous varieties of foliage plants, grasses and flowers for shady spots as well.

By combining frilly Astilbes, quilted Hostas, colorful ground cover and more, we can make a shade garden just as lush as sunnier areas. Pops of light or white foliage and blooms can brighten the beds, or rich, muted colors can suggest a cool respite from the blazing July and August heat.

At Van Zelst, some of our favorite shade-loving perennials include the heart-shaped, silver-veined leaves of Brunnera Jack Frost, which serves up blue flowers each spring. Tall, butterfly-friendly Purple Coneflower looks classic and wild at the same time. Vibrant Daylilies and giant, yellow-spiked Ligularia create drama.

And green, blue and variegated Hostas come in every size imaginable. The range of options may be narrower than planting for full sun, but it's no less interesting.



Emerald Ash Borer in 2008

This January, the Morton Arboretum announced that ash borers have continued to spread throughout suburban Cook County. They've recently been spotted in Glenview and Wilmette. One in five Chicago-area trees is ash, and any could be affected. If you have ash trees, watch for:

- Bright metallic green beetles, about 1/2-inch long
- White, flattened, segmented larvae, about 1-inch long
- D-shaped holes or extensive woodpecker damage
- Vertical splits in bark
- Wilting, yellowing foliage or thinning in the upper third of the tree
- S-shaped ruts under the bark

For photos and more information, go to the Illinois Department of Agriculture page: www.agr.state.il.us/eab. If you believe you've seen an ash borer, or its effects, contact Van Zelst or your certified arborist to help manage the problem.



Van Zelst inc.

Landscape Development & Management

**SIGN UP FOR OUR
E-NEWSLETTERS,
WITH FREE
LANDSCAPE TIPS**

Visit
www.vanzelst.com

Van Zelst inc.

Landscape Development & Management

**ADD AN
OUTDOOR KITCHEN
TO YOUR LANDSCAPE**

Visit
www.vanzelst.com



Recent Honors

Awards for Landscape Design, Construction and Management presented by the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association (ILCA)

- 2008 Gold Lake Bluff Residence
- 2007 Silver Glenview Residence
- 2006 Gold Lake Geneva Residence
- 2006 Gold Glenview Residence
- 2006 Silver Wilmette Residence
- 2005 Gold Wilmette Residence
- 2005 Silver Glencoe Residence
- 2005 Merit Kenilworth Residence
- 2004 Gold Glenview Residence
- 2004 Silver Lake Forest Residence
- 2004 Merit Lake Geneva Residence
- 2003 Gold Kenilworth Residence
- 2003 Silver Wilmette Residence
- 2003 Merit Lake Forest Residence
- 2003 Merit Glencoe Residence

For a complete list, visit www.vanzelst.com.

Art & Nature is published by Van Zelst, Inc. 39400 N. Hwy. #41, Box 250, Wadsworth, IL 60083-0250.

© 2008. All rights reserved.

Designer: Allegro Design Inc.
Copywriter: Amy Derksen
Photographer: Linda Oyama Bryan

All of the design services and installations described in this issue of *Art & Nature* are available from Van Zelst, Inc.

Gearing Up for the Hot Season



It's hard to believe that just a few weeks after -25° wind chills, I'll be moving into my mobile office and celebrating the arrival of another Spring. A few years ago, I realized that I'd been spending too much time driving, when I could be working. Yet I didn't want to limit face-to-face time with clients. So now each spring heralds my return to an office on wheels. That way, I can spend as much time

with you as possible, and maximize evenings at home with my own family. After all, I like grilling in the backyard on a weeknight as much as anyone.

Spring is definitely a busy time for us, but the payoff is huge. Meeting new families, reconnecting with familiar faces and thinking about how to make the world a little nicer to live in—it's not just the flowers that come back to life.

Regards,
Dave

Transformations: Ideas for the Midwestern Landscape

In each chapter, David Van Zelst describes a project's challenges and solutions, while photographer Linda Oyama Bryan captures its essence in lush color photography.

For your copy, visit www.vanzelst.com and click on *Book Order*.



2008 Plant Introductions

Take a look at some of the incredible new plants we're incorporating this year:



Coreopsis Jethro Tull
Brilliant, fluted petals provide high impact in a compact space.



Phlox Laura
Purple petals with white eyes add light and fragrance.



Heuchera Obsidian
Smooth, jet-black leaves add a deep luster to shady areas.



Gailardia Arizona Sun
Abundant, long-lived blooms in unbelievable color.



Echinacea Pink Double Delight
Knockout double-blooms that bloom for 8 to 12 weeks.



Hemerocallis Tuscowilla Tigress
Long-blooming, huge orange flowers—up to 7"—with gold mid-ribs.

Grilling with Dave: Roasted Red Pepper Sauce

1. Place 6 whole red peppers directly on the grates of the hot grill. Char each side, turning as the skin becomes tender, black and blistered.
2. Put peppers in a brown paper bag, and roll top to close. Set aside until cool.
3. When cool, peel off skins and remove seeds and cores.
4. Puree in blender with 1/3 cup vegetable or chicken broth, a large clove of garlic, a few tablespoons of fresh herbs (chives, basil and parsley work nicely) and a tablespoon of balsamic vinegar.
5. Serve with grilled vegetables, hearty bread, meaty fish or chicken.

