

We're Here to Help!

Creating a dynamic landscape isn't all in the flower color, shape and size.

You can accessorize your blooming beauties with foliage color and texture that accentuates and enhances the overall appearance of your garden.

For ideas or help with selections, come see us. Phelan Gardens is open seven days a week.



Open Year-Round
7 days a week

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Beyond Blooms

Add Texture To Your Landscape

Using shrubs and perennial foliage to create garden interest



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Add Interest With Foliage

What does your landscape look like between bloom times? Is it bland with only green leaves? If so, consider introducing alternatives that offer color and texture with their foliage.

Plants for Shady or Partially Shady Areas

When you have a darker area in your garden, look for plants with white on their leaves. Foliage variegated with white can brighten up those lush shady areas. Some great examples of perennials that accomplish this goal:

Lamium—Dead Nettle

Brunnera ‘Jack Frost’

Hostas

Snow on the Mountain

For added texture, and an interesting lacy look consider **Astilbes** or **Ferns** in a moist shady spot.

If you have an area that is partially shady, such as an eastern exposure or dappled light cast by a tree, the following plants are wonderful:

Lupine or **Lady’s Mantle**: both have large interesting leaves that collect beads of water. Plant them close to your house so you can enjoy this feature.

Variegated Iris: has grass-like spiky leaves in white or cream.

Bergenia: has large glossy leaves that turn purple in the winter

Heuchera: there are shades from lime green, to amber to silvery purple.

Sweet Woodruff: has dainty green foliage that looks good all season. Its sweet white flowers bloom in spring. Low growing perennials with interesting foliage include **pulmonaria** with spotted shiny leaves and **ajuga (bugleweed)** that offers burgundy tones.

Plants for Full Sun

For beds in full sun, consider some small shrubs that offer attractive red or yellow foliage:

Spirea: ‘Gold Flame’, ‘Gold Mound’, or ‘Mellow Yellow’

Ninebark—various species

Barberry: ‘Compact’ or ‘Rosy Glow’

Privet: ‘Golden Vicary’

Cistena Plum

These types of introductions to your garden provide striking contrast to other foliage color or blooms. For a softer accent use silver/gray or blue foliage—check out perennials selections such as **Artemisia** ‘Silver Mound’ or native sages. Cushion spurge gives a bright blast of yellow in spring and turns red in Fall. Some of the **hardy hibiscus varieties** also offer deep burgundy foliage along that is attractive event when not in

bloom. Some forms of **heliopsis (false sunflowers)** go beyond their typical green leaves to offer variegated or deep colored foliage. **Penstemon ‘Husker Red’**: gives you red foliage with white flowers.

Don’t Forget Grasses!

Ornamental grasses can make a significant contribution to your garden landscape. **Blue Fescue** and **Blue Oat Grass** offer light blue color and are only 8’–15’ tall. Variegated types offer “light and bright” options.

Other grasses produce dramatic plumes in late summer when the rest of the landscape is paling. The seed heads can be left on the plants into fall and winter for added effect. Leave your grasses up all winter and you will have lovely buff colored plants to view instead of just bare earth.



Alchemilla: Lady’s Mantle