

small space...BIG IMPACT

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PLANNING:

- Take notes and photos throughout the season of successes and trouble areas to help with winter planning, plant ordering and planting next season
- **Multiple use plants**- cut stems, perennials and woody plants in containers- choose plants for spring pots that can be added to the permanent garden, Or make double use out of your fall bulb purchases and use them for spring containers while evaluating your borders to see where they are needed in the garden- no more wondering where to plant in the fall!
- Use **Containers** to grow on young or special plants before planting out into the garden. When choice mail order plants arrive and are smaller than you expected- Containers make great mini nurseries and you can keep a close eye on them while getting enjoyment from their beauty. Trillium are great for this in Spring pots.
- **Tender but tough:** Musa, Ensete, Brugmansia, Canna- can over winter in a basement!

• DESIGN

- **Repetition** of key plants throughout your garden- give a sense of uniformity and greater visual impact – a collection garden can be easily pulled together with one bold plant repeated throughout the garden for continuity
- **Lighten the dark**- white variegation and golden foliage give the sense of light or sunshine in even dark spots- use this theory to your advantage- dark areas tend to recede and therefore make the corners of a garden less noticeable
- **Tender look-a-likes**- and clever substitutes. Going for a tropical look but not wanting to lug everything in and out twice a year? These tough plants look tender but they are HARDY... *Petasites japonica*, *Ligularia japonica*, *Shefflera dalavayii*, *Tetrapanax delavayii*, *Musa basjoo*, *Manihot grahamii*. Other plant attributes that help enhance a tropical look: ferns, dark green grass like plants such as ophiopogon and liriopse, and in general glossy foliage ie: ligularia. *Caryopteris divaricata* ‘Snow Fairey’ Create a backbone or border of hardy plants and then in-fill with seasonal changes
- **Edibles**... Inexpensive, ornamental and tasty too! Go vertical and train them up
- **Summer blooming bulbs** make a big splash- *Scadoxus multiflorus*, *Gladiolus* ‘Atomic’, *Gloriosa superba*, *Tigridia pavonia*, *Dahlia*, *Eucomis*. Easy storage in cool, dry basement. We lift and air dry for a day. Then set in plastic bulb crates or nursery flats and cover lightly with growing media that is barely moist- not bone dry- not wet. Cover the tops with brown paper or black plastic to keep light out.
- Choose bulb cultivars wisely to stretch your budget. Allium ‘Purple Sensation’- hide the foliage to show off plants best attributes.

• MAINTENANCE

- EDIT, EDIT EDIT. In a small space it is essential to remove or thin crowding plants, branches and leaves. You want it to look full without feeling cramped together. This can be a fine line. Use your debris from editing indoors in arrangements.
- Cuttings- be judicious with your time and save only cuttings of rare and unusual. *Salvia confertiflora*, *Amicia zygomeresis*.
- Winter protection- for us Northerners... *Ficus carica*, *Musa basjoo*
- Regardless of your motivation for gardening- entertainment, food production or relaxation you can create big impact without breaking your back or the bank!
- **Don't be afraid.** Look to plants for inspiration, take risks and be willing to learn.