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September Landscape Update

September will certainly be different this year without the usual football game gatherings and school activities, but we're looking forward to the spectacular fall colors and cooler temperatures.

Fall is a busy time for our crews as we wrap up the growing season and prepare to put sites to bed for the dormant season. Fall color displays will be installed starting mid-September, followed by fall bulb planting beginning in mid-October. A final round of pruning will be completed in September. Fall turf fertilization will be applied in October. Mowing continues throughout October, although frequency may decrease as growth slows later in the season.

If you're considering adding or replacing trees this

fall, evergreens must be installed before October 31. Deciduous trees can be installed later as long as the ground is not frozen. Irrigation system winterization will be scheduled based on the watering needs of fall flowers and newer plant material that is still getting established.

Planning for snow operations is well underway. We're finalizing routes, operational plans, and communication plans for each site. Pre-winter site walks will take place with each client during the next several weeks.

Although the pandemic keeps us from gathering, there is still much to enjoy outdoors. We encourage all to stay safe, be well, and revel in the last glorious days of summer!

Strategies to Increase Landscape Resilience This Fall

Both short- and long-term landscape planning ought to be guided by understanding and meeting your operating and capital budget constraints. When those budgets have taken a hit from coronavirus related expenses, it's wise to examine every cost-saving strategy. Here are some cost-saving ideas from Moore's FACES* Site Assessment Toolkit:



- Could dormant, corrective or rejuvenative pruning reduce recurring maintenance costs or mitigate the need for plant replacements?
- Are there areas of the landscape that are consistently damaged by pedestrians, equipment, vehicles, or salt that could be modified to improve maintainability and reduce repair costs?
- Are turf and other more maintenance- and water-intensive elements used sparingly in high-profile locations?
- Would select winter services improve the lifespan of key site elements and/or reduce risk?
- Is there a current site master plan to guide decision making?

Now is an excellent time of year to consider how your landscape has performed compared to the allocated budget, and to consider what improvements will help achieve your financial and landscape goals. Ask your account executive to walk you through specific cost-saving strategies for your site.

*The FACES of your landscape include Function, Aesthetics, Cost, Environment, and Safety. [Click here](#) for full explanation of FACES.



Drought tolerate perennials, grasses, and shrubs provide year-round seasonal interest while limiting the amount of high maintenance annuals and turf. The border of chipped bluestone protects planting beds from winter salt damage and minimizes annual plant replacement costs.



Enhance Sustainability and Color Displays with Bulbs and Perennials

Perennials and bulbs are a cost effective way to expand seasonal color programs while also enhancing sustainability. Many bulbs and perennials will live about five years, but others such as daffodils, Hosta and daylilies flourish longer and can even be divided to expand the color display and impact.



Bulbs are a wonderful complement to the Midwest perennial plant palette. Options are not limited to just spring blooming tulips and daffodils. For example, Lycoris (spider lily) and Eremurus (foxtail lily) are bulbs that bloom in summer. Resurrection lilies emerge in August several months after their spring foliage has disappeared. The fall blooming crocus's large purple flowers bloom from September to November. Bulbs are planted at various times of the year depending on the timing of their blooms.



To be most effective, bulbs need to be incorporated into the seasonal color masterplan. Planning color displays starts with defining your goals for seasonal color. Goals may be to attract pollinators or have year-round visual interest, off-season color, or something unexpected. A plan could include soothing sweeps of muted colors for quiet areas, vibrant bursts of color that emerge in sequence throughout the season, or both, depending on the experience you want to provide for site visitors.

Replacing annual flowers with bulbs and perennials well-suited for your site can reduce costs, enhance sustainability, and create a more vibrant, colorful, and resilient landscape.

Plant of the Month: Heuchera



Hasnija Hadzic
Account Executive

Account Executive Hasnija Hadzic selected Heuchera (common name coral bells) for this month's featured plant. With its brightly colored leaves, this evergreen perennial is an excellent edging plant that shines by itself and also provides a gorgeous backdrop that elevates annual displays.

Available in vivid orange, lime green, gold, pink, red, and purple varieties, Heuchera brightens up gardens throughout the entire growing season. Hasnija says Heuchera is especially beautiful in fall displays when contrasted with mums and ornamental kale and cabbages. The leaves will overwinter and provide year-round color as well as interesting texture.

Heuchera has delicate flowers on tall stems that bloom in spring and summer—just one more thing to love about this versatile, hardy beauty.



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