



The Less is More Garden: Big Ideas for Designing Your Backyard *Presented by Susan Morrison*

Attention, space-challenged gardeners! The less is more approach to garden design was created specifically to address the realities small to-average sized backyards present. From learning a novel technique that will help you determine the best ways to invest your budget, to strategies for creating spaciousness to suggestions for high-performing, problem-solving plants, you will learn how less space and effort can result in more beauty and enjoyment.

Defining the Lifestyle Garden: Begin with the three W's

- WHAT will you be doing in the garden
- WHEN will you be outside
- WHO will be with you

Getting More From Less

- Double Duty Design
- Finding Space
- Creating Illusions
- See-Through Plants

The Art of the Focal Point

- Lead the Eye
- Unify a Space
- Bring the Outdoors In

Susan Morrison Author of *The Less is More Garden: Big Ideas for Designing Your Small Yard*, landscape designer Susan Morrison is a nationally recognized authority on small-sized outdoor spaces. Susan's designs have been featured in various publications, including *Small Space Gardening*, *Cottages and Bungalows* and *Fine Gardening* magazine, where she also contributes articles on design and plant selection.

To the Pleasant Hill Garden Study Club: Thank you for coming to my talk today! If you enjoyed the presentation, please consider leaving a review at www.greatgardenspeakers.com

Plant Choices for Small Gardens

Double-Duty Herbs and Edibles

- ‘Chef’s Choice’ Rosemary (USDA Zone 7-9)
- ‘Pesto Perpetuo’ Basil (USDA Zone 9-11, annual in all zones)
- ‘Kent Beauty’ Oregano (USDA Zone 6-10) *ornamental rather than edible, but looks fantastic trailing an edible potted herb garden.*
- ‘Beet’s Blood’ Beets (annual in all zones—available from Annie’s Annuals.)

Medium-Sized Shrubs for Blocking Sun

- *Prunus caroliniana* ‘Bright ‘N Tight Carolina Laurel’ (USDA Zone 7-9)
- *Dodonaea viscosa* ‘Atropurpurea’, Purple Hopseed Bush
- *Pittosporum* ‘Marjorie Channon’, Variegated Kohuhu (USDA Zone 8-10)

Seasonal Bookends

- *Acer palmatum* ‘Orange Dream’, Orange Dream Japanese Maple (USDA Zone 4-9)
- *Clematis virginiana* ‘Sweet Autumn Clematis’ (USDA Zone 4-9)
- *Corylus avellana* ‘Contorta’ Harry Lauder’s Walking Stick

“See-Through” Plants

- *Anigozanthos* ‘Big Red’ and ‘Ruby Velvet’, Kangaroo Paw (*Big Red gets 5’- 6’ tall and is a better repeat bloomer than other tall varieties. Ruby Velvet is smaller and not a reliable repeat bloomer, but flowers densely and is more cold resistant, so fewer leaves turn black in winter.*)
- *Leonotis menthifolia*, Dwarf Lion’s Tale (*Although a dwarf compared to L. leonotis, this plant will still get 4’ – 6’ tall. Pruning to keep it shorter limits its appeal, but it is easy to prune outer stems to keep a narrow profile. It’s also evergreen!*)
- *Bouteloua gracilis* ‘Blonde Ambition’ Blonde Ambition Grama Grass (USDA Zone 4-9)
- *Agastache* ‘Black Adder’, Black Adder Anise hyssop (USDA Zone 5-9)