



Foundation Plantings

1. Think beyond the “lineup of the usual suspects.” If the base of your house isn’t ugly, you don’t have to rush to cover up every square inch. The goal is to compliment the architecture of your home.
2. Use a combination of deciduous and evergreens. Think about foliage first: use a variety of colors, textures, and sizes of leaves.
3. Put a plant with large leaves next to one with fine foliage.
4. By all means make a curved edge, but relate that curve to the building. Don’t make a random, in and out, wandering line.
5. Plant using some single plants and some groupings of 3 or more.
6. Place the plants for the size they will be in 10 years – it will look sparse at first; fill in with annuals, perennials, or ornaments.
7. Avoid tall and thin on the corners. This is an old-school practice that just accentuates the line. Either kick the bed out for a small tree or plant something rounded.
8. Place the center of the plant at least 4 feet from the house. In four or five years you’ll be happy you did that.

Great Plants for Foundation Beds

Two to Four Feet - evergreen

Dwarf white pines – there are several (sun/pt-shade)

Dwarf globe arborvitae such as Little Giant or Hetz Midget (sun)

Dwarf Globe blue spruce – Roundabout, Pali or others (sun)

Dwarf Mugo pine - (*Pinus mugo* var. *pumilio*) Sun

Holly “Castle Keep” or ‘Little Rascal’ (sun/pt-shade)

Euonymus varieties such as Emerald Gaiety (sun/pt-shade)

Hinoki falsecypress such as C. obtuse ‘Nana Gracilis’ (sun/shade)

Gem Box Inkberry holly (sun/pt-shade)

Otto Luyken Cherry Laurel (sun/pt-shade)

Misc. dwarf conifers including spruce (sun/pt-shade)

Hellerii or Soft Touch Japanese Holly (sun/pt-shade)

Andromeda *Pieris japonica* Interstella or other dwarf (shade)

Skimmia – males flower in winter, females have red berries (shade)

Dwarf Rhododendrons such as “Yaks” (shade)

Dwarf Azaleas such as Gumpo (shade)

Dwarf Leucothoe such as Lucky Lew (shade)

Two to Four Feet – deciduous

Magic Carpet Spirea (sun)

Abelia Funshine or Kaleidoscope (semi-evergreen) Sun

Fire Light Tidbit and Tiny Quick Fire panicle hydrangea (to 3') (sun)

Chardoney Pearls Dutzia (sun)

Ninebark 'Lady in Red' or 'Summer Wine' (sun)

Lilac 'Miss Kim' or 'Bloomerang' (Sun)

Shrub roses such as Drift Series and Flower Carpet (sun)

Dwarf big-leaf hydrangeas (including Rhythmic Blue, Sky View, Can Do, Summer Crush, and Tuff Stuff series. (Pt-shade)

Hummingbird Clethra (Pt-shade)

Four to eight feet

Gold Thread or Gold Mop cypress (sun)

Hinoki false cypress (sun/pt-shade)

Many Hydrangeas, bigleaf, panicle, mountain & oakleaf (sun-shade)

Blue Shadow Fothergilla (pt-shade)

Viburnums (sun/pt-shade)

Weigela (sun/pt-shade)

Dwarf Alberta Spruce (sun/part shade)

Kickouts on Corners

Dappled Willow Tree Form

Weeping form trees

Grafted trees such as panicle hydrangeas

Verbascum 'Summer Snowflake'

Blue Holly such as Blue Princess

PJM Rhododendron

Dward Alberta Spruce

Smaller red bud trees (*Cercis canadensis*)

Dwarf Japanese maples

Your foundation plantings should make you smile every time you pull into your driveway. We're happy to help with that.