Digging Into 2015 Garden Trends
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NDSU Spring Fever Garden Forum-2015

1-Succulents
- Plants that store water in their leaves or stems
- Easy to grow with low water needs and a wide temperature range but many prefer bright light
- Slow growing
- Variety of colors, textures, shapes

Sanseveria
Peperomia
Christmas cactus

1-Succulents
- All Cacti are succulents but not all succulents are cacti!
- Cacti often talked about separately
- Not very easy to work with

Sanseveria

1-Succulents as houseplants

1-Succulents-Haworthia

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Sanseveria
Peperomia
Christmas cactus
1-Succulents—Echeveria

- Echeveria agavoides
- Echeveria albicans

1-Succulents—Senecio

- Blue Chalk Sticks
- Senecio rowleyanus—String of Pearls

1-Succulents—Other Genera

- Calico Kitten Crassula
- Graptoveria—Ghost Plant
- Sedum—Bun's Tail

1-Succulents—Hardy to Zone 3

- Sedum kamtschaticum
- Sempervivum tectorum
- Graptoveria agavoides

2-Low Maintenance/Native Gardens/ Xeriscaping

- Landscapes with low water needs
- Often composed of native plants that don’t need a lot of TLC
- But many non-natives also work

2-Low Maintenance Growing Tips

- Match plants to the site
- Will need to add water until plants are established
- Use mulches to conserve moisture
- Be prepared to battle weeds
2 - Low Maintenance

- Forbs:
  - Echinacea (right)
  - Russian Sage (Perovskia)
  - Sedums
  - Liatris
  - Heliopsis
  - Salvia
  - Purple Prairie Clover (Petalostemum) (far right)

2 - Low Maintenance Gardens

- Grasses:
  - Little Bluestem (Schizachyrium)
  - Big Bluestem (Andropogon)
  - June Grass (Koeleria)
  - Prairie Dropseed (Sporobolus)
  - Switchgrass (Panicum)
  - Blue Grama (Bouteloua)
  - Side oaks Grama (Bouteloua)

3 - Going Lawn-less

- Getting away from high maintenance, high input lawns to (lower?) maintenance landscaping
- Options:
  - Pathways and patios
  - Ground covers
  - Mulches
  - English Gardens
  - Meadows
  - Vegetable Gardens

4 - Going ‘organic’, sustainable landscapes

- Ties into the low maintenance/lawn-free landscapes
- Reducing use of chemicals-herbicides, insecticides, fertilizers
- Conserving water and controlling run-off
- Reducing use of fossil fuels
- Composting
- Smart plant selection

5 - Pollinator Gardens

- Gardens that attract things that help move pollen
  - bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, bats, beetles, moths
- The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation: [Xerces.com](http://www.xerces.org)
- Manages the largest pollinator conservation program in the world
5 - Pollinator Friendly Practices

- Use a variety of plants with bloom from spring to fall
- Blooms should have pollen that’s accessible
- Native plants often recommended
- Colors important: Bees prefer yellow, blue and purple while butterflies prefer red, orange and yellow
- Shape important: Hummingbirds (hovering) vs. bees (landing)
- Plants should be in groupings

- Weeds such as milkweed and dandelions important
- Provide habitat for nesting and egg-laying
- Limit use of pesticides
- Provide a water source

Visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/plant_materials/technical/publications/?cid=stelprdb1044847

5 - Pollinator Gardens - some specific plants

- Agastache (Hyssop)
- Asclepias (Butterfly Weed, Milkweed)
- Aster spp.
- Baptisia (Blue False Indigo)
- Echinops (Globe Thistle)
- Liatris spp.
- Monarda (Bee Balm)
- Nepeta (Catmint)
- Herbs: Borage, Sage, Comfrey, Mint

6 - Terrariums
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- Can be enclosed or open
- If totally enclosed, high humidity may cause disease
- Condensation on the inside may hamper view
- Bright lights may heat up interior which in turn may harm plants or cause condensation

6 - Terrariums

- Group plants with similar needs together
- Preferably slow growing plants
- Use media that works with chosen plants
- Put activated charcoal at bottom to absorb odors
- When to water will depend on plants; open vs. closed container; outside environment

6 - Terrariums

- David Latimer first planted his bottle garden in 1960 and last watered it in 1972 before tightly sealing it shut ‘as an experiment’

From: The DailyMail.com

- More at:
  - http://www.dailymail.co.uk/science/article-2267504/The-sealed-bottle-garden-thriving-40-years-fresh-air-water.html#ixzz3Uls2oSTD

7 - Miniature and Fairy Gardens

- Similar to terrariums in their small scale
- Not just plants
- Miniature communities of fairies/gnomes/forest creatures

7 - Miniature/Fairy gardens

- Can use indoor or outdoor plants

8 - Edible Gardening - Inside and Out All Year Long

- Front Yard
- Indoors
- Mixed into your border
- In pots
9 - Garden Art using recycled stuff

- Empty wine bottles
- Mason jars
- Pots and pans
- Shoes, boots
- Old flower pots

From birdsandblooms.com

10 - Garden Lighting - ‘After Dark Gardens’

Garden to your own personal style. Start your own trend and do what you like and what works for you!