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Seven Sins of Garden Design

Presented by Rebecca Sweet

Rebecca Sweet is a landscape designer, author, and lifelong gardener based in Northern California. Her gardens have been featured in *Sunset*, *Fine Gardening*, *Woman's Day*, and *American Gardener* and she has been a guest on the critically acclaimed PBS series *Growing a Greener World*. She is the author of *Refresh Your Garden Design with Color, Texture & Form* and the co-author of *Garden Up! Smart Vertical Gardening for Small & Large Spaces*. Learn more about Rebecca's designs, books and upcoming events at www.harmonyinthegarden.com

Seven Sins of Garden Design (and how to avoid making them)

After decades of meeting with frustrated gardeners, landscape designer Rebecca Sweet has broken down the primary causes of garden-related headaches into seven main categories.

Mistakes such as single season gardens, overcrowding, and *one-of-each-itis* (to name just a few) can often derail the best of intentions. Using photos and solutions that are inspiring, informative, and easy to put into practice, you'll soon be on your way to a glorious garden.

Seven Sins of Garden Design

- Creating a single season garden
- Believing the no-maintenance myth
- Suffering from *one-of-each-itis*
- Overcrowding a new garden
- Tiny garden = tiny plants
- Contrast is lacking
- Taking things too seriously!

Presentation Plant List

Four season gardening

- *Viburnum carlcephalum* zones 6-9
- *Ribes sanguineum* 'Claremont' zones 6-9
- *Weigela* 'French Lace', 'Spilled Wine'
- and 'Sonic Bloom' zones 4-9
- *Chaenomeles* 'Cameo' (Quince)
- *Vitex* 'Blue Diddley' Chaste Tree zone 5-9
- *Lagerstroemia* Black Diamond zone 7-9
- *Potentilla fruticosa* 'Gold Finger' and
- 'Mango Tango' zones 4-8
- *Caryopteris* 'Lil Miss Sunshine' zones 5-9
- *Pieris japonica* 'Mountain Fire' zone 5-8
- *Cercis canadensis* 'Ruby Falls' zones 5-9
- *Hydrangea* 'Sykes Dwarf' & 'Ruby Slippers'
- Snowberry 'Charming Fantasy' zones 3-7
- *Rhaphiolepis* 'Blueberry Muffin' z7-10
- *Edgeworthia chrysantha grandiflora* 7-10
- *Mahonia* 'Winter Sun'
- *Hamamelis* var. (Witch Hazels) zones 5-7
- *Cornus stolonifera* 'Flaviramea' zones 4-8
- *Cornus sericea* 'Kelsey' zones 4-8

Lo-maintenance (not NO-maintenance!)

- *Ceanothus* 'Julia Phelps' zones 7b-10
- *Ceanothus* 'Marie Simon' zones 7b-10
- *Loropetalum* 'Emerald Snow' zones 7-10
- *Eleagnus* 'Gilt Edge' zones 6-9
- *Arctostaphylos* 'Howard McMinn' z. 6-9
- *Nandina* 'Flirt' 1.5'x1.5' zones 6-10
- *Nandina* 'Obsession' 4'x4' zones 6-10
- *Arborvitae* 'Golden Globe' zones 4-8
- *Thuja occidentalis* 'Filiformis' zones 4-8

Prevent Crowding—fill in w/annuals & perennials

- Nasturtium varieties
- Lobelia & Coleus varieties
- Million Bells (*calibrachoa*)
- *Bupleurum rotundifolium* (Hare's Ear) seeds
- *Nigella damascene* (Love in a Mist) seeds
- *Nepeta* 'Purple Haze' zone 6-10
- *Verbena* 'Superbena Stormburst' z 8a-11
- *Geranium cantabrigiense* 'Biokovo' z 5-8

Contrast is King – light & airy vs. bold

- *Hosta* 'Mouse Ears' 2'x2'
- *Daphne* 'Marianni' 3x3 zones 6-10
- *Calycanthus* 'Aphrodite' 5'x5' zone 5-9
- *Asparagus densiflorus* 'Myers' zone 9-11
- *Acer* 'Shaina' 4'x4' zones 5-9
- *Liriope* 'Silvery Sunproof' zones 6-9
- *Aruncus aethusifolius* (dwarf goatsbeard) Zones 3-9

Create the illusion of space

- Hosta varieties
- *Mahonia* 'Soft Caress' zone 7-9
- *Aruncus* zone 3-8
- *Rodgersia* zone 3-8
- *Bergenia* varieties zone 4-8

Create plenty of contrast

- *Crocsmia* 'Lucifer' zones 6-9
- *Symphytum x uplandicum* 'Axminster Gold' zone 4-7
- *Asplenium nidus* (Birds Nest Fern) z 11
- *Acacia cognata* 'Cousin Itt' zone 9-11

Additional Info

- **The Winter Garden at Washington Park Arboretum**
<https://harmonyinthegarden.com/the-winter-garden-at-washington-park-arboretum/>
- **Cold Hardy Manzanitas**
<https://www.pacifichorticulture.org/articles/arctostaphylos-for-pacific-northwest-gardens/>
- **Lessons in Form and Shape**
<https://harmonyinthegarden.com/kubota-garden-lessons-in-form-and-shape/>
- **Small Space Before-and-After**
<https://harmonyinthegarden.com/lisas-side-yard/>