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## Big Three in RP/RP



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## Important Pieces

- Function – What do you want the plant to do?
- Aesthetics – What do you want the plant to look like?
- Environment – What conditions does the plant need to grow?
- Source: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/EP416>



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Source:

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/EP416>

Table 1. Function, aesthetic, and environmental considerations

Function	Aesthetics	Environment
Climate control	Color	Soil characteristics
Visual control	Texture	Light level
Physical control	Form	Water quality
Erosion and water control	Size	USDA hardiness zone
Noise and odor control		Temperature ranges
		Wind tolerance
		Disease and pest interactions
		Air pollution
		Maintenance and culture practices
		Life span



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Why does it matter?



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## Why does it matter?

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- Takes the environment into account when planning.
- Forces gardeners to consider the environment and consider choosing plant material that best utilizes the environment.
- If utilized correctly, plant pairings with the environment are in harmony, conserving water, fertilizer, and pesticides.



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## Factors to Consider

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- Grouping Plant Needs:
  - Light Intensity
  - Water Needs
  - Fertilizer Needs
  - Plant Lifetimes
  - Growth Habit of Plant
  - Plant Spacing



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# Aesthetics

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## Look at Plant Characteristics

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- Color
- Flower/Foliage Texture
- Form – Growth Habit
- Size
- Scale – In Relation to Other Plants and Setting



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## An Entire Plant Pallet

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- Many Choices and Combinations
- Mix and Match Colors and Textures
- Choose for Continuous Bloom and Interest
- Choose for Pollinator and Beneficial Insect Enhancement



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Put RP/RP to Work



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## Full Sun Example



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## Coneflower Example

- Light Intensity
- Water Needs
- Fertilizer Needs
- Plant Lifetimes
- Growth Habit of Plant
- Plant Spacing



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## Coneflower Example, Continued...

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- Color
- Flower/Foliage Texture
- Form – Growth Habit
- Size
- Scale – In Relation to Other Plants and Setting



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## Shade Example

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## Hosta Example

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- Light Intensity
- Water Needs
- Fertilizer Needs
- Plant Lifetimes
- Growth Habit of Plant
- Plant Spacing



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## Hosta Example, Continued...

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- Color
- Flower/Foliage Texture
- Form – Growth Habit
- Size
- Scale – In Relation to Other Plants and Setting



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## Putting It Together



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## Nebraska Implications & Goals

- RP/RP is a valuable tool now and in the future!
- Using RP/RP improves resource and environmental conservation.
- Using RP/RP can reduce maintenance time, maintenance requirements, and MONEY!
- Helps improve biodiversity and makes landscapes sustainable and climate resilient.



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Let's Get To Work!!!



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## Questions?

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