
PROPORTION:

- proportions all garden elements should relate to size of house height/size/person
- proportion is how no one element :tree, shrub, pathway, fence, or pergola seems too big or too small.

- Group shrubs & perennials Fibonacci sequence 1 2 3 5 8
- 6 ft shrub against shrubs max 4 ft
- 4 ft shrub perennials 2 1/2 ft

- way to tie grounds to house—relate size of beds to architectural element house or prominent feature in landscape
 - ex. width of front door or garage to width of bed or parts such as twice width door or 1/2 width garage. then to determine length use the fibonacci numbers
 - Use golden ratio for best design on all elements or dimensions, the rule of thirds, 1:3 or 2:3
 - 0,1,1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34,55,89,144,233,377,610,987,1597,2584
 - <http://www.radovleugel.com/golden-ratio-calculator>

- golden rectangle rule: 1 to 1.6 good raised bed 5x8
- area is rectangular, its lines pleasing when length is 2 1/2 x width
- Look for ways to divide a space into smaller sections expressing the 1.618 ratio. divide a space measuring 21 feet into two sections measuring 8' and 13'

- You can do this repeatedly with larger areas, and putting a proportioned square at a 45-degree angle to a wall, house, fountain or other landscape structure can create a feeling of movement while keeping the ratio intact.
- bed that is 13 feet long should be about eight feet wide. This width is the minimum DiSabato-Aust recommends for a mixed border

- Paths look better + practical if their width is generous. (least 3 ft)
- .Look for ways to place plants near one another to mimic the golden ratio. Place a miniature 6-foot tree behind a group of 4-foot shrubs bordering a bed of perennials growing to 2 1/2 feet tall.

- Group plants according to the golden ratio. When you're deciding how many perennials, shrubs and trees to grow, use numbers that align with the golden ratio. Plant 8 perennials, 5 shrubs and 3 trees in the same area, for instance. Even if you're planting just one type of flower in a bed, use those numbers to guide how many you'll use. They end up looking visually balanced even when not set near other groups of plants in the proportional number.

- You can create proportion within a single plant as well, pruning a tree so its flowering branches cover only the top third of the plant, giving a visual balance within the tree itself as well as in its proportion to surrounding plants and landscape structures.
- Towering hedges and trees look out of proportion in a small garden.
- Finally, but most importantly, how do all these components relate to each other?

- Hard landscaping – one-third Soft landscaping two-thirds
- Flower beds – one-third Lawn two-thirds
- Evergreen planting – one-third Deciduous planting – two-thirds
- Shrubs – one-third Perennials and other plants – two-thirds

- single objects (trees, etc) should not be centered—rather off center is more pleasing if planted 1/3 from sides of property, both directions

- slide the tree along either of these two vertical “one-third lines” until it intersects a point made by either of the two horizontal lines dividing the property into thirds from rear property line to house. This is one of the four key points, that is, a point where the vertical and horizontal lines used to divide the yard (or painter’s canvas, or photographer’s viewfinder) into nine equal rectangles intersect.

- natural focal point is the far end, where there may be balanced plantings for the background. If there is a feature here, such as a pool, sundial or bench, it should not be set too close to the background, because any impression of overcrowding disturbs the feeling of peace and restfulness that is the underlying satisfaction of any garden or planting.

- Angular lines can be quite fun and contemporary, particularly when set at irregular angles.

- Beware, however, of too many acute (less than 90 degrees) angles; use them only in hardscape or as a clean-edged lawn, as spilling plants will soon obscure the points and weaken your design.

- intersections—interest, energy, tension

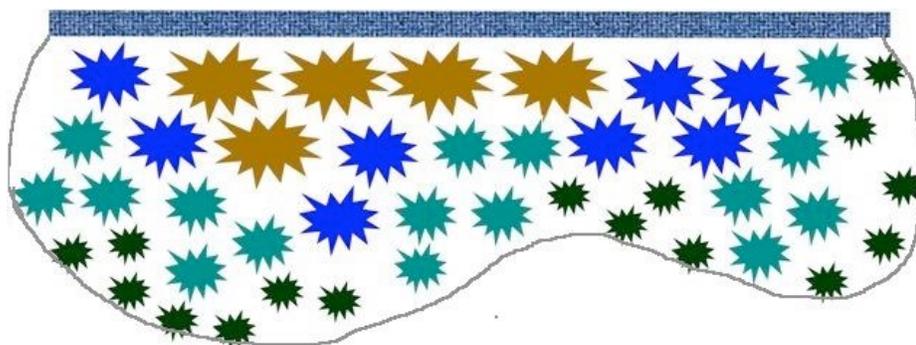
- golden triangle—72degrees at base 36degrees at zenith, or 36degrees at base 108 degrees at apex

- easy to use golden mean tool—del mar lever

- temperate gardens need larger proportion void to mass so enough light can enter composition

- hardscapes need to be in proportion to human body (benches, arbors, etc)

- In general, plants in borders are arranged with tall plants (taller than 2 to 3 feet) placed in the back, mid-size plants (10 inches to 2 to 3 feet tall) in the middle, and short plants (less than 10 inches) in the front of the bed. It is best to use groupings or drifts of plants for a natural feel. Look at the border planting plan below. Tall plants are in brown, medium-tall plants are in blue, medium-short plants are in teal, and short plants are in dark green. Note that the plants are grouped rather than in rows.



Another way we can ensure good proportion in our landscapes is with the use of a grid. To do this, draw a series of vertical and horizontal lines on some trace paper and place over a plan view of your property. It’s most effective if you can make the size of the grid square relate to the house in some way, but be careful not to make the square too small or

the whole purpose will be defeated. In the example below, I've chosen a grid square that is the same size as the house indentation in the right corner.

