
TEXTURE the surface of something



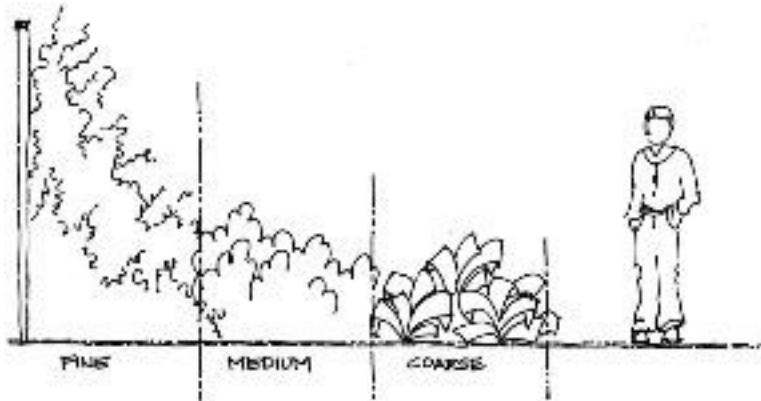
- fine--coarse/heavy--light/thin--dense/light--shade
- foliage vs twig size vs mass of plants
- add interest + richness, harmony, repetition, rhythm

- texture is relative to what is near it
- changes with day and season
- changes with distance
 - close up-texture is size/shape/color of leaves/twigs
 - far away-texture is mass and play of light

- comes from bark, flowers, foliage, seedheads, spines
 - exfoliation--paperbark maples, shagbark hickory, stewartia, chinese elm, musclewood, oakleaf hydrangea
- also hardscape of paths, buildings, patios, etc

- **keep your planting beds balanced with a ratio of 1/3 fine texture to 2/3 coarse, your garden will sing with harmony! (flowers)**
- contrasting surfaces of plants, structures, etc heighten visual impact each room
- bold colors increase contrast and make textures appear coarser
- coarse hardscape makes all plant material look coarser
- **“texture echoing”=Japanese technique**-repeat texture of plant materials all around garden to draw eyes around space
- **Sequence texture**
 - change leaf size of adjacent plants by at least 1/2
 - use proportionally more fine texture than coarse texture plants,
 - 1 coarse to 3-5 medium to 6-11 fine textured plants

- texture becomes finer with distance, put fine texture in corners and coarse texture on arms (L shape)
- in a curved bed, put finer texture inside curve, and coarse plants opposite
- to make space appear bigger, put fine texture on perimeter, medium next, coarse inside



- FINE TEXTURE:

- more subdued, formal, enlarges garden space
- low visual weight
- small foliage, thin strappy leaves, tiny twigs + branches, delicate flowers
- smooth water, smooth stone, wood, ceramic pots, glass
- should predominate, but, need med/coarse texture also or it looks messy
- evergreens considered fine textured, but some weightier than others
- looks better to mix evergreens than just 1 type
- grasses, ferns, japanese maples, vines, fine needled junipers
- good for unifying an area
- put finer texture in corner, sequencing to coarser

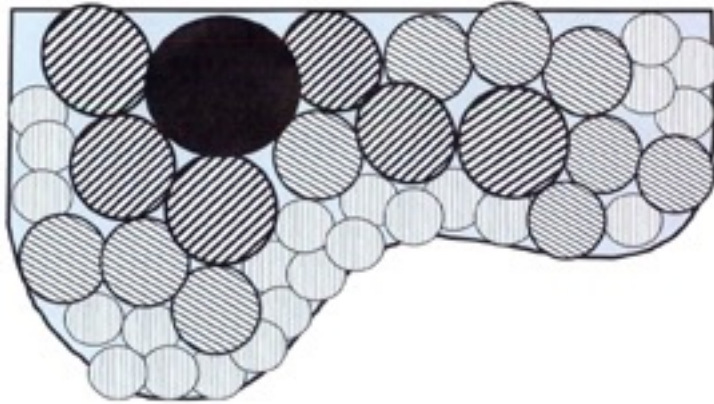


- MEDIUM TEXTURE:

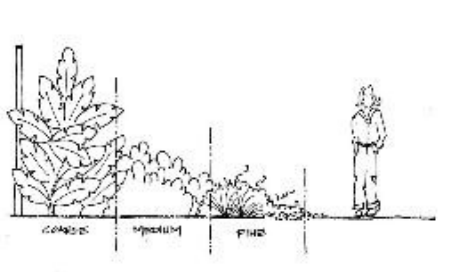
- most plants fall in this group
- medium leaves, simple shapes, smooth edges
- form typically rounded or mounding
- act as background to link coarse and fine texture elements
- agapanthus, ardisia, camellia, euonymus, pittosporum, viburnum
- flagstone pavers, broom brushed concrete, finished woods

- COARSE TEXTURE:

- visually dominant, informal, put in front of fine texture to enlarge space
- large leaves, irregular edges, bold, deep veins, thick twigs/branches, spines
- tropical feel, draws eyes, gives it a place to rest
- VARIGATED plants coarser than nonvarigated



- banana plants, philodendrons, agave, bromeliads, hollies, palms, hydrangeas, cactus, New Zealand Flax,
- make garden space feel smaller if too many
- limit use, so not too much competition
- great for accenting an area
- put fine texture plants in inside curve and coarse plants opposite, see above
- to make a large space feel smaller,, put coarse texture at back and fine texture in front
- ex. cannas, hostas, rice paper plant, elephant ears, banana plants, yuccas, agave,



- ROUGH TEXTURE

- surfaces with spines, hairs, bumps, protrusions
- deflects light
- minimizes distance—plants feel closer, and space smaller

- SMOOTH TEXTURE

- regular surface with no protrusions

- SHINY TEXTURE

- shiny surfaces reflect light and call attention to itself
- beware too many shiny big leaf plants

- MATTE TEXTURE

- light is absorbed, colors muted, blend into background

Plant textures to consider when planning a garden

The following plants will provide a range of textural qualities in any landscape.

Texture Example

Velvety Stachys (lamb's ears), Lychnis (campion)

Smooth Sempervivum (hen and chicks), Mahonia (grape holly)

Fine Chamaecyparis (false-cypress), Pinus strobes (white pine)

Rough Hydrangea (oak-leaved or climbing), Euonymus plata (burning bush)

Rugged Yucca (Adam's needle), Stipa (cord grass)

Quilted Hosta sieboldiana, Hamamelis virginiana (witch hazel)

Coarse Ricans communist (castor bean plant), Catalpa (umbrella tree), Acanthus (bear's breeches)

If you can keep your planting beds balanced with a ratio of 1/3 fine texture to 2/3 coarse, your garden will sing with harmony!

heterophonic texture is the mixing of different cultivars of Salvia. Each supports the larger melodic gesture, but each cultivar adds a slight variation or ornamentation of the melody. What you get is a feeling of added depth and sparkle that would not be possible with a single cultivar. From a practical point of view, using different cultivars also extends the season of interest.



