

## **Basic Landscape Tips**

1. Group plants with similar sun and water requirements. Ferns and cacti don't mix!
2. Tall plants to the back; short ones in front.
3. Use wide beds.
4. Plant in groups, not lines, using odd numbers – 3, 5, 7 . . .
5. Use a variety of tall plants in hedges instead of just one kind of plant.
6. Use perennials as the landscape backbone; avoid “bedding” plants.
7. Use more grasses either in drifts of several plants or large single plants.
8. Use native annuals to fill empty spots in a new landscape.
9. Don't forget to use BIG pots of natives for interest.

## **Helpful Hints for Growing Native Plants**

When growing plants native to your ecoregion, be aware--

1. They are wild and not as well-behaved as hybrid plants bred for certain traits.
2. They will SLEEP the 1st year planted, CREEP the 2nd and LEAP the 3rd.
3. Do not fuss over them (they have survived thousands of years without help).
4. They rarely need fertilizer and if used make it organic not chemical. Compost is good.
5. Don't deadhead (cut off dead flowers) if you want wildlife to have the seeds as food.
6. Tolerate a little messiness for the sake of wildlife.
7. Let annuals go to seed for next year's crop.
8. Realize natives will move around the garden when they throw their seeds.
9. Share the surprise seedlings that will appear.
10. Right plant, right place—correct type of soil, sun exposure, amount of water.