



Henderson County Master Gardeners

Weekly News Article

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Be a Landscape Copy-Cat by Lydia Holley

Do you know what style of garden you like? If you said no, then you need to visit several public and private gardens. You can even look through books or magazines. Do you gravitate toward formal design, clipped hedges, and lots of evergreens? Or do you prefer the billowy style of cottage gardens, overflowing with colorful blooms? Perhaps you are most drawn to meadow style plantings with ornamental grasses and native wildflowers, or the calming feel of a Japanese garden.



Whatever your personal style, an easy way to achieve it is to copy, copy, copy. Take photos of the gardens that you love. Pull out photos in magazines. You will want to determine which of these plants will do well in your particular area, paying attention to zones, soil type, moisture needs, and the sun or shade requirements that your garden provides.

You will want to copy not only the plantings, but also pay attention to how the plants are repeated. Is there a certain color scheme which pulls at your heartstrings? Take a little time to study the photos which you have chosen to copy. When you begin to really study a particular style or favorite designer, you may be surprised to see different aspects to the design which you did not see initially.

Of course, each plot is different, so you will not be able to place your favorite design exactly into your space. This is where it becomes fun. Draw out your design on paper before placing it into your garden. Have you used the various aspects of your chosen design style in a way that appeals to you? Do you have all the necessary elements of your chosen garden style? Do you have interest throughout the entire year with either blooms or evergreens? Again, think about color, repetition, sun, shade, and moisture requirements.

Finally, implement. If you want a miniature Versailles in your garden, you can achieve it. If you want a meadow in your backyard, you can have it. Want a cottage garden in your front yard? Your wish can be fulfilled. And it can all be achieved with just a bit of study and selection, applying the design trick that is often used but never mentioned: copy, copy, copy.

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