

Combined in a border or rock garden or used alone as a specimen, shrubs attractively planted are an asset to your property. Take careful notice of each plant you'd like to use--its shape, foliage, texture, color of blooms and leaves, and size. Then think how the plants would look together and with other parts of their surroundings.

In a border and rock garden, shapes of evergreens and euonymus can blend with the rocks and tulips for spring, annuals for summer, and chrysanthemums for fall to make an overall picture on a sloping lot. On the other hand, a rhododendron may stand alone, needing no background or foreground plantings to accompany it. Such dramatic forms accent a front entrance or add a spark of color to a landscape. Choose accents for the most important places only.

Pick plants not only to disguise a fence or screen the view of a busy street, but also consider how well the shrub combines with things around it. Take a tip from nature: mix plants that grow near each other in forests, marshes, or deserts.