

Dyer's Garden Proposed Design Plan

2012 Landscape Arboretum Internship Project

Daniel Tierney

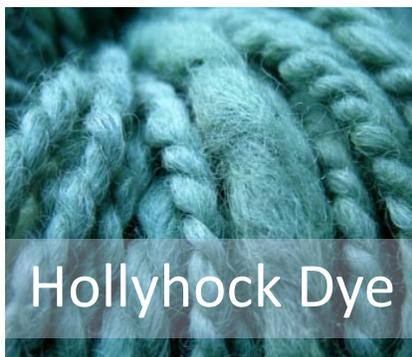
The Dyer's Garden at the University of Minnesota's Landscape Arboretum is a fairly unique grouping of plants. Each and every plant in the garden has at least one part that is used in the dyeing of fabrics. The goal of my project this summer was not to radically change the makeup or layout of the garden, but simply to reorganize the existing plants in terms of secondary uses, color, and size; as well as introduce a handful of new plants to the mix.

Chicory was added to the layout for two main reasons. The first is for the unique coloring of floral structures. Its addition next to plants containing pinks and reds provides a fantastic contrast of color. The second reason is for chicory's unique property in the world of wool dyeing in that the dye created relies heavily on the mordant chosen. Anything from dirty browns to yellows and oranges can be obtained with different mordants by using the stems and flowers. Chicory also has culinary uses and can be used as a substitute for (or an addition to) coffee.



Allium cepa (onion) was added to the layout as well. It's a nice plant to have for learning purposes; as it shows anyone with a vegetable garden that they already have many of the tools for dyeing wool right in their backyard. The dye obtained from the onions depends entirely on the skin color. A yellow onion can give burnt yellows, orange, and brass colors while the reds give golden hues and dark tans.

Among the rest of the plants added (Yarrow, Foxglove, Rose Mallow, Elecampane, and others), the Hollyhock stands out as being the most essential to the garden. Hollyhock can grow up to 10 feet tall and is usually treated as a short-lived perennial in Minnesota living for 2-3 years. The dye it creates is dependent on the color of the flower. The dark purple flower was chosen for this layout as it creates a very unique green-blue hue when applied to wool.



The final step was putting all the new additions together in a layout that made sense in the plant groupings, while still being aesthetically pleasing. Plants with similar secondary functions to dying were kept as close as possible while still taking size, shape, and color into consideration. A border along most of the garden is proposed with a combination of Zinnia, Dahlias, Snapdragons, Nasturtium, Marigold, Narcissus, and Saponaria. The Euonymus, Baptisia, Ceanothus, Philadelphus, and Cotinus are all already well established in the garden and are to stay where they presently are. The proposed garden contains 40 unique plant species. The plants with secondary functions are as follows.

Tools

- *Euonymus europaeus*
- *Yucca filamentosa*
- *Fargesia nitida*
- *Phyllostachys aureosulcata*

Soaps

- *Philadelphus lewisii*
- *Saponaria ocymoides*
- *Withania somnifera*
- *Yucca glauca*

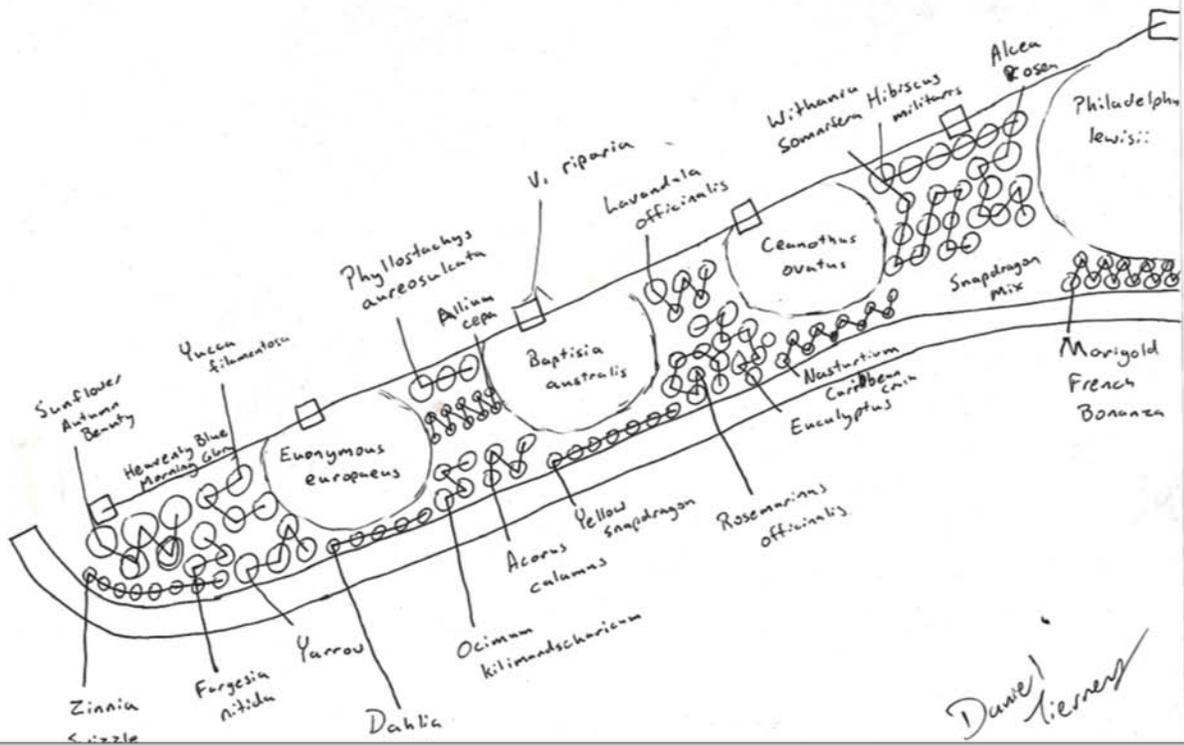
Insecticide/Fiber

- *Lavandula officinalis*
- *Rosmarinus officinalis*
- *Eucalyptus globulus*
- *Acorus calamus*
- *Chrysanthemum coccineum*

Fiber

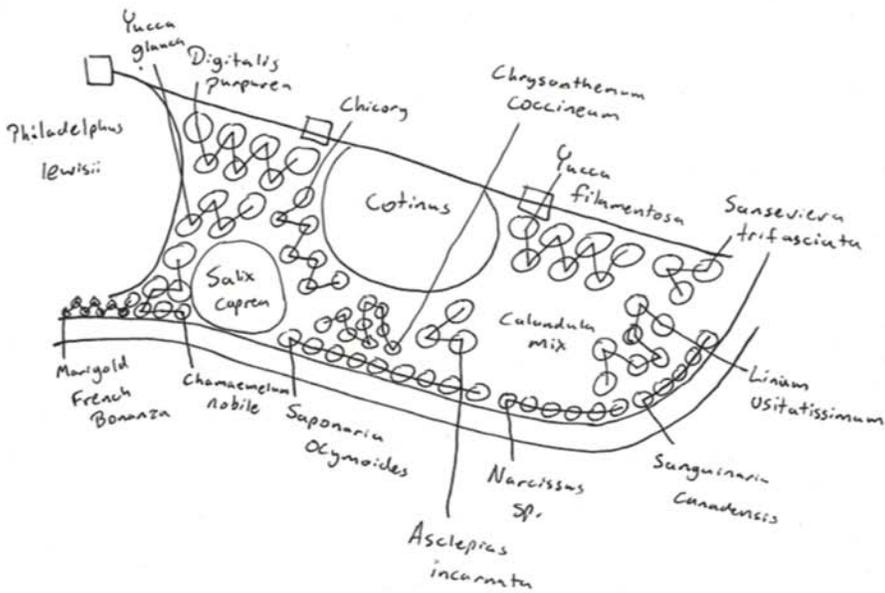
- *Agave sp.*
- *Sansevieria trifasciata*
- *Linum usitatissimum*
- *Yucca filamentosa*

Dyers Garden South



Daniel Nierny

Dyers Garden North



Daniel Nierny