

Consider Creeping Perennials

Almost every homeowner has an area in the landscape where grass just won't grow, but there is something you can do to fill in the space.

When deciding which perennials to plant, first determine how much you are going to use the planted area. Will the area have sun exposure? Will it experience light, moderate or heavy foot traffic? When choosing plants, keep in mind that the denser the plant, the more traffic it will take.

Curb appeal is another important consideration related to improving a home's landscape and overall appearance. Think about the elements of decor—brick, slate, concrete, paint color, and color schemes. Make plant choices that work well with the surroundings.

The next step is choosing the right plants for the area's environmental conditions. The number one thing to look for is sun to shade ratio and where the light hits. Next, test soil quality by taking a sample to a local garden center for analysis, and improving the soil's nutrient content if necessary. It's also important to make sure the area you will be planting in has adequate drainage.

Courtesy ARAcontent

KALE-AND-BLUEBERRY SLAW WITH BUTTERMILK DRESSING

Ingredients

6 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
3 tablespoons grated onion
1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1/4 teaspoon hot sauce (such as Tabasco)
1 garlic clove, minced
1/2 Granny Smith apple, grated
1 cup buttermilk
6 tablespoons mayonnaise
6 tablespoons sour cream
3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh tarragon
1/2 to 1 tsp. kosher salt
1/4 to 1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
1/4 to 1/2 tsp. sugar
6 radishes, thinly sliced
4 medium carrots, cut into thin strips
1 bunch kale, trimmed and thinly sliced
1/2 small head red cabbage, shredded
1 cup fresh blueberries
1 cup fresh raspberries

Preparation

1. Stir together first 6 ingredients in a jar with a tight-fitting lid; let stand 5 minutes. Add buttermilk and next 3 ingredients. Cover jar with lid; shake vigorously until blended and smooth. Add salt, pepper, and sugar to taste.
2. Toss together radishes, next 5 ingredients, and 1/2 cup dressing in a large bowl; let stand 30 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Serve with remaining dressing.

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