Talks for the General Public

Plant Disease Management by Design
Preventing Plant Disease Problems
During the Landscape Design Process

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Potential disease issues abound in landscape settings
Some issues develop soon after planting; others take years to manifest
Some issues are preventable
More sustainable landscapes are possible

Plant Disease Management by Design
Observations

Site Evaluation
Check for a history of severe diseases.

Plant Selection
Plant Installation
Post-Installation Care

Check for any topological oddities.

Site Evaluation
Learn the cropping history of the site.
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Site Evaluation

• Evaluate soil characteristics.

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Site Evaluation

• Check the soil pH.

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Plant Selection

• Avoid certain plant species.

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Plant Selection

• Avoid certain plant varieties.

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Plant Selection

• Diversify your plant palette.

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Plant Selection

• DO NOT plant monocultures.
- Consider using resistant varieties.

- But, realize that resistance has limits.

- Diversify resistance wherever possible.

- Consider plant provenance.

- Consider buying locally produced plants.

- Start with pathogen-free plants.
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Plant Selection

- Avoid problematic plant pairings.

- Use bare root woody plants if possible.

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Plant Installation

- Site plants properly.

- Optimize plant spacing.

- Modify soil as needed.
- Prepare plants properly for planting.
- Mulch properly.
- Rotate annual bedding plants.
- Water properly.
- Water adequately.
- Prune, thin, and divide as needed.
• Control weeds.

• Have a good yearly clean up plan.

• Disease issues can be common and sometimes serious in landscape settings
• Many diseases can be addressed during the design process, yielding more sustainable landscapes
• DO NOT expect perfection
• Design to so that clients enjoy their landscapes (including the diseases)

Where to Go for Help

Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic
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