

DURABLE PLANTS THAT ENJOY THE SOCIAL LIFE

WHAT WE KNOW CARRIES US TO WHO WE ARE, OUR AWARENESS OF HOW WE LIVE, WHO WE LIVE WITH AND OUR GREAT PLEASURE IN THE ROLE WE PLAY.

1. Think about the value of plant roots and the role they play in the health of soils. When selecting plants are the present and future development of roots compatible with the soils and the water available?
2. How do the plants you choose move through the earth? At what rate do they travel and how is their rate of movement increased or slowed down? How does the crown of a plant collide with another? At what rate and energy? Who absorbs the encounter? How does each crown age and weaken, allowing other plants to fill in? What plants seed first and freely in their youth? How can that affect all the other newly planted youthful plants?
3. How long does it take your chosen plant to develop from youth to maturity, in a season and through the years?
4. As a plant matures at what rate does it re seed and how does its growth rate enhance or inhibit the development of neighboring plants planted at the same time?
5. What does Ecology mean to you? Define litter, insect damage, disease, weeds and chemicals, are they all simply good or bad?
6. Do you see beyond the object? What are the morning, afternoon and evening colors of the sky? How do you define beauty? Are you openly open minded?
7. When do foxtails germinate? When does Chickweed germinate? Why would you need to know this? What's the average monthly rainfall? Why do you need to know this?
8. When was the last time you walked through a remnant prairie? How much diversity can you find? Do we have that much in our restorations?
9. Are you planting monoculture groupings or are you incorporating diversity into your planting?
10. In 15 years can you imagine continuous, rhythmic plantings that flow through the cities and villages using and combining native perennials and regionally dependable perennials, living in their own litter, living on average rainfall, contributing to the increase and health of insects, birds and most of all each one of us? Fresh, alive in our place.

