

Babdown Farmhouse

Lookbook & Design Direction



Inspiration Images - Shrub Border

The shrub border brief: warm colors, low maintenance, seasonal interest

A low maintenance colourful shrub border alongside the drive, with year-round interest in rich, warm sunset tones, to draw the eye away from, and provide cover for, some visually unappealing features and to create a sense of welcome along the drive.

My thoughts currently, for both aesthetic and budgeting benefit, is to incorporate as many of your wish list plants as possible (considerations mainly being budget, size and impact) and fill in with low maintenance, high impact ground covers and smaller ornamentals such as ornamental grasses, hebes, huecheras and heaths.

I've pulled together some pictures to give you a visual concept of what these plant pairings can do together. To provide direction for the design, please take a look at the following images and let me know what you like, what you don't like, and any thoughts.

Please note: images not my own! I'd hate to get into a copyright blunder...

Image 1



This image shows dogwoods, grasses and heaths used as a very simple but effective border planting; it's grown in to appear full, with lots of variation in height, texture and color.

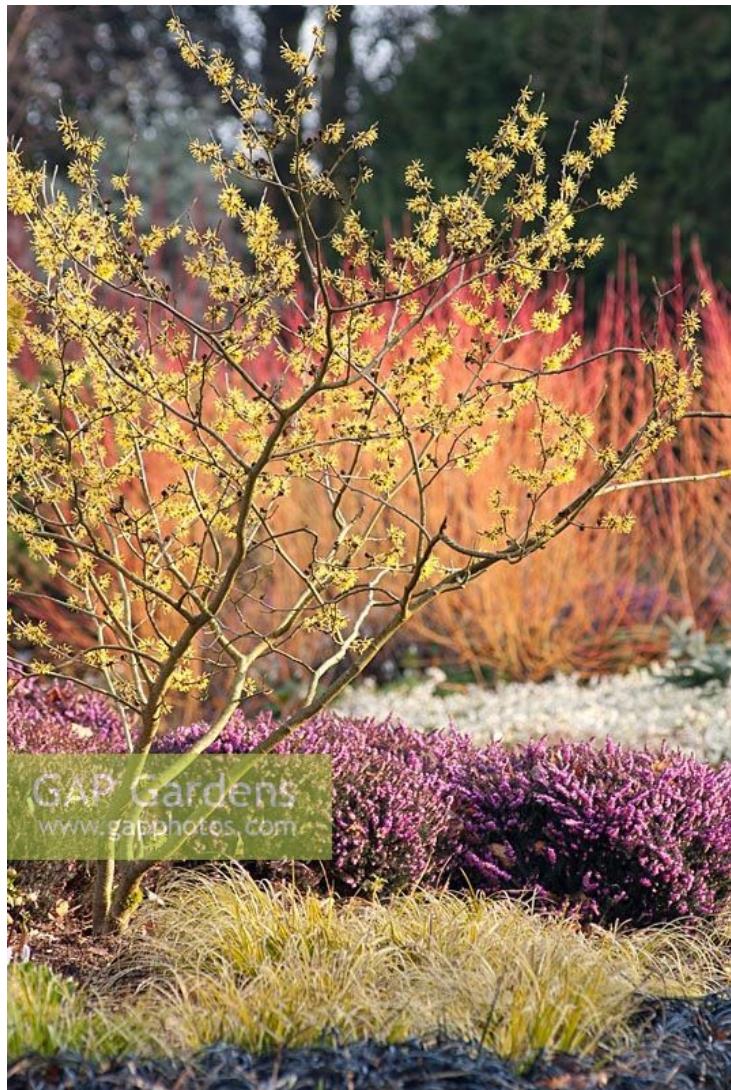
Incredibly low maintenance and providing interest year round, this could be the basis of a solid design. The dogwoods draw the eye up and back, giving a sense of height.

Image 2



Here you can see grasses used to maximum effect to create a vibrant palette with lots of movement. A combination of low maintenance grasses and evergreen shrubs give lots of visual draw with a warm palette. The grasses are the centerpiece of this look and are a fluffy swathe of interest, keeping the eye central and low.

Image 3



Here you can see Hamamelis (witch hazel) used against a background of heathers, and ophiopogon grasses. Your plant wish list includes Forsythia, which could be used to similar effect as the witch hazel here with a backdrop of low growing, colourful ground covers. You can also see Cornus 'Midwinter Fire' in the background - also on the list.

Image 4



One final image to show the way that evergreens with deeper green foliage pop against the winter reds and yellows shown here in *Cornus* and heather species. Viburnums and Hebes are a great way to get some dense evergreen coverage that will provide a wonderful backdrop to the more colourful flowers, stems and foliage throughout the year and add their own flowers and berries for color as well.

Inspiration Images - Sundial

The sundial brief: calm elegance to welcome guests

A stately, yet rustic focal point at the front of the house, spilling over with flowers, fragrance and country charm.

Pairing *Nepeta* (Russian sage) with some low fragrant thyme, *Ophiopogon* grass or evergreen foliage plant *Heuchera* at the front will give a lovely multi-layered, frothy and colourful effect.

Heuchera foliage ranges from brightest lime green and yellow through to red, purple and purple-blacks depending on the selected cultivar, so the effects you can create with these are striking and varied.

A dark underplanting like *Ophiopogon* will make the *Nepeta* really pop, and its evergreen nature will make sure the planter looks nice even through the winter, once the sage has finished flowering.

Thyme has endless benefits, both in it's fragrance and flower, as well as the variety of foliage colors and the flowers that are attractive in their own right.

I've included some pictures below to show you some of the varieties that would be a good companion for the *Nepeta*. Let me know what you think!



Sundial Planters

I've looked into several options for the sundial planting, and believe the best options lie in using edging to create a border, or finding the right size and height for a circular planter in a rustic metal effect. See below some findings for your consideration.

Option 1:



Custom Size Mega-Ringola Circular Rustic Steel Raised Flower Bed by Bellamy,
sourced from indooroutdoors.co.uk

The custom sizing options and naturally rusty finish makes this perfect for the sundial placement.

A planter with a 1300mm diameter at 300mm high = £240.00

Option 2:



Custom sized planting edger from everedge.co.uk

Waiting on quotation for required dimensions; likely to be slightly more expensive, but made from a thicker steel, and more durable.