

“Nature always wears the colours of the spirit”
Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Emotional Garden

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COLOUR WHEEL



Emotional response to colour is influenced by personal and cultural experience; however, some emotions linked to colour are fairly universal. Most colours evoke positive as well as negative responses.

Primary Colours

Red is associated with passion from love to anger. Power colour that increases energy.

Blue is a calming, hopeful colour but darker hues can feel cold and sad.

Yellow is a vigorous cheerful colour but is also associated with mistrust and falsehood.

Secondary Colours

Orange is associated with hospitality and fun, but can be overwhelming.

Purple is the colour of royalty and wealth, but also sadness and foreboding.

Green is reassuring, the colour of fertility and renewal, but also jealousy and illness.

Neutrals

White/silver/gray/pastels can be used to separate and balance some of the stronger colours. White is especially associated with innocence and cleanliness. These colours stand out best in low light.

Black is associated with power but also solemnity. There are few actual black flowers, but there are more plants that have very dark stems and foliage. Black can be used to create dramatic contrast.

Combining Colours

Monochromatic using one colour and its variations to present a balanced, elegant look.

Analogous combining colours that are next to each other on the colour wheel to create a rich, harmonious look.

Complementary using colours that are opposite each other on the colour wheel to achieve a contrasting, dramatic look.

Polychromatic using a wide range of colours to create a carefree vibrant look. Attention should be paid to intensity, texture and quantity in this combination to maintain balance and not create chaos.

Setting the Mood

Restful, romantic, inviting can be achieved by using pastels, neutrals in monochromatic schemes with delicate and feathery flowers and foliage. Use repetition of plant groupings, but you can create more interest with limited use of small brightly coloured focal points.

Mysterious and dramatic is achieved by using dark colours with large leaves. Besides the plants you would also reflect this with strong containers and garden art. Interest can be heightened with a splash of primary colour.

Warm, joyful and invigorating calls for the use of bright primary colours with lots of flowers. Feathery, spikey forms in flowers and foliage at different levels. You want to attract attention and energy.

Calm and peaceful can be achieved by using blues, purples and green. Plants with rounded leaves or shapes as well as fine leaf textures. Monochromatic and analogous colour schemes using the lighter and pastel hues.

Special Event use the colours of your team, school and for **Canada 150** use red, white and deep green.

References:

“Garden Design for the Short Season Yard” by Lyndon Penner

“The Nonstop Color Garden” by Nellie Neal

“Colour Schemes for the Flower Garden” by Gertrude Jekyll (check out websites and Images for samples of garden ideas by this renowned garden designer)

www.gardendesignexposed.com (check out color and mood, and garden color schemes)

www.flower-gardens.net

www.quartoknows.com (garden colors and emotions)

www.provenwinners.com (check out, learn basic design, using color, and container gardening)

Use Images for ideas on Pinterest and HGTV