

## DEVELOPING A HORTICULTURAL PRESENTATION

The following are guidelines in the proper development of a horticultural presentation. The guidelines are weighted towards the more popular power point presentations but much of the information would apply to; verbal, interactive, flip chart, or other slide presentations.

For the purpose of this discussion I am going to select a topic that I do not have in my inventory and apply it to the process. The topic will be **‘The Art of Growing Perennials.’**

1. **Prepare an Outline for the topic.** It important to develop some manner of initial outline for what you will be presenting. This may take the shape of areas like; personal introduction, information about MGOI and more specifically your group, definition of terms used in your presentation, general terms soil, water, light, fertilizing, mulching, weeding that can be expanded prior to writing the developed presentation. More will be elaborated on in the final outline.

3. **Develop an Information File On Your Computer entitled ‘Perennial Outline’** and input the general headings you have develop.

3. **Research.** Read! Read! Read!. Immerse yourself in as many aspects of perennial gardening as you can using library facilities, the internet, your own literary resources and even your own common gardening practices. Input information you have gleaned in the information file on your computer using a random point process. The research part is usually the longest one that necessitates the collecting of a significant amount of data. Remember that this data is in mini article and point form and no attempt should be made to write the presentation until you have input a significant amount of data. The more research done the more you learn about the topic and the more ammunition you have in your presentation.

4. **Start Writing.** It is important at this time to start writing your lecture. Review the original topic outline and expand on it to cover many areas of your presentation. Remember, you should not be making any decision on slides until **AFTER** writing out your presentation. A new topic guideline on this presentation might now look like the following;

## SUGGESTED TOPIC GUIDELINE

1. Introduction of self - a few minutes.
2. MGOI Information and local group info for information and credibility.
3. What you plan to accomplish in this presentation. Why growing perennials is an art. Refer to the landscape portrait they illustrate as well as symmetry in the garden

## **Headings**

## **Sub Headings**

Definition of terms

Annual, Biennial and Perennial  
 Benefits of perennials over other options  
 Indicate that gardeners must have a plan for  
 What perennials to grow; color, scent, height,  
 practical purposes.  
 Define gardening zones and emphasize that  
 Perennials should be those favorable to your  
 Zone.

**Factors that determine perennial growth**

Light, soil, water, fertilizer, temperature, mulch

**Preparing the Perennial Site.**

Use of compost and soil amendments, determine  
 your soil composition by testing

**Light**

Define types of light-shade, part sun, etc.  
 List 5 perennials for each light condition  
 Short description of each perennial

**Soil**

Define clay, sandy and loamy soils  
 Promote a kind of soil acidity test.  
 Define acid and alkaline

List 5 perennials each that can survive  
 in different soil conditions like alkaline  
 acid, clay and sand. Might also include  
 some that can tolerate salty areas.

Briefly describe each perennial

**Water**

Various watering needs for perennials  
 Need to group them according to needs  
 Define moist environment, Xeriscape,  
 When best to water and how much.

List 5 perennial plants that cover the  
 watering needs in your sub headings.

Briefly describe each plant

<b>Fertilizing</b>	<p>Difference between organic and manufactured fertilizers.</p> <p>Definition of the numbers on a fertilizer container.</p> <p>Difference between liquid and pellet forms.</p> <p>Dangers of over fertilizing</p>
<b>Bug Problems</b>	<p>List only popular ones like aphids, flea beetles, slugs, etc and their remedies.</p>
<b>Diseases</b>	<p>List popular diseases like; sooty mold, blight, Anthracnose, galls, rusts, etc and some suggested remedies</p>
<b>Mulching</b>	<p>Describe the different kinds of mulch .</p> <p>Discuss the Dangers of overmulching</p> <p>Benefits of mulching</p> <p>When to apply and when to remove</p>
<b>Continual Care</b>	<p>Weeding. Deadheading. Pruning. Inspecting Regularly for bug or disease infestation.</p>
<b>How to Select a healthy Plant</b>	<p>Describe in point form how to purchase A healthy store bought plant.</p>
<b>Putting Your Perennials to Bed</b>	<p>When to cut them back, weeding,</p> <p>Not covering the plant with mulch.</p> <p>Hilling up or protection from rabbits</p>
<b>Final Comments</b>	<p>How many rewards you can get from Properly managing your perennial bed.</p>

**SLIDE SELECTION.** Once you have written out your topic in good form it is then time to try to enhance them with slides. Other than the occasional slide flashing, it is important that something of value is discussed with each slide.

The number of slides is determined by how long the topic is and what speed you present. Go

light

on the script slides and try to incorporate them into the visual slides. Each slide should require no more than 30 seconds to discuss and some even less so that could be a barometer of the number you select.

The slides on the MGOI CD are easy to incorporate into a presentation. I only use 3 of these in every one of my presentations.

Try to use as many slides from your personal list of pictures as possible. Failing that, there are thousands that can be downloaded legally from Goggle.

Using the above topic as an example I would use the following slides;

1. MGOI - 3 slides
2. My garden - 2 slides
3. One of a sample annual, biennial, perennial - 3
4. Examples of perennials with different light needs and zone -8
5. Examples of Perennials with Different Soil Needs - 10
6. Perennials with different water needs - 8
7. Picture of fertilizer container highlighting numbers.- 1
8. Different kind of mulch - 6
9. Pictures of 5 different bug pests - 5
10. Some pictures of beneficial bugs to combat problems - 5
11. List of different plant diseases - 5
12. List of some common weeds in the perennial bed - 5
- 13 Picture of perennials needing deadheading or clipping(roses) -4
- 14 Pictures of different types of fall care-hilling, pruning, protection from salt and wildlife.-5
15. Final picture of a life sized healthy perennial to close.-

Total preliminary slides for this presentation are 71. This number can be altered during your review before presenting and the number does not include 3 or 4 script slides.

Slides by themselves should not be used as the brunt of the presentation but only to enhance what you are highlighting. Remember to have something of value to say on each slide and that will require you to do a lot of research.

**REHEARSE YOUR PRESENTATION.** View it on your laptop and read your notes as if you were presenting. It would be more valuable if you could use your projector and have it on a wall to see what the audience will see. Add or subtract slides as your comfort range permits and get to know your subject area.

**SAVE EVERYTHING.** Save your presentation constantly on your system, on a disk and back it up on your external hard drive or a Data Traveler. You will need the Disk and the Data Traveler for possible backup when you present.

**REVIEW.** Never regard a presentation as totally complete. Develop a file on each topic where you can put any interesting articles, or written directions in a folder and review a few weeks before presenting the topic again. I review most of my topics every 6 months.

The above is my initial take on the subject and would probably change when I started writing the lecture. Information will vary according to zones.

Please feel free to contact me for any other suggestions;

Ron Rossini [lon.rossini@imag.net](mailto:lon.rossini@imag.net)