

Garden Tour Description 2022

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Welcome to the backyard garden of our family of plants. Our house was built in 2002, but it became our home in October 2008. The neighbors told us that the yard had been neglected by former owners so it was mostly weeds. The second owner had the cement patio and the flowerbed that edges it constructed to help sell the home. They also covered the remaining area with a lawn composed of grass and annual rye. When the rye died, and the grass became diseased I had the idea to follow the pattern of the grass that had survived to create the unique shape of the lawn that you see today.

It was not until the summer of 2010 that I was ready to start planting trees and shrubs. I started with 2 Radiant Crabapple trees on either side of the patio. Sadly, one of the trees succumbed just this past winter from the early harsh freeze we experienced in the autumn of 2014. As you make your way around the yard you will encounter the next batch of trees and shrubs that were planted around 2011. These are: 2 Bradford Pears (which I find are good at surviving our challenging climate) and 2 Newport Plums for their dark red leaves. In the corner behind the Pear tree are 2 Redbud trees that replanted themselves after the original one died. The Black River Birch tree (on the other side of the yard) was planted only 4 seasons ago to replace the hanging Crabapple tree that was once there. The soil in this area tends to be damp and this Birch which is prominent in the marshy SE areas of the country likes “wet feet” and clay soil, so I thought I would give it a try.

The first bush to be planted is the Service Berry that blooms white flowers in early spring which turn into small red berries that the robins furiously eat in the summer. The next plants are a Lime Spirea, a Weigela, Asiatic Day Lillies, Bearded Irises, Lavender, and a row of Mrs. Bagshaw perennials. You will also see the beginnings of the large leaves of 2 Rose Mallow Hibiscus that bloom their large tropical looking flowers the entire month of August. There is also a raspberry-colored Butterfly bush and 2 Hyssop perennials nearby.

The center garden bed has 2 Canadian Lilac bushes that flower in late spring, a Rose of Sharon, Phlox, Raspberry Wine Bee Balm, Jupiter’s Beard, Coneflowers, a Potentilla bush, Coreopsis, Astra Blue Balloon plants, Irises, a Lucifer Crocosmia that blooms in July and an American Beauty bush. There are 2 metal cone trellises – one with a Blue Ravine Clematis vine and the other has a Honeysuckle vine.

The second corner of the yard has 2 Carefree Rose bushes (pink and red) as well as a Spirea bush.

Along the back of the house is an Anah Kruschke Rhododendron with a mystery bush that planted itself behind it. There is also a self-planted Service Berry bush. How fun that many plants have self-propagated.

My goal was to create a garden where there is always something blooming throughout our growing season as well as a garden that attracts birds, butterflies, and friendly bees. I hope some yellow swallow tail butterflies and bumble bees will be visiting as you look around and that you have found some inspirational ideas for your yard.