

## **We're Here to Help!**

*Creating a dynamic landscape isn't all in the flower color, shape and size.*

*You can accessorize your blooming beauties with foliage color and texture that accentuates and enhances the overall appearance of your garden.*

*For ideas or help with selections, come see us. Phelan Gardens is open seven days a week.*



Open Year-Round  
7 days a week

4955 Austin Bluffs Parkway  
80918 \* 574-8058

[www.phelangardens.com](http://www.phelangardens.com)

- \*local gardening information
- \*upcoming classes & events
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## **Foliage...The Forgotten Factor**

Using shrubs and perennial foliage to create garden interest



**Phelan Gardens**

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Co. Springs, Co. 80918  
719-574-8058

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## Add Interest With Foliage

What does your landscape look like between bloom times? Is it bland with only green leaves? If so, consider introducing alternatives that offer color and texture with their foliage.

### Plants for Shady or Partially Shady Areas

When you have a darker area in your garden, look for plants with white on their leaves. Foliage variegated with white can brighten up those lush shady areas. Some great examples of perennials that accomplish this goal:

**Lamium—Dead Nettle**

**Pachysandra**

**Hostas**

**Snow on the Mountain**

For added texture, and an interesting lacy look consider **Astilbes** or **Ferns** in a moist shady spot. If you have an area that is partially shady, such as an eastern exposure or dappled light cast by a tree, the following plants are wonderful:

**Lupine** or **Lady's Mantle**: both have large interesting leaves that collect beads of water. Plant them close to your house so you can enjoy this feature

**Bergenia**: has large glossy leaves that turn purple in the winter

**Penstemon 'Husker Red'**: gives you red foliage with white flowers

**Heuchera**: there are shades from lime green, to amber to silvery purple.

**Sweet Woodruff**: has dainty green foliage that looks good all season. Its sweet white flowers bloom in spring

### Plants for Full Sun

For beds in full sun, consider some small shrubs that offer attractive red or yellow foliage:

**Spirea**: 'Gold Flame', 'Gold Mound', or 'Mellow Yellow'

**Ninebark**—various species

**Barberry**- 'Compact' or 'Rosy Glow'

**Blue Mist Spirea**- 'Sunshine Blue'

**Privet**- 'Golden Vicary'

**Cistena Plum**

These types of introductions to your garden provide striking contrast to other foliage color or blooms. For a softer accent use silver/gray or blue foliage—check

out **Artemisia** 'Silver Mound' or native sages.

### Don't Forget Grasses!

Ornamental grasses can make a significant contribution to your garden landscape. **Blue Fescue** and **Blue Oat Grass** offer light blue color and are only 8'–15' tall.

Other grasses produce dramatic plumes in late summer when the rest of the landscape is paling. The seed heads can be left on the plants into fall and winter for added effect. Leave your grasses up all winter and you will have lovely buff colored plants to view instead of just bare earth.



*Alchemilla: Lady's Mantle*