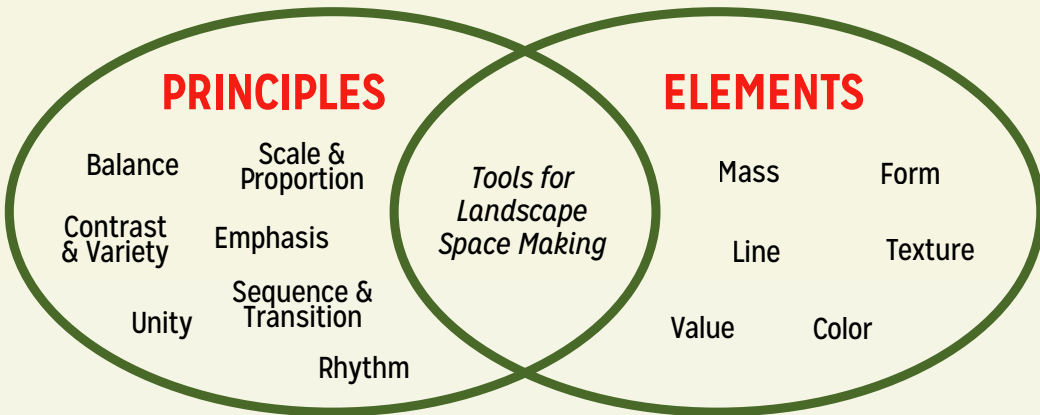




## APPLYING DESIGN PRINCIPLES IN YOUR PERENNIAL LANDSCAPE



Unsure of how to begin your perennial garden, or what to add next? Start by keeping it simple! Overcomplicating a design can disrupt the rhythm and balance of a garden, eliminate focus and reduce harmony. Repetition of a select palette of colors, textures, forms and design patterns throughout the garden create unity.

We recommend layering groupings of at least 3 of the same kind of plant—odd numbers appear more naturalistic—to create lines and patterns that move the eye through the space and provide contrast to focal points like specimen plants (larger shrubs/trees), structures or other unique elements (neat rocks, clothes lines, you name it). This visual cohesion can also be achieved by planting in a matrix design as opposed to swathes or masses.

And remember, **edible perennials and herbs have ornamental value too!** Consider mixing these multi-use plants into your perennial landscape.



*Masses of evening primrose (*Oenothera macrocarpa*) peeking out from a layered sea of grasses and shrubs welcome you to the door of this Salt Lake City home. By local designer Fritz Kollmann, Western Cultivation*



*A matrix of repeated plants, forms and colors creates a sea of spikey inflorescences emerging from a contrast of mounding, misty foliage and flowers. Designed by Lauren Springer Ogden, Fort Collins*



Whatever your design approach, make sure your plants are set up for success. Assess your site's exposure, soil texture, grade and wind conditions.

Choose plants that are well suited to the conditions that already exist in your space. For native perennials that thrive on good drainage and low-water, you may want to amend heavy clay soils with an expanded shale product called Utelite before planting. You can find this at your nearest garden supply store.

**CHECK OUT THE CONSERVATION GARDEN PARK'S LANDSCAPING HELP RESOURCE FOR READY-MADE, HOW-TO VIDEOS, PLANT SELECTION TOOLS AND MORE!**

