

Washington State University Horticulture Display Garden

Pullman, Washington

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Spring 2021

Overview

The WSU Display Garden is used as a place for students, faculty, and guests to enjoy. It is also used for teaching purposes for a few courses taught by the Horticulture department. There are a few different sections in the garden that give varieties of plants and the environment they grow in. There is the waterwise section where the plants are more drought tolerant and use less water. This section is all hand watered and relies mainly on the natural environment for its water supply, although in the summer it gets hand watered a couple times a week. The sun section provides an area for plants that like a lot of direct light, this area is more open to allow for the light to shine in. Then there is the shade section where plants that need less light are grown. This area only receives a few hours of direct sunlight during the day providing a nice space to cool off during the hot summer months.



Figure 5: Lavender cleanup after winter (Right).



Figure 1: Section of the shade garden before the plants went in.



Figure 2: Bleeding hearts planted in the newly designed area

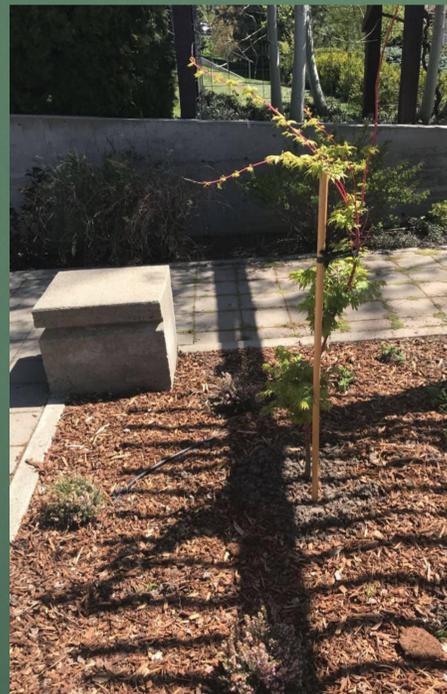


Figure 3: Japanese maple added to one end of the shade garden.



Figure 4: Hosta's were divided and placed in the center of the new section.

Responsibilities

- Watering plants in waterwise section
- Keeping weeds under control
- Keeping walkways clean and clear of debris
- Winter cleanup (remove dead plants and leaves)
- Pruning
- Deadheading flowers
- Trimming bushes back
- Creating labels for each plant species
- Designing a section of the shade garden

Summary

Through this internship, I have been able to build skills required for maintaining an intricate landscape, such as design, weed management, water management, and basic plant care. I was able to learn how to care for specific plants that are common in this area. This will help me towards a career in a nursery or even landscaping since I will have prior knowledge and hands on experience working with plants. I have also learned valuable communication skills that will help me in the future when working alone or even in a group setting. The experience I gained through working at the WSU Display Garden will definitely be something I use in the future and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to work here and improve the garden and all it holds.