

Virtual Hortlandia 2020

The Green Seed Nursery

www.tgsdesignandnursery.com

This week Joanne Fuller interviewed Austin Booth from The Green Seed Nursery and edited their conversation for this article.

Austin, what are some of your favorite plants?

I like *Ribes x gordonianum* which is a cross between our red flowering currant and the golden currant. It has the flower color of the red flowing current with a touch of the golden color on each of the tiny little flowers. It also has nice shiny leaves. *Ribes sanguineum* 'Brocklebankii' has the typical pink flowers but golden leaves that glow in shady places. Our native *Heuchera*, *Heuchera micrantha* grows in tough conditions on slopes where it helps anchor the soil. It creates nice mounds of green to reddish-green leaves. *Hebe* 'Patty's Purple' and *Hebe* 'Western Hills' are both great small evergreen shrubs that will bring texture to a naturalistic planting.

How did you get started?

In 2014, we started a landscape maintenance company. We then added design/build and now we only do design/build. In 2017, we bought three acres to start growing more of the plants we were using in our projects. As we grew more material, we decided to start selling some. I grew up on a farm, and I have a degree in Natural Resources Management. It was natural for me to start incorporating more native plants into my designs and to start building rain gardens and other low resource use gardens. And, we currently use no synthetic pesticides on our plants.

You design rain gardens. What should gardeners think about in designing a rain garden?

First, rain gardens should be sited downslope from the water source-- usually in a home garden that would be the runoff from the roof of the house. A rain garden should be at least ten feet from the house's foundation so that standing water doesn't harm the foundation. To adequately deal with the runoff from a roof you need at least one tenth the square footage of the roof. Then you think about plant material. Plants I like to use in rain gardens include sedges, rushes and natives that grow well together. The rush, *Juncus patens* is excellent in the winter wet, summer dry conditions of a rain garden. *Carex testacea*, the New Zealand Orange Sedge and *Carex tenuiculmis* 'Cappuccino' are both great. Our native woodland strawberry, *Fragaria vesca* weaves nicely among these other plants. And the *Ribes* I was talking about can be planted on the edges of a rain garden to provide some height and different texture.

How do customers shop from the Green Seed Nursery right now?

Our plant availability list is accessible on our website at www.tgsdesignandnursery.com. Customers can call us and order for no contact pick-up or delivery. We are open by appointment, which can be booked by emailing us. We ask that visitors wear masks. Our home is located at the nursery, and we are happy to share our two-and-a-half-year old gardens with visitors.