



November 10, 2021

YIES PTO and YCS Garden Coordinator
Ypsilanti International Elementary School
503 Oak St
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Dear Jennifer, Emily, and Natalie:

The following are our recommendations for the installation and design of the YIES Learning Garden. The garden will be roughly 18' x 18' and centered on the building's south side. Details on implementation and design are as follows:

Site preparation (fall 2021)

- Remove the two shrubs located against the wall by cutting at soil level and allowing the roots to naturally decompose
- Cut edges of the bed with a shovel or spade, leaving a V-shaped trench to contain mulch
- Sheet mulch the entire area by overlapping cardboard (or multiple layers of newspaper) across the site with edges extending into newly cut trench and lightly wet to keep in place
- Lay out paths using old hose
- Place wood chips in path and shredded hardwood bark in planting bed, keeping the path edges as tidy as possible and removing the hose as you go
- If the path is approximately 3' wide and about 40' long, it will require about 1 yard of chips spread 3" thick
- This will leave about 200 sq ft of planting space; 2 yards of shredded hardwood bark will cover this area 3" thick
- Leave the mulched areas to sit for the winter

Planting (spring 2022)

- In late May/early June (when plants become available), plant 200 "plugs" each 12" apart from each other (on average)
- Use the planting design to locate where each species will go
- Design is arranged to have shorter species close to the path and tallest species closest to the building edge

Plants (spring 2022)

- It is suggested to order the following species in "1/2 plug flats" to enhance diversity while maintaining low cost per plant
- Species were selected based on soils, sun, and moisture, with an effort to provide great habitat for pollinators (and hummingbirds!)

Wildflowers:

<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly weed
<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	Pale purple coneflower
<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i>	Joe-pye weed
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	Wild strawberry
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Lupine
<i>Pakera obovata</i>	Round-leaved ragwort
<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	Penstemon
<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>	Prairie dock
<i>Solidago juncea</i>	Early goldenrod
<i>Symphyotrichum oolentangiense</i>	Prairie heart-leaved aster

Grasses:

<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little bluestem
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie dropseed

In addition to these wildflowers and grasses, we recommend planting the following:

- *Hypericum prolificum* (Shrubby St. John's wort) near the building edge (3 – 1-gallon pots)
- *Clematis virginiana* (Virgin's bower) for the lattice arch (2 plugs)
- *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* (New England aster), also near the building (2 plugs)

As you'll note in the design, all species have their designated locations except for the round-leaved ragwort. That species and extras of the other species should be scattered randomly outside of their "designated" areas.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone if you have any questions regarding this design and recommendations.

Sincerely,



David Mindell

