

The July 2013 Beauty Spot goes to Kristy and Matt Crosier of 3400 Country Hill Drive, on the corner of Country Hill and Pinehurst. Living on a corner lot means more yard to landscape, more yard for all to see; the Crosiers have met these challenges beautifully!

Stop by and study their yard—it's a perfect lesson in simple landscaping principles that could help all of us become better home gardeners.

First, use trees and bushes to create structure, levels, and lines. The Crosiers have done this very effectively throughout their yard: A beautiful Japanese red maple, with its purple feathery leaves, anchors the center of the bed right in front of the house, with a crepe myrtle on the left (which will be gorgeous when it blooms) and a rhododendron on the right. Throughout the other beds there are boxwoods, azaleas, japonicas, aucuba, and nandinas.

Second, anchor the edges of your property with trees. On the left side of the house, a small weeping cherry tree stands, its limbs gently swaying in the breeze. The bed in the left front corner of the property has a healthy dogwood and an understory of daylilies and hostas. The bed on the front right edge of the property (by the telephone pole) has a beautiful butterfly bush surrounded by more daylilies.

Third, use perennials that bloom at different times to create the understory. This adds dimension, color, and texture to the yard. The Crosiers have a variety of plants in bloom right now: hostas and daylilies, as well as black-eyed susans and daisies. There are also hellebores, phlox, peonies, and bleeding hearts, all of which bloom at other times throughout the seasons.

Fourth, use a single plant in a variety of colors to convey continuity while creating interest. Right now, bursts of purple, orange, yellow, and pink daylilies abound. The Crosiers have used them expertly, planting them in every bed, leading the eye to look at every part of the yard.

Last, incorporate an edible garden. At the top of the driveway, if you look closely, you'll notice the Crosiers have a tomato plant amongst the flowers, and rosemary is used as a groundcover. Having these near the kitchen makes cooking dinner especially fresh and tasty!

Congratulations to the Crosiers! Your yard is an inspiration to us all!

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Judelson
with Joyce Skoglund
for Country Hill Garden Club