

Pat de Valence - Presentation Topics

All of my presentations are designed to be interactive. The content promotes successful gardening, in keeping with sustainable gardening practices:

- Organic gardening principles
- Right plant, right place
- Using water wisely
- Compliant with the Ontario Pesticide Ban 2009

Design

1. The Enchanting Garden: *Creating Mystery & Whimsy*

- A memorable garden is not all armor rock, cut stone and clipped grass
- Large & small design features that add interest and whimsy to the garden

2. Easy Gardening: *High Style, Low Maintenance*

- What makes for *Easy Gardening*?
- Low maintenance design principles: hardscaping, Right Plant – Right Place, no-fuss high-impact plants, lawn substitutes, biodiversity, matrix planting
- Easy gardening maintenance practices: feed the soil (it will feed the plants), mulch, No-Dig garden beds, organic pest management, using Water effectively
- Inspiration – Some High Style, Low Maintenance Gardens

3. Go Wild! *Make Your Garden a Habitat*

- What is Habitat Gardening?
- Why attract wildlife to your garden?
- Wildlife garden design principles & operating practices
- Features you can add to your garden, even a small urban space
- Organic pest management

Plant Profiles

1. Trees Add Property Value! *Choosing, Planting & Caring for Trees*

- Why trees add value
- Selecting & placing a tree on your property
- Ameliorating poor choices that already there
- How to purchase, plant and care for your trees

2. True North, Strong & Free: *Native Plants*

- What is “native” and why plant them in your garden
- Choice garden-worthy native plants
- Examples of some lovely native plantings

4. Movement, Music & Manageability: *Ornamental Grasses*

- Add a sense of movement and sound to the garden
- Designing with grasses
- Profiles of favourite species—some familiar, some less well-known and some for those in Zone denial

Gardening Techniques

1. All the Dirt on Soil: *Healthy Soil, Healthy Garden*

- What's In Soil?
- How to measure what kind of Soil you have and what it means
- How to improve your Soil to keep a healthy garden
- If you're starting a new bed from scratch, what's the best approach?
- Right Plant – Right Place
- Using Water effectively

2. Dirt & Bugs: *The Glue that Holds Great Gardens Together*

- How to measure what kind of Soil you have and what it means
- What you need to know about soil and insects, to maintain a healthy garden, organically
- How to support the soil food web, and work with the soil you have, for a successful planting
- How to manage insect pests attract beneficial insects and other predators
- Key principles of planting design to support organic pest management.

Garden Travel

Available on request. Depending on the time slot, I can create a talk on one or more of these garden travel destinations.

1. Deux Jardins au Quebec: *Les Quatres Vents & Reford Gardens*

2. Gardens of the Brandywine Valley

- Chanticleer
- Morris Arboretum
- Mt Cuba
- Longwood Gardens

3. The Highline NYC

4. Gardens of Illinois

- a. Chicago Botanical Garden, Lurie Garden, Diblik Arch Garden
- b. Several private gardens in Central Illinois
- c. Missouri Botanical Garden