



## Gardening Uncovered: Foundation Plants

By Martha Vaughn

Foundation planting is meant to draw attention to the house rather than itself. Foundation plants are the solid plants that will take every bit of weather: cold, heat, humidity that your area receives. They look great during wet seasons, dry seasons, and really help to soften the house.

Foundational plants do a lot of the work around the home to bring in colors, texture, and shape. It is important to understand the growth cycle of these plants. If you have windows or areas you don't want to block, dwarf shrubs such as Boxwood Shrubs are great choices because they won't get too large or overtake the area. A Loropetalum is a good foundation shrub for homes that are a lighter color because it contrasts the home color. A variegated pittosporum is a great choice for darker colored homes.

### Anson's' Foundation Planting Tips:

- **Give your plants enough space to grow so they aren't crowding the home.** You don't want roots to harm foundations or grow through pipes.
- **Watch for areas that could interfere with utility lines.** Be aware of how big the tree will grow and keep it free of utility lines to avoid having to do major pruning as it grows.
- **Choose plants that are proportional to your home.** Don't plant something large that will block windows or views. Large trees can make smaller homes look and feel even smaller.
- **Design basics are a good rule of thumb.** Keep planting beds to 6-8' from the building to the outer edge of the planting bed. Paved paths should measure approximately 4-1/2' across.
- **Check potential plant preferences before you plant so that you understand their sunlight and shade requirements.** Make sure you are planting shade loving plants in areas where they will get plenty of shade.
- **Plan for the entry, decide the overall aesthetic you think will work best or consult with Anson Nursery.** They can give you both symmetrical or natural choices.
- **Repetition can be a good thing.** When planting, it's often desired to mimic the shape of the house with trees, or vary colors.



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*"Jason came out listened to all of our questions and idea of what we wanting to do to our landscaping and made great suggestions on how to lay it all out. Then Ryan and his professional crew came one day and pulled out all the plants that we wanted out. The next day Ryan and his crew started transforming the landscaping how Jason had suggested to lay it all out.*

*We are very happy with the results and the service we received from Debbie and Jason along with the great work from Ryan's crew. We highly recommend Anson Nursery for small to large transformation or that one plant you just have to have. Thanks Anson Nursery." ~ Allen Doss, Customer*

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