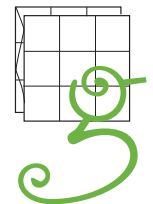


MARCH 2011 PLANT MATERIAL CHOICES

Are you looking for appropriate plant material to include with greenscreen® designs? A recommended plant list assembled in collaboration with Monrovia can now be downloaded from our website. The plant recommendations include 111 different varieties of vines covering USDA Hardiness Zones 2-11 and the most important thing is that they can be found in wholesale yards all over North America. Plant material selection is critical in the overall success of the greenscreen® system and there are many plant characteristics that should be taken into account.

Knowing a plant's hardiness zones (e.g. Zones 4-9) is only one of the many considerations that should be taken into account when incorporating plant material into your greenscreen® designs. Sunlight requirements, bloom characteristics and winter characteristics are also very important. *One of the most overlooked considerations is a plant's growing habit.* Habit is simply defined as how the plant grows. Does it spread horizontally? Does it grow by twining? Does it grow fast or slow? These are all good questions to ask when considering appropriate plant choices. Obviously, twining vines such as Jasmine perform very well, but we have also seen excellent examples of installations that feature plants that don't grow by twining, but grow by tendrils like Climbing Hydrangea, Virginia Creeper and Clematis.

Habit is also very important since it will determine the amount of maintenance that is necessary once the plants are installed. Plants that twine will require less maintenance to establish themselves on the panels and plants that grow with tendrils will have to be trained onto the screen initially upon installation. Plants that grow by sucker such as English Ivy or ramblers like climbing roses will require additional maintenance to get them fully established on the panels. The commitment level to maintenance should be a very early conversation with your clients because it will have a bearing on appropriate plant choice selections. greenscreen® recommends that a local landscape architect, landscape designer or horticulturalist be consulted to help ensure the success of your projects. For more plant information, please contact Dean Hill, ASLA at dean@greenscreen.com or call him at (800) 450-3494.



greenscreen®