

rocky or sandy sites and is incredibly drought tolerant.

I should probably note that Halton Hills displays huge tracts of this colour contrast in the late summer and fall. Our native plants in their natural habitat are the envy of gardeners across the globe. So much so that currently, the most popular gardening style is called 'prairie' gardening and exhibits the very same plants that we pass daily on the roadsides.

This brings me to another outstanding design contribution of the colour yellow, that of positive feelings. Again, we get our clues from the colour wheel. It was Johann Wolfgang Goethe who began studying the psychological effect of colours, dividing the spectrum into two groups—the plus side which includes red through orange to yellow and the minus side which goes from green through violet to blue. The plus (or warm) side was associated with feelings of warmth, excitement and cheerfulness and the minus (or cool) side, feelings of weakness or being unsettled.



Heliopsis

Many designers take advantage of this feature to set the tone of a garden. For a garden space that is exciting and stimulating, the addition of bright or golden yellow is just the ticket. One example that I found in my garden was this combination of black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*) with garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) and an unknown, somewhat weedy grass. The combination of the colours made me think of a sunrise, or even a Tequila sunrise cocktail and its stripe of reddish pink grenadine. I wouldn't normally like golden yellow combined with hot pink, but this was magical. Perhaps because the late summer light changed the intensity of the pink. It certainly was a magnet for the hummingbirds!

Another golden yellow that I must recommend to you is Heliopsis



Above: *Rudbeckia hirta*



Left: *Aster linariifolius* or stiff aster

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