



Wine and Chocolates

Wine and chocolate have been shown to be good for you. They can also be good for your garden. Even if your garden is beautiful it can benefit from the addition of some darker tones. There are just a few things to keep in mind.

1. *Less is More.*

Moderation is important. Too much wine and chocolate are not good for you and in the same way too many dark colored plants are not great for your garden. An overabundance of dark tones can leave the garden feeling flat. Use wine and chocolate plants sparingly. Unless you have a huge garden, one tree, maybe a few shrubs and a scattering of perennials is enough.



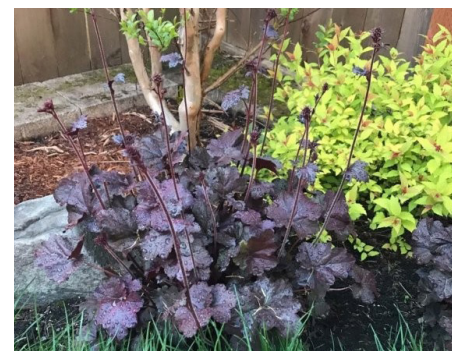
2. *Contrast is key.*

Dark colors can tend to recede and, especially on the ground plane, go unnoticed. Make sure to introduce contrast. Since purple is opposite yellow on the color wheel site your wine and chocolate plants in front of others with yellow tones. This is a great way to take advantage of color contrast. Make sure you are also contrasting form and textures to keep things interesting.



3. *Site it right.*

Know the light requirements of your darker colored plants. Many need some sun to retain their color. Also, dark-colored plants “read” better in a sunny garden; in the shade they can tend to disappear and leave a hole. Finally, remember your background. A beautiful burgundy-leaved Japanese maple will not show up as well planted against a brick house as it would against a lighter color.





If your garden is craving some wine and chocolates, consider these low-calorie options.

Trees

- Cercis canadensis 'Merlot'
- Acer palmatum dissectum 'Velvet Viking'
- Acer palmatum 'Bloodgood'
- Fagus 'Red Obelisk'
- Malus 'Summer Wonder' or 'Perfect Purple'



Shrubs

- Cotinus 'Winecraft Black' or 'Royal Purple'
- Physocarpus 'Little Devil' or 'Summerwine'
- Sambucus 'Black Lace' or 'Black Tower'
- Callicarpa 'Pearl Glam'
- Weigela 'Fine Wine'

Perennials / Annuals/Tropicals and others

- Astilbe 'Dark Side of the Moon'
- Heuchera 'Palace Purple', 'Obsidian', 'Mocha'
- Andropogon 'Blackhawks'
- Carex 'Cappuccino'
- Actaea 'Chocoholic'
- Ajuga 'Black Scallop'
- Columbine 'Black Barlowe'
- Hellebore 'Dark and Handsome'
- Cosmos 'Chocamocha'
- Coleus 'Chocolate Mint'
- Angelica gigas
- Colocasia 'Black Coral'
- Frittilaria persica
- Ocimum basilicum 'Purple Opal'
- Brassica 'Miz America'

