



# SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN AS AN URBAN MODEL FOR HEALTH

Health City Design International 2020

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# PURPOSE

- Create an urban sustainable garden model to promote environmental and human health and well-being.
  - Should be replicable. Web page: <http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/demo/index.html>



# THEORY: APPLETON'S PROSPECT REFUGE THEORY

- People have an evolutionary preference for landscapes that provide real or symbolic opportunities for a view of what is around them (prospect) and for safety (refuge) (Appleton, 1996).
- Web page: <http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/demo/index.html>





# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1) Environmental educational displays are needed in the busiest, hectic urban environments in order to reach and influence greater numbers and diverse people (Hester, 2006)



Photo by B. Anderson



Photo by S. Lombardo

Pre-installation spaces on college campus 1,400 sf (left) 1,800 sf (right)

Hester, R. (2006) *Design for ecological democracy*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

2) The display should be aesthetically pleasing as well as educational so as to generate sales and production of these less common, but environmentally beneficial plants (Nassauer, 1997)



Designs: Reburn (2011)



Lombardo-Fraser (2011)



White (2012)



Kelly (2012)



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

3) The experimental nature of the garden should include a participatory role for passersby to share their opinion and judgment of the display. Participation is engaged learning and often results in greater knowledge retention and continued involvement (Hester, 2006).



Photo by E. Vincent

Hester, R. (2006) *Design for ecological democracy*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

# PROCESS

- Conduct a competitive design process using native plant selections to provide eco-system services, e.g. habitat and food source for native insects and animals (Tallamy, 2011).
- Install and maintain garden using low-maintenance techniques.
- Study environmental health and human perceptions.



Photo by E. Vincent

6" leaf mold compost tilled to a depth of 8"



Photo by E. Vincent

Girdling roots loosened prior to planting



# PROCESS

- Provide on-site and Web educational materials.
- Student workers serve as educational ambassadors.



Photos by E. Vincent







# PRE-INSTALLATION 2011



Photo by B. Anderson



Photo by S. Lombardo

Pre-installation spaces on college campus 1,400 sf (left) 1,800 sf (right)

Hester, R. (2006) *Design for ecological democracy*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.



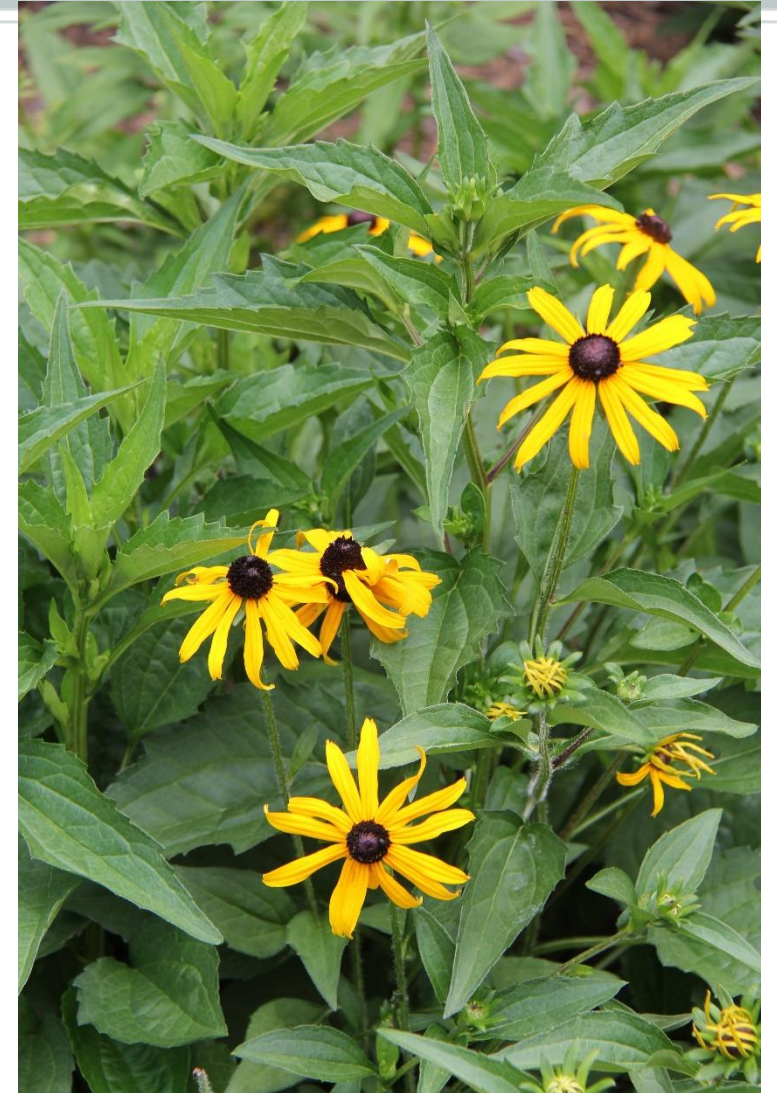


# POST INSTALLATION SUMMER 2013



Photos by E. Vincent

*Rudbeckia* 'Goldsturm'







# POST INSTALLATION APRIL 2018



Photos by E. Vincent



*Fothergilla gardenii*





# POST-INSTALLATION LEHOTSKY BED



Purple coneflower



Pink muhly grass



Late purple aster



Autumn swamp sunflower



Photo by E. Vincent

Post-installation spaces on college campus 1,800 sf (right)

Photo by Walker Massey





# POST-INSTALLATION CENTER BED



Photo by S.A. White



Photo by Walker Massey

Post-installation spaces on college campus 1,400 sf



# STUDENT WORKERS & LANDSCAPE SERVICES STAFF



Photos by E. Vincent







# STUDENT EDUCATION AMBASSADORS & GARDEN MAINTENANCE WORKERS



Butterflyweed  
*Asclepias tuberosa*



Photos by E. Vincent







# PRE & POST INSTALLATION SURVEY DATA

On a scale of 1 to 10, how **aesthetically** pleasing (beautiful) is the landscape to you?

Extremely poor

Average

Extremely high

1

2

3

4

5

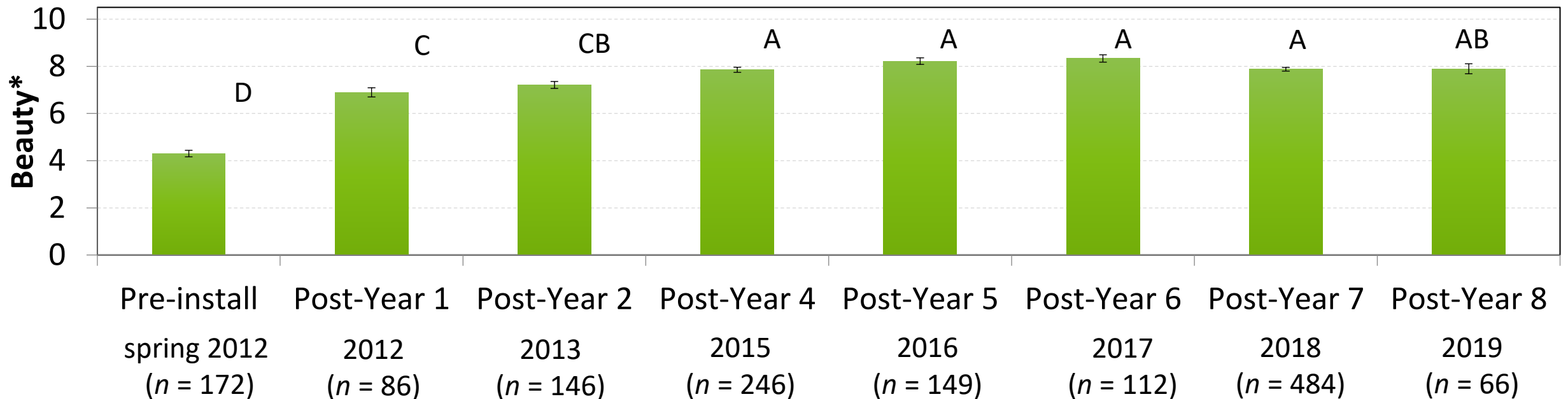
6

7

8

9

10



\*LS Means Differences Tukey HSD ( $P < 0.0001$ )

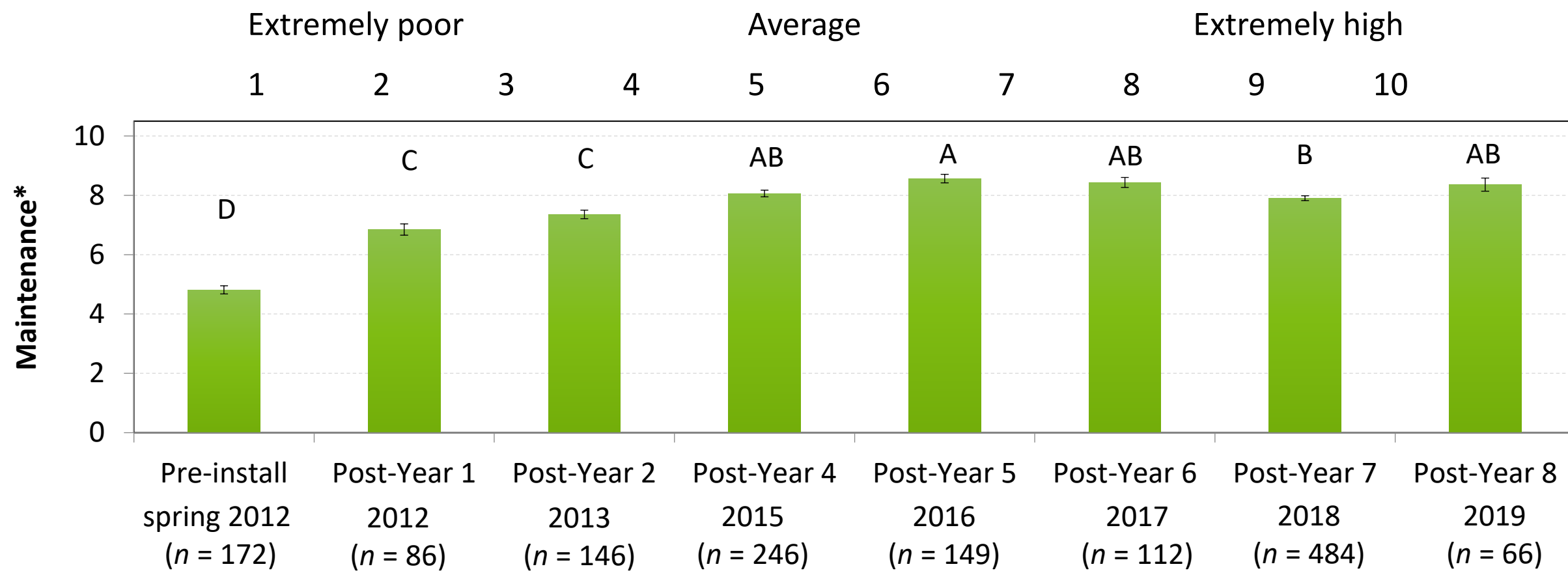
Data analysis by Dr. Sarah White





# PRE & POST INSTALLATION SURVEY DATA

On a scale of 1 to 10, how well **maintained** does the landscape here appear to you?







# PRE & POST INSTALLATION SURVEY DATA

On a scale of 1 to 10, how **safe** do you feel in this landscape space?

Extremely poor

Average

Extremely high

1

2

3

4

5

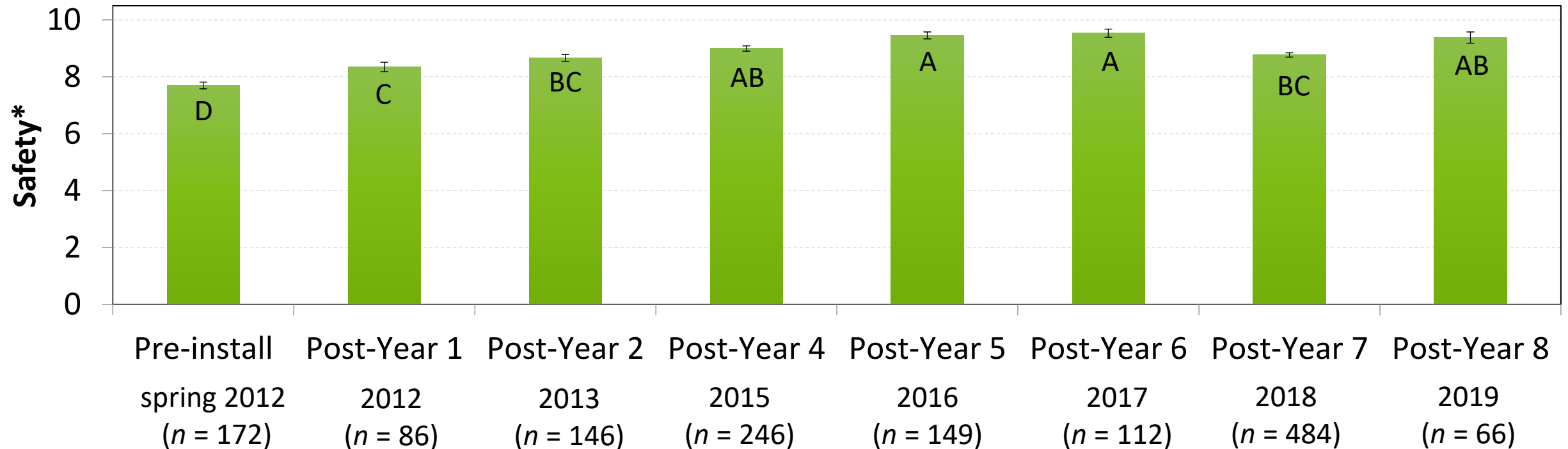
6

7

8

9

10



\*LS Means Differences Tukey HSD ( $P < 0.0001$ )

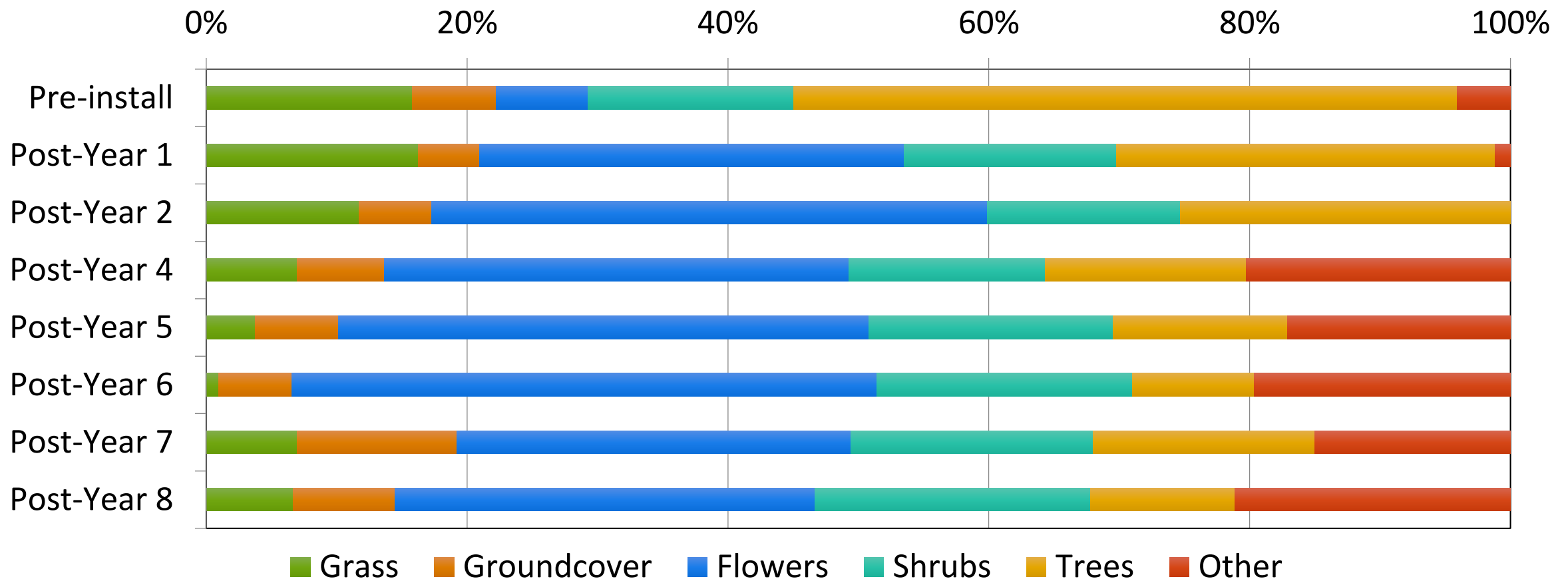
Data analysis by Dr. Sarah White





# PRE & POST INSTALLATION SURVEY DATA

What **type of plant** here in this landscape do you most value or appreciate?



\* OTHER – tended to express desire for mixture of all plant species present

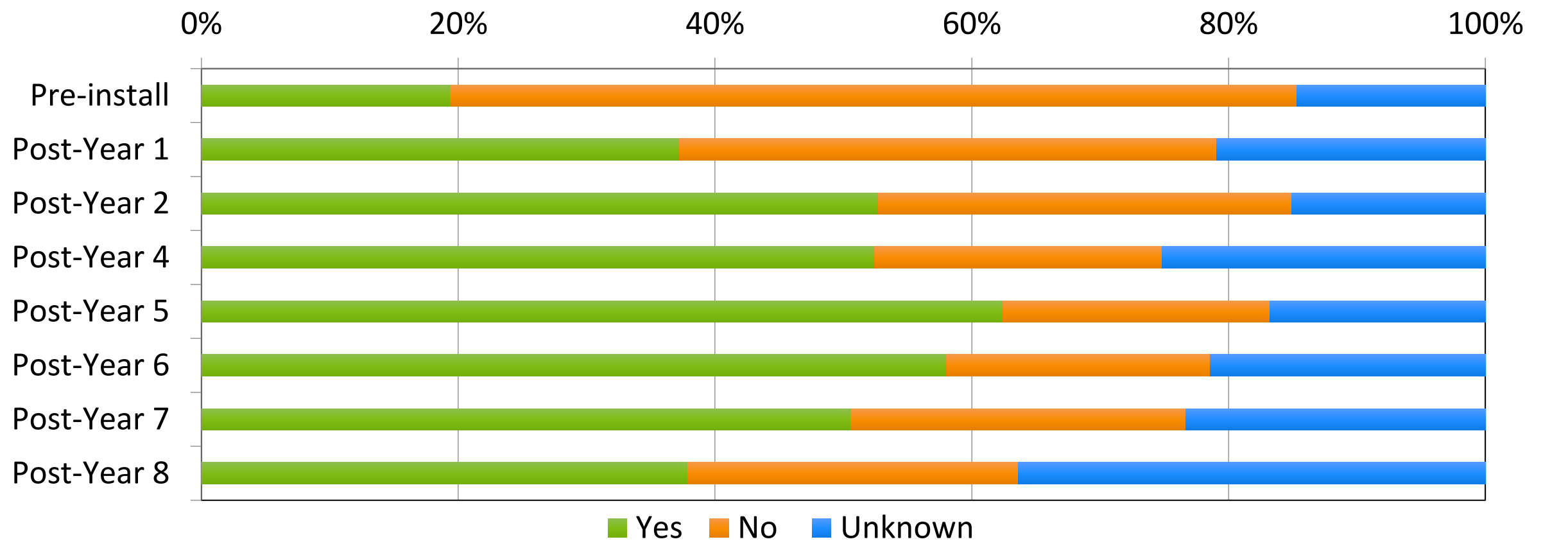
Data analysis by Dr. Sarah White





# PRE & POST INSTALLATION SURVEY DATA

Does this landscape (the demonstration garden) **teach** you anything about soil, plants, or water?

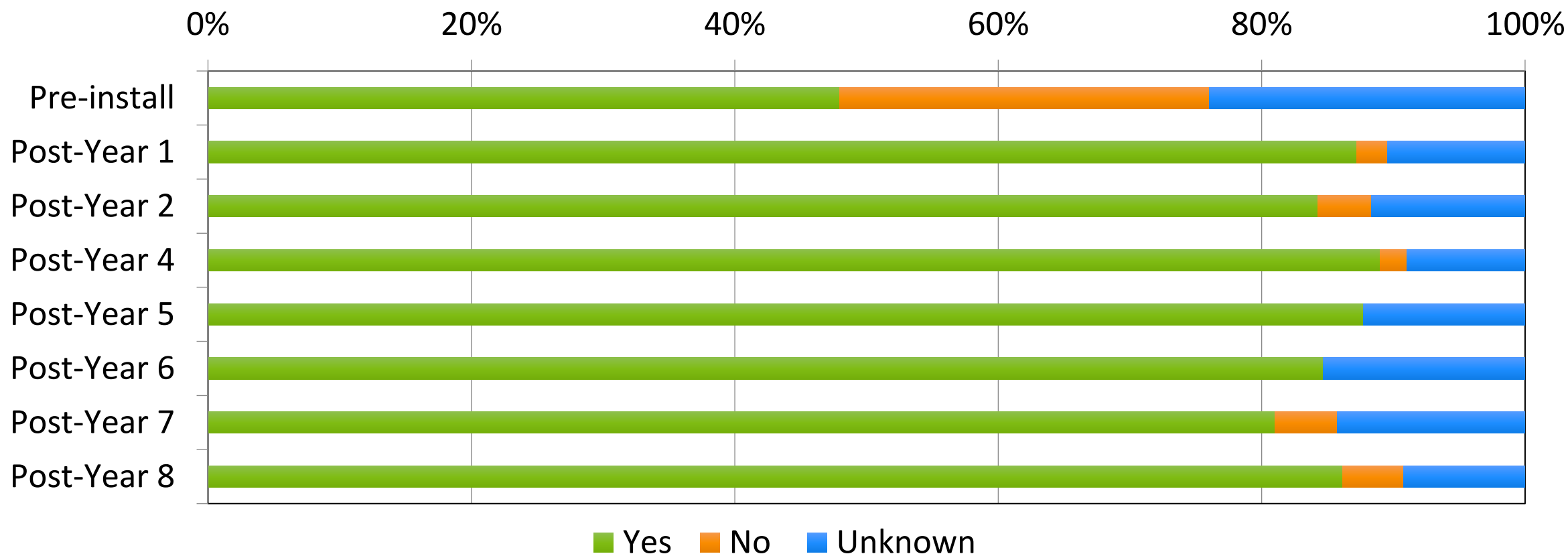






# PRE & POST INSTALLATION SURVEY DATA

Do you think this landscape (demonstration garden) is good for **human health** and well-being?







# POST INSTALLATION 2020



Photos by Carson Colenbaugh 2020



June 2020



# PRE & POST SOIL SAMPLE DATA

- Minimal change between pre & post soil sample data for
  - minerals
  - organic matter
  - CEC suggest
- Depletion of most minerals did not occur while plants establishing

Analysis	Results	PRE				
Soil pH	7.2					
Buffer pH	7.80					
		Low	Medium	Sufficient	High	Excessive
Phosphorus (P)	45 lbs/acre					
Potassium (K)	216 lbs/acre					
Calcium (Ca)	4981 lbs/acre					
Magnesium (Mg)	342 lbs/acre					
Zinc (Zn)	10.3 lbs/acre					
Manganese (Mn)	81 lbs/acre					
Boron (B)	3.3 lbs/acre					
Copper (Cu)	0.6 lbs/acre					
Sodium (Na)	14 lbs/acre					
Sulfur (S)	lbs/acre					
Soluble Salts	mmhos/cm					
Nitrate Nitrogen	ppm					
Organic Matter	5.6 % (LOI)					

Analysis	Results	POST				
Soil pH	7.1					
Buffer pH	7.75					
		Low	Medium	Sufficient	High	Excessive
Phosphorus (P)	33 lbs/acre					
Potassium (K)	252 lbs/acre					
Calcium (Ca)	4085 lbs/acre					
Magnesium (Mg)	318 lbs/acre					
Zinc (Zn)	8.7 lbs/acre					
Manganese (Mn)	116 lbs/acre					
Boron (B)	2.9 lbs/acre					
Copper (Cu)	1.2 lbs/acre					
Sodium (Na)	13 lbs/acre					
Sulfur (S)	lbs/acre					
Soluble Salts	0.17 mmhos/cm					
Nitrate Nitrogen	ppm					
Organic Matter	5 % (LOI)					





# PLANT POPULARITY (WEB ANALYTICS)

## Unique web-views July 2013 – December 2019

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1294	7681	9620	4825	1581	5733	7413	7842

Total views of Plant Profiles: 45,989



<http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/demo/index.html>

Data collection by Donna Bowen, data analysis by Sarah White





# PLANT POPULARITY (WEB ANALYTICS)

## Unique web-views July 2013 – December 2019

1

*Muhlenbergia capillaris*

Pinky Muhly Grass (10,162)

2

*Helianthus angustifolius*

Narrow-leaf Sunflower (3,080)

Photos by Sarah White





# PLANT POPULARITY (2013-19)

3



*Cornus florida*

Flowering Dogwood (2,954)

4



Fringe Tree (2,755)

*Chionanthus virginicus*

Photos by Sarah White

5



*Asclepias tuberosa*

Butterfly milkweed (1,835)

6



Passion Vine (1,191)

*Passiflora incarnata*



# PLANT POPULARITY (2013-19)

7



Photos by Sarah White

8



Photo <https://www.degroot-inc.com>

9



10





# PLANT POPULARITY – WEIGHTED BY YEARS EVALUATED

1



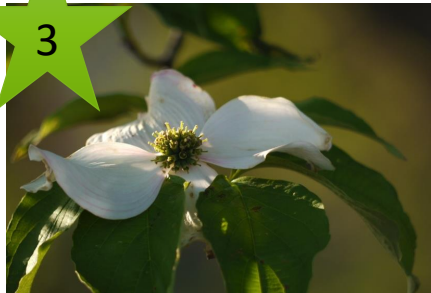
Pinky Muhly Grass  
(1,270)

2



Narrow-leaf sunflower  
(385)

3



Flowering Dogwood  
(369)

4



Fringe Tree  
(344)

5



Trumpet Creeper  
(344)

6



Butterfly milkweed  
(229)

7



Georgia aster  
(217)

8



Passion vine  
(216)

9



'Mt. Airy' Fothergilla  
(180)

10



'Misty' Blueberry  
(180)





# GARDEN GRATITUDE

INSTALLATION: CLEMSON EXTENSION  
SERVICE



INSTALLATION/MAINTENANCE: CLEMSON  
LANDSCAPE SERVICES



RESEARCH/GARDEN SUPPORT: CLEMSON  
CREATIVE INQUIRY & UNDERGRADUATE  
RESEARCH







# DATA ANALYSIS/DATA COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS

SARAH WHITE PROFESSOR & NURSERY  
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Photo by Mahaffey, Clemson University