

dress up your driveway



That dark, narrow strip alongside your driveway—do you even notice it anymore, especially if it's shaded by trees or buildings? This simple plan can dress up that neglected area with minimal effort; just repeat it for a longer driveway. The plants have been selected for their late-season interest, tolerance of shade, and low maintenance requirements in Zones 5 to 8. For early interest, underplant with spring bulbs; for summer, interplant with pink and white impatiens, or pastel-colored tuberous begonias (dark hues tend to disappear in shade). Prepare the bed thoroughly before planting, incorporating several inches of compost, rotted leaves, or other organic matter to hold moisture and improve fertility. Maintenance is limited to routine spring clean-up and deadheading. 🌱

key to plan

- 1. Japanese anemone** (*Anemone x hybrida* 'September Charm') 1 group of 5 plants spaced 2' apart; 30" tall; branching stems rise above a mound of maplelike leaves and are topped with single, silvery pink flowers 2" to 3" across. Fine for cutting.
- 2. Japanese anemone** (*Anemone x hybrida* 'Honorine Jobert') 1 group of 5 plants spaced 2' apart; 36" tall; single 2" to 3" pure white flowers. Good cut flower.
- 3. Lilyturf** (*Liriope muscari* 'Variegata') 2 groups of 5 plants spaced 18" apart; 8" to 12" tall; straplike cream leaves striped with green, evergreen in all but the coldest climates; spikes of lavender flowers.
- 4. Japanese painted fern** (*Athyrium niponicum* 'Pictum') 2 groups of 5 plants spaced 15" apart; 12" to 15" tall; triangular leaf blades of gray and green with wine color along the midribs.
- 5. Hosta** (*Hosta* 'Great Expectations') 2 plants planted singly as accents; 30" tall; to 4' across; dramatic puckered leaves with blue-green margins and creamy centers; white flowers in summer.
- 6. Hakone grass** (*Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola') 5 plants spaced 18" apart; 14" tall; 6"-long, green-and-lime (or creamy) striped leaves, varying with the depth of shade; elegant arching mounds of cascading stems.

