Mind and Find Your Words!

Debra Knapke • The Garden Sage 2019 GardenComm Annual Conference, Salt Lake City

How we talk and write and What we say... what is the purpose and what is the context? Are we the stand-up comic, the informer or the teacher?

Telling the story engages the listener / reader

which words to use to whom: age, gender, culture/ethnicity; lifestyle preferences

generations:

Baby Boomers 1944-1964 Generation X / Baby Bust / Latchkey 1965-1979 Millennials / Generation Y / Gen Next 1980-1995 iGen / Gen Z / Centennials 1996-2019+

LOHAS – Lifestyles of Health and Sustainability , "save the world"

Naturalites – focus mainly on personal health and wellness

Drifters – want to be green, but only if it is <u>easy</u> and cost-effective

Conventional – more fiscally conservative, can behave like LOHAS or not

Unconcerned – name says it all...

WORDS

the easy words: soil – dirt shrubs – bushes high maintenance – low maintenance

The people and place words: gardener – un-gardener "a gardener is my parent or grandparent. I just want a couple of plants" Horticulturist

garden – landscape – yard – un-garden "landscape is too pretentious"

The occupants of the garden: plants - plant materials

plant names: common – regional • botanical Latin – universal; well, maybe

the vocabulary of pests and diseases: seek out the experts

The complicated words and concepts: native – non-native – naturalized – nativar: origin and habit implied

invasive (thug) - groundcover – vigorous: invasive is overused; plants spread because they have the biological imperative to procreate

sustainable

- maintainable with current resources
- not borrowing from the future
- four pillars:
 - human
 - social
 - economic
 - environmental

regenerative

- conservation
- rehabilitation
 - soil/topsoil
 - water
 - economic
 - environmental
- † biodiversity, C / bio-sequestration, resilience

organic

- carbon-based
- no synthetic inputs
- natural substances
 - fertilizers
 - pest control
 - OMRI certified
- no GMO/GE
- IPM pest control
 - cultural
 - mechanical
 - biological

Permaculture Biodynamic "ag"

conventional

- continual chemical inputs
 - fertilizer
 - pesticides
- manufactured inputs
- use GMO/GE

eco-conscious

- "organic-flex"
- no to minimal poisons (natural or otherwise)
- <u>no</u> synthetic inputs
- natural substances
 - "fertilizers"

wildlife gardening – pollinator+ edible gardening

CONCEPTS wellness

garden types: pollinator, wildlife, ecological, edible, sustainable

Let's Play

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