

Catalog of Plants -Dietz Garden

River birch
American red maple (*Acer rubrum*)
Japanese maple '*Acer palmatum*'
Nuttall oak (*Quercus texana*)
Willow oak (*Quercus phellos*)
Southern magnolia *grandiflora*
Yoshino cherry
Loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*)
Green Giant arborvitae (*Thuja standishii* x *plicata*)
Natchez crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia* x *faurici* '*Natchez*')
Maiden grass (*Miscanthus* s. '*Gracillimus*')
Pink muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)
Southern wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)
Hydrangea paniculata '*Limelight*'
Hydrangea paniculata '*Jane*' (Little Lime)
Hydrangea paniculata '*Silver Dollar*'
Hydrangea paniculata '*DVPpink*' (Pinky Winky)
Hydrangea macrophylla '*Penny Mac*'
Hydrangea macrophylla '*Twist-n-Shout*'
Tea olive (*Osmanthus fragrans*)
Party Lights tea olive (*Osmanthus heterophyllus* '*Shien*')
Nelly R. Stevens holly (*Ilex* x *Nellie R. Stevens*)
Spirea x *bumalda* '*Magic Carpet*'
Spirea x *bumalda* '*Anthony Waterer*'
Spirea japonica '*Little Princess*'
Crispleaf spirea (*Spirea bullata* '*Crispifolia*')
Bridal wreath spirea
Paperbush (*Edgeworthia chrysantha*)
Aucuba japonica
False indigo (*Baptisia* '*Lemon Meringue*')
False indigo (*Baptisia* '*Honey Roasted*')
Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)
Forsythia
Florida anise (*Illicium floridanum*)
Gardenia '*August Beauty*'
Gardenia '*Radicans*'
Azalea '*George L. Taber*' (*Rhododendron indica*)
Azalea '*Judge Solomon*' (*Rhododendron indica*)
Azalea '*Pride of Mobile*' (*Rhododendron indica*)
Azalea '*Sunglow*' (*Rhododendron indica*)
Encore azalea Autumn Sundance,
Autumn Sangria and Autumn Empress

Lorepetalum
Yew '*Prostrata*'
Cryptomeria '*Globosa Nana*'
Cone flowers (*Echinacea*) several varieties -
'*Cheyenne Spirit*', *Sombrero* '*Flamenco*',
'*PowWow*', *Sombrero* '*Adobe Orange*',
Sombrero '*Salsa Red*'
Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)
Cut Leaf Coneflowers (*Rudbeckia*)
Catmint (*Nepeta* '*Cat's Pajamas*')
Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
Spanish lavender
Gaura lindheimeri '*Whirling Butterflies*'
Gaura lindheimeri (*Belleza* '*Dark Pink*')
Rosemary '*Tuscan Blue*'
Daylily-various varieties
Iris
Blackberry lily (*Iris domestica*)
Mexican bush sage (*Salvia leucantha*)
Hellebores
Coreopsis '*Golden Sphere*'

The Dietz Garden Story – A Garden in Recovery

The EF4 tornado which made its way through downtown Newnan and other parts of Coweta County in 2021 was brutal in its destruction of homes. Many homes and businesses experienced massive structural damage and two years later, are still recovering. The centuries' old tree canopy within the path of the tornado is gone forever.

One of the historic homes along Greenville Street escaped some structural damage, but suffered catastrophic damage to the trees and land area surrounding the house. The Dietzes, who have owned the 150-year-old historic home for 38 years, remember those seconds of destruction like it was yesterday.

“We ventured outside to see which tree had fallen”, recounts Donna Dietz. “The realization was that what I heard as “a” tree falling was actually most of ours and our neighbors’ trees falling simultaneously. There was so much large tree debris everywhere that it was impossible to get to our backyard. It wasn’t until the sun came up that we realized the extent of the destruction. “

“I know we were so lucky compared to so many others. Our roof was damaged and had to be replaced. The property fence and a storage shed lay beneath the rubble. However, the property that we loved and worked so hard to maintain was now unrecognizable. Our biggest loss emotionally was our decades, and in some cases, centuries old tree canopy along with loss of cooling shade and sense of history.”

The Dietzes bought the property which could be described as the quintessential Southern landscape with about 100 ancient oak, pecan, magnolia, dogwood, pine, basswood and a huge fruit bearing mulberry tree existing on the property. Donna, an avid gardener and Master Gardener, added perennials, annuals and shrubs to create a beautiful shady oasis which had been featured on garden tours over the years. All were gone compliments of the tornado.

Dan and Donna have always been hands on with their property’s maintenance so after assessing the damage they dove right in to begin the clean-up outside. With the help of family and friends, they began the lengthy process of dragging debris to the street for collection.

“We had to call in the experts with heavy machinery to remove the large trees, stumps and the destroyed storage building. The process took weeks. Due to the backlash from the Covid-19 restrictions and the heavy rains in the southern part of the state where the sod farms are located, it took several months to finally get Meyer zoysia lawn installed. In the meantime, 61 trees including Nuttall oaks, river birch, American red maples, Yoshino cherries, Nellie R. Stephens hollies and Thuja Green Giant arborvitae were installed. The north side property fence was also reconstructed and extended to add privacy and provide a backdrop for the landscaping. “

After the basics were completed which took about six months, the Dietzes began adding landscaping on their own. “We have totally embraced our new reality”, says Donna. “We now have a sun filled yard and we are planting sun loving plants. My husband is absolutely loving the full sun he gets in his vegetable garden now. Especially appealing to me are ornamentals, perennials and pollinator plants.

Welcome to our garden, Donna and Dan