

Using Wind Accents™ in Your Garden

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Introduction

When talking about using Wind Accents™ or garden sculpture in general, some assumptions have to be made. For one thing it is assumed that the appearance of your garden is important and that you want to improve or enhance the appearance of your garden. This may seem obvious until you see my garden where appearance is of no importance at all. I like to grow flowers, but I'm not fussy about how the flower bed looks, it is not part of my outdoor room or landscape.

Furthermore, I'm assuming that your plantings are more important than the sculptures you put in with them, therefore, garden accessories like Wind Accents™ will be subordinate to, and supportive of, the plantings. Of course, you can have plantings designed specifically to show off a piece of artwork, making the garden a background for the artwork.

First Quiz

The first thing you need to do is ask yourself some questions about why you have a garden because the answers to these questions will direct the use of artwork and its interaction with the garden. Some sample questions are:

1. Do you like the organization and control plantings provide?
2. Do you like color over shape of plants or visa versa?
3. Do you like creating an outdoor room? Is your garden an outdoor room?
4. Do you like creating garden spaces that provide a respite from the day and a sense of peace and quite?
5. Is your garden a decoration for your house?
6. Is you garden separate (visually and psychologically) from your house?
7. Do you like the English style garden over the controlled landscape type of garden?

Once you have answers to questions like this, you can direct the use of garden accessosries to reinforce your garden.

Wind

Another important determination before starteing to use Wind Accents™ is to examine the wind in your area. Wind Accents™ are designed to work in minimum winds of 5 m.p.h. up to 20 m.p.h., but 20 m.p.h. is too much wind for your garden. It will blow your hat off, suck air frim your mouth and flatten your flowers. So you are really looking at winds that range from 0 to gusts of 15 m.p.h. Most Wind Accents™ will work in no winds at all, just convection currents. So you need to look at your garden and decide what kinds of winds you get in each part and avoid those areas open directly at the prevailing, steady hard winds so often associated with storms.

Trust

Trust your instincts. If it looks right, it probably is. There is no right or wrong here and you will probably notice there can be several uses at the same time: a Wind Accent™ can be a focal point, point of interest, and highlight all at the same time. You need to determine what dominates and is that ok with you and the way it affects your garden.

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After you look into why you have a garden, you need to look closer at specifically what you have.

I. What do you have?

- A. What does the garden mean to you and what it does for you?.
- B. What areas are most important?
- C. What areas need more attention drawn to it.
- D. What is:
 - 1. Permanent.
 - 2. Year round.
 - 3. Annual.
 - 4. Changes with season.
 - 5. Always ignored.?
- E. What area do you always seem to ignore or never seems to be just right?

You can think of Garden art as doing work. Once you have identified the different sections of you garden and what you like and what you don't, you can then assign a task to garden art: think of it as a job description.

II. What do you want the sculpture to do? The following are some of the jobs a Wind Accent™ can do to enrich your garden.

- A. Highlight / accent.
 - 1. Along edge of planting as a part of it
 - 2. In the midst of a planting in peninsula or island
- B. Mark a spot, draw attention to it.
 - 1. Attention with shape, size, color, motion.
 - 2. Location
- C. Add interest with shape, color, size, motion.
- D. Focal point.
 - 1. End of path or alcove.
 - 2. Inside trellis.
 - 3. On Island.
 - 4. Where path curves out of sight.
- E. Surprise.
 - 1. Not seen except from certain points
 - 2. Action of sculpture not expected.
- F. Be a feature (as if on a stage)
- G. Mark an entrance

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Wind Accent™ Job Descriptions

You can think of Wind Accent™ garden art as having a job to do. In the case of a garden it would be to enrich your garden in some way. This work has already been identified as such things as acting as an accent, focal point, point of interest, and so on. A Wind Accent™ can come to the rescue in some situations and be the star of the garden in another. You may have already made a purchase without thinking about *exactly* how it will fit into your garden. You simply liked the artwork and bought it. The point is to think of how to use the Wind Accent™ as a visual tool in your garden.

What follows are specific ways a Wind Accent™ can do visual work for you. Always keep in mind that there are many more ways than listed here and allow yourself to trust your judgment. Use the following as a guide or template for solving problems. First identify what and where your problem is and then apply a Wind Accent in a way that will solve the problem.

One more thing, I didn't always have the ideal garden to use as an example. It was nice of the people whose gardens I used to allow me to take photographs there and I thank them.

A. Accent/Highlight

One of the best uses of a Wind Accent™ is as a highlight, meaning it supports what is already there by emphasizing an important feature. If you have a planting you want to draw attention to, but not be overwhelmed, a Wind Accent™ will do very nicely.

You can control the amount of emphasis by how much of the sculpture is exposed, how closely the colors and shape match the planting and how much wind there is in the area. The greater the difference, the more the emphasis.

When using a Wind Accent™ as an accent, consider:

1. Amount of sculpture you want visible.
2. Kind of movement.
3. Contrast or no contrast relative to background.



The lilies and other flowers in bloom are a strong subject in this garden. The flowers overwhelm the Butterfly Planter Wind Accent™ nestling amongst them, but if a puff of wind makes the propeller move there will be added interest and attention drawn to them. The basic colors (whites) are the same for both, it is the difference, movement, that makes the Butterfly Planter Sculpture an accent.

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B. Draw Attention

If you want to draw attention to a planting or an area you think is special, you can use the sculptural presence and movement of Wind Accents™ to great advantage. Large masses of color or shape benefit by having something that contrasts and the movement of Wind Accents™ is certainly unusual and eye catching.



Burt has a nice showing of Alaska Daisies along his split rail fence, but adding a Wind Accent to the center of the display as seen on the right, draws attention to such a large mass of similar color.



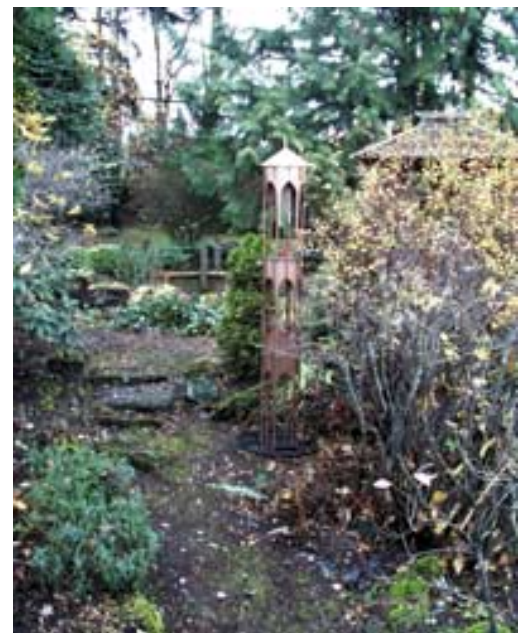
When you have a large mass of color there needs to be a place for your eye to focus on first. This is how the patina fish Wind Accent™ is being used here. The white daisies look whiter with the contrasting patina of the Wind Accent™ and since the Wind Accent™ also moves, there is a strengthening of the focal point use.

You can think of this application as a planting of daisies with a Wind Accent™ drawing attention to them.

C. Add Interest

You can add interest to an area with a Wind Accent™ This may be a planting area that is uniform in color, shape or mass and you might want to dress it up a little. Not too much, just enough to add interest. This would be a place for using one of the unique characteristics of a Wind Accent™, and for adding interest you may want to only use one quality such as color or motion or shape. If all qualities of a Wind Accent™ come into play, then the Wind Accent™ is serving another function as described elsewhere.

The Bellorchime Tower™ fits into this setting and is just different enough to add interest to this area. The chime or bell inside the tower would add another dimension, but we are talking visual in this case.



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D. Focal Point

Using Wind Accents™ as a focal point is the primary purpose of most garden accessories in general and what Wind Accents™ do best. A focal point would be the place a viewer looks first, but once the viewer gets to the focal point, there has to be something else to look at next. When using a Wind Accent™ as a focal point, you are thinking of the planting as a whole compositional unit, with the Wind Accent™ as the place you want the viewr to start first. In the case of a garden or out door room, this would be your plantings. If your eye stops at the Wind Accent™ and there is nothing else to look at, then the Wind Accent™ becomes a center of interest and primary in this setting leaving the plantings to become supporting units for it. (see section F).

1. End of path or Alcove

If you put a Wind Accent™ at the end of a path or alcove you automatically stop the eye at that point because the Wind Accent™ is different from the mass of plantings. In the photo on the right you would have no place to focus your attention if the Peacock Articular™ were not there. Even though this is a very large sculpture, there is plenty of interest around it to look at.



2. Inside Trellis (arbor)

Trellises and/or arbors make wonder places for a Wind Accent™. In the case of this photo, the trellis frames the Chime Gazebo™ as you walk through it. The Chime Gazebo™ focuses attention on the end of the trip, so to speak. Trellises that are closed would make a frame for a Wind Accent™ . In either case the trellis acts as a frame and therefore the Wind Accent™ becomes primary.

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3. On an Island

If you have an island or isolated portion of the garden that is raised and higher than most of the garden, this would be the ideal place to showcase a Wind Accent™. Keep in mind, however, that there is a good chance the artwork will dominate the space. You can defeat this by using a Wind Accent™ that closely matches texture and color of the the plantings. If the plantings are extreme in color, shape or size, in other words, very showy, the Wind Accent™ in this setting will be less dominant and become more of an accent. If, however, the planting is subordinate, then the Wind Accent™ can be considered a feature as if it were on a



This is an example of a planting that can be an island for a focal point or an island that can use an accent. The view on the left has sky and distant mountains which forms a dramatic backdrop in concert with the raised planting itself. On the right, distant trees and a house are in the background, which lessens the impact of staging, but by placing a Wind Accent on the island, it draws attention to it. So if you have an island, much depends on how you most often view it.



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4. Where Path Curves.

Paths are motion conductors. A path conducts you physically or visually. If you want the eye or person to stop or pause at a point, this is where you would want to place a Wind Accent™. If the Wind Accent™ contrasts in color and shape greatly from the plantings, or is always moving because it is exposed to the wind, then it becomes an eye stopper and you may not want that in this situation. You want the viewer to appreciate the path and visually or physically move down it, but you also want to draw their attention to a special place as they are doing so.



Placing the Wind Accent™ in this opening on the right side of a path keeps the visual movement of the path uninterrupted, but the Wind Accent™ allows the viewer to pause which then helps the viewer see the shapely bushes just ahead.



The Wind Accent™ here is placed within the plantings and becomes more of a part of the plantings along the path. What you cannot see in this picture, is a small water fall. The Wind Accent™ marks the spot for for this hidden feature.

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E. Surprise

It is nice to have a little something extra in your garden, a surprise, if you will, something pleasant and unexpected. Large masses of similar color with a similar color Wind Accent™, like patina in a green setting is a good place for a little surprise. You will not notice the Wind Accent™ until it starts to turn. You can also have something quite different in a setting, as in the picture to the right. Basically this is a planting of Alaska daisies and gladiolas, but the Wind Accent is unexpected and not only draws attention to itself, it is a surprise to see it move. The Wind Accent2 can also be hidden from view in most instances until it either moves or you encounter it. The element of surprise can greatly enrich your garden.



F. Be A Feature



Making a Wind Accent™ a feature in the garden changes the relationship between plantings and artwork. Now part of the garden supports the artwork. There are probably many places in your garden where this will work well. I have chosen three examples based on the garden I used for photographing. (You didn't think my garden looked like this did you?)

This example is of a raised area that forms a small alcove. The plantings are less showy in that throughout the year there are not too many brightly colored or dramatic plants. The alcove is a perfect place to show a Wind Accent™ and use the plantings as a backdrop.

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If you have a patio or deck, a corner is a natural for showing a piece of artwork. In this case there are distant trees that form a back ground. If you have a view in the distance the emphasis on the artwork will change depending on the detail and distance. Overlooking a valley, where features are small and blend together will emphasize the artwork. Overlooking water will emphasize the artwork even more. A close background like this one brings the artwork closer to your attention.



Artwork can be a feature if there is no specific location for it if the background is plain. Here the Chime Gazebo™ is backed by tall cedar trees which are basically uniform in texture and color, not too interesting in itself, but a perfect backdrop for artwork. The large oak tree on the left helps frame the artwork. The position of the artwork depends on where you want to view it. If you see it from this point then it will be a feature, but if this view point is not available, then it becomes an accent along a trail.

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Mark An Entrance



Wind Accents™ make excellent markers for entrances to paths or special areas of the garden. They can act as a beacon if the top is higher than the surrounding plantings. This is also a good way to take advantage of the dimension of movement.

End Notes

The pictures were taken from three gardens in the Hood River area in Oregon. They were not always the best choice for what I wanted to say regarding garden design, but I'm sure you can get the idea. I want to thank the owners for the use of their gardens and take special notice that I didn't wreck anything. This is something you should take note of too. Wind Accents™ are portable, you can move them around during the season to mark special places in different ways as described here. They are meant to be left outdoors all year. So after the garden is through for the year, you still have something pleasant and interesting to look at.