

Green Roof Service LLC presents:

June 19, 2012

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#### Green Roof Plant of the Month



Brush up on your green roof plant knowledge with a new plant every month! Only on our Green Roof Plant Blog!



#### A Feast for the Senses

When designing green roofs which encourage human interaction it is important to keep in mind the 5 senses, taste, touch, smell, sight, and sound.



#### Biodiversity on Intensive Green Roofs

Intensive green roofs with great media depth and plant selection offer ample opportunities for biodiversity. Ramps or tiered levels offer roof access to non-aerial fauna setting the stage for the introduction and interaction of the surrounding ecology.



#### Pittsburgh Goes Green

This past week Kat Harrold joined Ian Cooke of Monrovia and Mike Coraggio from EcoWalls for an ASLA green wall lecture series. The trio gave an informative presentation on various things to consider from design phase to maintenance of green walls.



## Engaging the Senses

When designing green roofs which encourage human interaction it is important to keep in mind the 5 senses, taste, touch, smell, sight, and sound.

**Taste** – While the a green roof may be a tough environment for some vegetation to grow, there are still several edible herbs that can provide delicious accents to a meal or tea. Mint, chives, parsley, cilantro, thyme, oregano and rosemary are just a few edible herbs that thrive on extensive to semi-intensive green roofs.

**Touch** – Flowing grasses with prickly seed heads and the fuzzy leaves of Hieracium create a dynamic contrast to the lush springy texture of succulents and sedum. Small berms can be used to integrate ornamental grass areas into extensive green roofs while keeping weight restrictions in check.

**Smell** – Closely related to taste, many culinary herbs can also employ a richly scented environment. Other fragrant options for green roofs are lavender, polyantha rose “the Fairy”, sage, and Echinacea Daydream.

**Sight** – One of the many beautiful things about a green roof is there are a multitude of drought tolerant plants which provide year round interest.

**Sound** – Green roofs have the to power to not only clean rain and air pollution but sound pollution as well. When designing a green roof to function as a patio space, consider using plants which rustle in the wind such as grasses. The tall reeds create white noise which helps mask the sound of a busy street.



## **Biodiversity on Intensive Green Roofs**

Intensive green roofs with great media depth and plant selection offer ample opportunities for biodiversity. Ramps or tiered levels offer roof access to non-aerial fauna setting the stage for the introduction and interaction of the surrounding ecology. Just because a large animal such as a bear or moose may inhabit the local area does not mean that the intensive green roof must attract it to make the biodiversity effort a success. Creating an environment which supports a variety of plants and fauna on the lower levels of the food chain benefit the entire food web for the surrounding area.

Visit us again next week as we discuss biodiversity and rooftop farming!



## **Pittsburgh Goes Green**

This past week Kat Harrold joined Ian Cooke of Monrovia and Mike Coraggio from EcoWalls for an ASLA green wall lecture series. The trio gave an informative presentation on vital elements to consider from design phase to maintenance of green walls.

Ian charmed the audience with illuminating and entertaining descriptions of key specimens to utilize for climbing green walls. He also provided a nice over view of different systems and materials to consider when selecting green wall support systems.

Kat provided detailed climbing green wall information from a case study of a recent project. The case study discussed the evolution of the project from the architects concept drawings to plant selection and custom planter designs. This project demonstrated how one can create an inexpensive and ecologically effective outdoor green wall on a LEED retrofit.

Mike finished up the presentation with beautiful creations that only he and the Imagineers of Disney could dream up. Intensive green walls for both indoor and outdoor displays lit up the screen with a variety of themes and ornate designs showing the true aesthetic potential for this green medium.