

Underplanting The Blossom Tree

Costas Lymbouris



Adding Value to a
lovely blossom tree !

April Blossom



Autumn Colours



- Not much to see around the tree between spring and autumn and over winter
- Need to provide additional interest to the spring and autumn ‘fireworks’
- Provide more lasting interest for views from the house

Underplanting



Shade under large Acer

Underplanting



Shade under large Acer
colour from astilbe and foliage interest

- Could repeat the above, it works
- But sometimes you need inspiration to try something different?

- To move creativity up a notch
- and overcome the fear of turning a focal point into an eyesore



- In the short time available to me, I can't provide the steps that might lead to a successful outcome
- But there is someone who can and she does it in 4-minutes.
- Margaret Roach video on underplanting on her website
<https://awaytogarden.com/10-thoughts-on-successful-underplanting>

Ephemerals

- Margaret Roach says “Use an assortment of bulbs and ephemerals to extend the period of interest and plant multiples of the same plant”
 - Ephemerals are herbaceous plants that do not like the heat of summer
 - They appear above ground in autumn to spring
 - Recede below ground in the heat of early summer

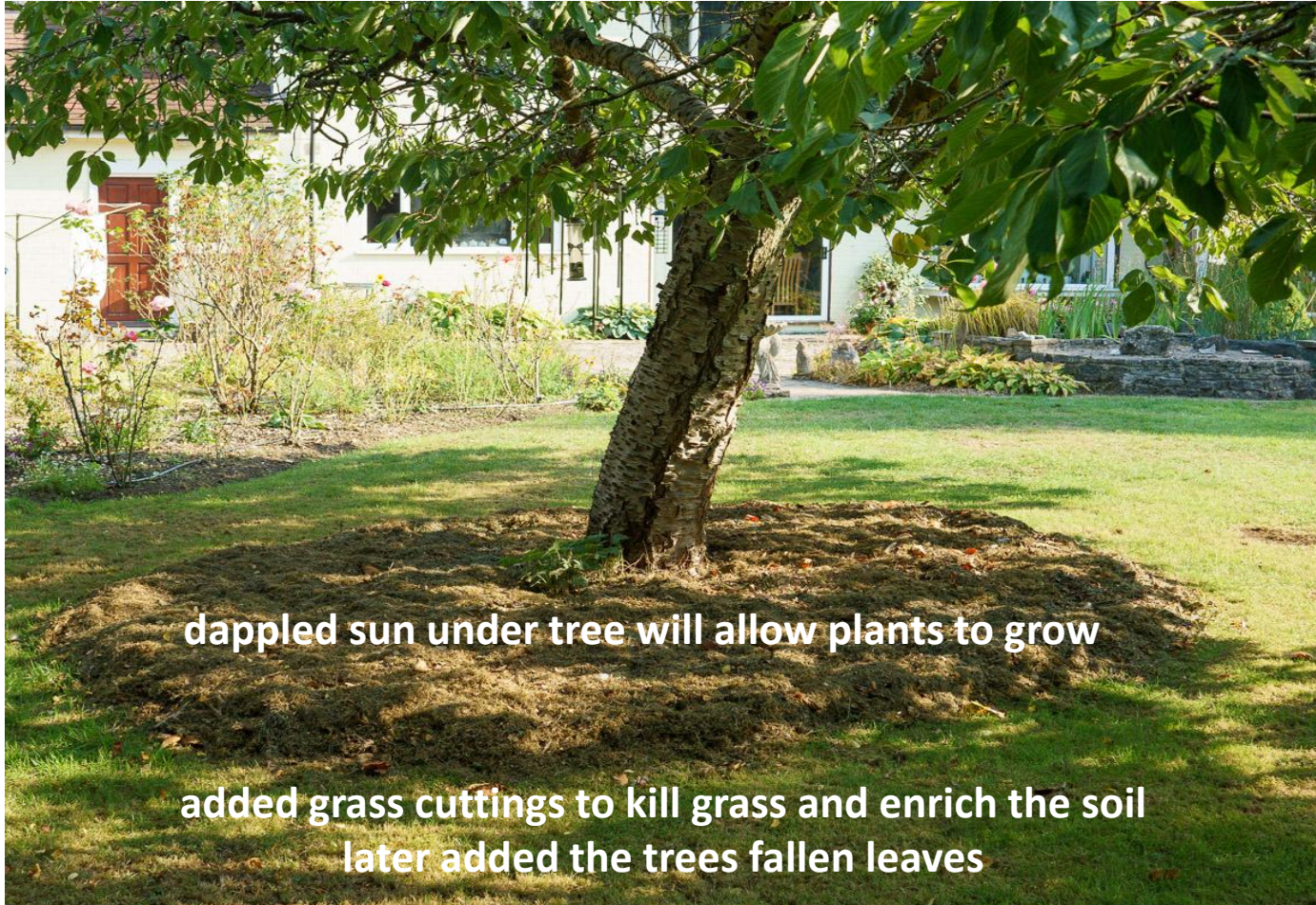
Ephemerals

- “Use ephemerals to extend the period of interest”
 - Anemone blanda (March – April)



Making a start – Sep 2020

Tree roots prevent digging



dappled sun under tree will allow plants to grow

added grass cuttings to kill grass and enrich the soil
later added the trees fallen leaves

Tree Roots Prevent Digging

- 10 weeks later, removed material that had not decayed (mainly moss)
- Covered area with garden compost then topped with leaf mould
- Its then time to arrange the plants

November 2020



December 2020



First tranche of plants in ground
Tulip and daffodils planted in-between
Sticks mark where additional plants will be placed

January 2021



Not much happening here, no new “top growth”

January 2021



Did the snow kill everything ?

February 2021



Herbaceous plants need 10-hours of light to start growing so, from 3rd week of February

March 2021



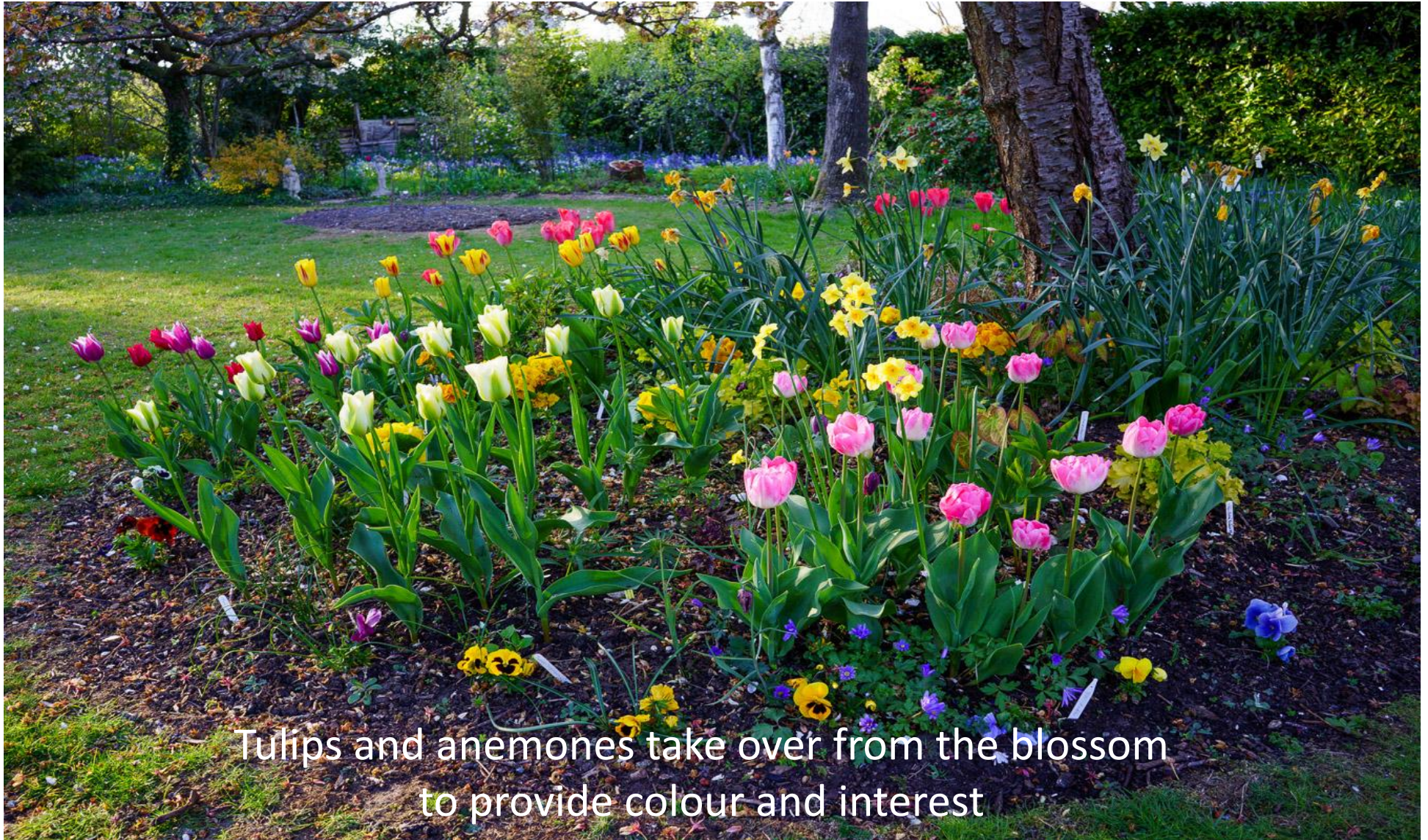
The additional daffodils giving a good display
aided by polyanthus

April 2021



Blossom is 2-weeks early

Late April 2021



Tulips and anemones take over from the blossom to provide colour and interest

May 2021



Heuchera & Polyanthus work well with blue Anemone

July 2021



6-months after planting, border 'filling out'

A photograph of a garden bed situated under the overhanging branches of a tree with green leaves. The garden bed is filled with a variety of plants, including several large green Hosta plants, some with white flowers, and smaller plants with pink and purple flowers. The ground is covered with dark brown mulch. The garden bed is bordered by a green lawn on the left and right sides.

July 2021

Colour from Astilbe, Heuchera and Hosta,
white hydrangeas in back, hosta flowering



August

The far side, it's an "island border" so needs to look good from all sides, planting looks sparse in August because were many ephemerals here. Have selected mainly lighter foliage colours in this border to "light up" the shade, hydrangea 'Snow White' needs more light to flower



August

Room for plant growth
Hydrangea Endless-Summer 'Bloomstar' lights up the border,
need more, the heuchera have grown and add leaf colours
with flower interest coming from the gaura and dahlias behind

Objective Achieved

Interest through the year
around the blossom tree

but too early for 'mosaics'



Questions