These Pictures, of two different borders, demonstrate how plants mature I plan/plant for a garden to peak in 3-5 years, not immediately. It needs to develop over time.

April 2017: Perennials planted in 2L pots and Shrubs in 10L pots
Bark mulch around them which looks nice, suppresses the weeds, keeps moisture and adds nutrients





Aug 2017: Even after 4 months there is quite a lot of growth





June 2018: I year later:

For the first few years the Perennials will rule.....





July 2019: 2 years later the borders are full.





Once all have established – 5-10yrs later - the shrubs will dominate and provide the desired structure.....