



Time and Hints to Take Home

Landscaping Plans



One of the basic services you can find at Plant Land is help when you are planning new landscaping or need to renovate existing areas. It can seem like a major

task but we can help make it easier for you. Go over the following points as you consider what to do and then come see us. It will help us if you have these basic tasks finished before we start.

Make a drawing, even a rough one. You can get a booklet from Plant Land with graph paper and good, detailed instructions. It is important to know about how much space you are working with. Pace off distances, mark compass directions, indicate buildings and 'hardscape' such as driveways or walks. It doesn't have to be perfect or pretty to be helpful. If you are renovating an existing landscape, make two drawings. Have one that shows all existing plantings and another with only plants you hope to keep. It helps to take photos too. Buy a disposable camera for just this project and shoot the whole roll.

Drive around and look at other landscaping, both homes and businesses. You will see many things you like and will notice at least a few mistakes you can avoid. Don't worry if you don't know the names of plants. You are trying to get a feel for what you like and don't like and general, even vague descriptions will work for that.

If you are familiar with any plants you may want to use, take time to do a little research about them. If you've always wanted a shady Maple, stop by and find out from us what types grow here, how big they get and so on. It is a good idea to 'tire kick' plants too.

Start with the big stuff. You may have always dreamed of a flowerbed but unless you have planned where larger plants such as trees and shrubs will go, your flowerbed may not turn out the way you hope. It is a lot easier to rethink and maybe move a flowerbed in 10 years than a tree that was planted in the wrong spot. You don't have to plant the big stuff to start but at least plan where you will plant things eventually.

Observe your property for a few days or weeks. Watch for light, where is it shady? Where is it hot? What areas do you use the most? When you are inside, what areas do you see from rooms where you spend a lot of time? Think about how foolish it might be to make a beautiful flower garden outside the bedroom window if the only time you spend in your bedroom is at night and asleep. Think about what you want people to see as they drive up to or by your house. Think about what areas will look like in other seasons besides summer.

Don't forget practical needs. Will children need a place free of plants for playing? Will pets be confined to a special area or allowed to roam over the whole property? Where will snow be removed from and to in winter? Will the roof shed snow? Where? Don't forget to plan for snow removal on decks and sidewalks too. How will you get water to different areas? How much lawn do you want?

Be frank with yourself about how much you want and are able to do yourself, both to start and for upkeep. Most serious gardeners will tell you their yards are works in progress. Many homeowners prefer to plant once and not have to deal with it again. Money and time usually influence decisions. We like to remind people that there is no landscaping rule that says it must be completed in one fell swoop. Projects can be completed in stages over

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several seasons and become much more manageable for both time and money. Finally, stop in and see us at Plant Land. We are always willing to offer advice and suggestions. Bring your drawings or photos and ideas. We can show you plants and help you work up a plan and a budget. We also offer limited site visits for a small fee

where we will come to your house and have a look. Be sure to pick up a copy of the Plant Land Gardening Guide. It lists all the plants we sell with cultural information for each. So go ahead, dream, scheme, plot and plant. We can help you from start to finish, every step of the way!