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Basics Of Landscaping

By Sara Nightingale

So you have a yard, but do you have landscaping? The best thing to do is to get back to the basics and start learning about landscaping from the soil up.

It Starts with the Soil

In order for your soil to work as well as possible, you need to have it tested. Your soil might be perfect or it might just need some nitrogen. Soil engineers can test and analyze soil from different points in your yard to help your yard perform at its best.

What you need to understand about landscaping is that it serves more than just an artistic or aesthetic purpose. Landscaping is functional outdoor art, but it can also serve as a vehicle for privacy; landscaping can exist to attract certain insects or birds to your home; landscaping can be used to cover up your foundation that sticks out from the bottom of your siding, among other things.

Good landscape designers are taught to utilize your landscaping for whatever you desire (security, privacy, etc) with a design that is pleasing to the eye and to the neighborhood. So think about what you are trying to get done with your landscaping. If you are trying to attract butterflies or keep neighbors from peering in, keep this in mind so that your landscaping can serve both purposes.

Simplicity is important in design and art. It's one of the best guidelines you can follow as a beginner or do it yourself. Just keep things simple to begin with. You can do more later on. Simplicity in planting, for instance, would be to pick two or three colors and repeat them in your landscape. Keep decor to a minimum and within a specific theme.

Balance is just as the word implies a sense of equality. There are basically two types of balance in landscape design: Symmetrical and Asymmetrical.

Symmetrical balance is when there are equally spaced matching elements in the garden design. With a garden equally divided, both sides could share all or part of the same shape, form, plant height, plant groupings, colors, bed shapes, theme, etc. Symmetrical design is somewhat of a mirror image or

reflection. Asymmetrical is just the opposite.

After you have completed your landscaping you will be outside, sweating, and getting your hands dirty trying to get that green thumb.

Sara Nightingale is an avid gardener and landscaper who specializes in helping newcomers to beautify their outdoor surroundings

<http://www.landscaping.thegardenstop.com>

Landscaping, An American Pass Time

By James Calvin

Landscaping has been a favorite American pass time for hundreds of years. Recently through the added exposure of popular TV shows, the interest in sprucing up one's landscaping has become greater than ever. Today, many shows are introducing everyone to new and fun ways to enjoy landscaping. There are even dedicated television channels, such as the Home and Garden channel, that explore all things beautiful to improve one's living space and take it from just functional to luxurious through improved landscaping.

Landscaping is a pass time no longer limited to just seniors or those that enjoy a relaxing activity. Today, all across our great country, families are finding landscaping to be a great activity that everyone from Grandma and Grandpa down to the youngest children can enjoy together. Landscaping is a family activity that everyone can get on board with.

Landscaping, although relaxing, can also be a good source for exercise. With an ever increasing spot light on weight loss, adding landscaping to your routine can increase calorie burn.

Landscaping's appeal has so many facets. Those looking to improve the look of home they want to sell as well as those looking to improve the look of their current home and neighborhood are finding landscaping to be a viable option. It is simply amazing to see what a difference a little landscaping can do to add curb appeal to a home or neighborhood. Many communities are improving their aesthetic appeal with professional landscaping.

To be an expert in landscaping, one must understand that it is not as easy as it seems. You need to do appropriate research, design and implementation in order for any landscaper to appreciate the outcome. This of it the way an artist looks at an empty canvas. The beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Take that into landscaping and you'll see results that you never thought you could achieve.

James Calvin is bringing awareness to the web topics such as landscaping through his website

<http://www.landscaping-ideas.org>

For more details on landscaping be sure to visit his website. You

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