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## The Art Of Landscaping Your Garden

By Marie K Fisher

Landscaping is the one gardening endeavor that can consume lots and lots of your time and energy. If you are thinking of tackling it on a grand scale, you will need some major preparation. If you were to consider hiring a professional landscaper, you would most probably find that the costs would be quite horrendous.

Now that's fine if money is no object, but I personally get great pleasure from my own endeavors, gardening is after all my great passion in life.

I would strongly suggest however, that you have a clear idea in your mind about how you would like your garden to look, rather than simply starting off without a clear plan in mind.

Having said all that, here are simple but indispensable tips to guide you in making your landscaping activities extremely rewarding.

Draw Your Landscape Plan.

However not just any plan. It needs to be a well thought out landscape plan, or you are certainly doomed to lose money as well as time and energy. You really need to take account of the style and function of your landscape, and a good idea of the plants that you also want to include. Focus on that area where you spend most of your time, because this is where your landscaping labors should all be directed.

Investigate A Free Planning Service.

Hiring an independent designer would probably cost you hundreds of dollars, but you might well discover that many nurseries offer a free planning service, particularly if you are likely to be spending some money with them.

Take Account Of The Style Of Your Home.

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When planning your landscape, the style should complement the design of your house and your personality as well. There are various landscape styles which you can choose for your garden:–

1. Formal – This style uses lots of straight lines and perfect geometrical shapes. Orderly arrangement of plants instead of random positioning is employed, and close arrangement and pruning is used on many landscaped gardens with this style.
2. Informal – This kind of landscaping goes well with houses which have a cozy look to them. Beds with curved edges instead of straight lines and random placement of plants suit this landscape style.
3. English Garden – This style emphasizes on the harmony between the house's architecture and the garden.
4. Formal/Informal Garden – This style often comes with a brick walkway that exudes formality. This walkway leads to the rear with a circle of plants. The arrangement of plants resembles the English garden style, but it has no formal borders.
5. Oriental – It is often the kind of garden found in houses with small backyards. It uses rocks, evergreens and water, and a wide variety of plants to create several angles with this style.
6. Woodland – This landscaping suits a house that has a wooded backyard and an inclined terrain.

Keeping those tips in mind will not only make your landscaping a very fruitful activity, but will save you considerable expense as well as time.

Don't be frightened to use your imagination and flair for color in this project, after all it is primarily to please yourself and your family. I suggest that the satisfaction that you will gain from creating and designing your own personal landscaped garden, will make you feel like a true artist.

Marie K Fisher is an avid gardening enthusiast with a passion for exotic flowers and wonderful colors. She is a regular contributor to Garden Center Showplace a leading online Garden Center. For more details of the superb range of products offered, and also more Featured Articles and Tips on Gardening visit

<http://www.gardencentershowplace.com>

### **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.

## The Art Of Landscaping Your Garden

### 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>



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