

OSU EXTENSION NEWS

Top 10 Landscaping tips



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Designing your own landscape can be fun and rewarding, but to most, very challenging. However, there are many resources available to help guide you through the process if you choose to tackle it yourself. How-to books, text books, fact sheets and other publications exist at the library, bookstore or on the internet. Designs don't have to be complicated, but in some cases the topography or other unique situations may pose some difficult challenges and seem overwhelming; if this is the case it might be best to hire a professional.

In addition to the basic elements and principles of design, here is a top ten list of things to consider when designing a landscape.

1. Always start planning on paper

An eraser is always easier to use than a shovel.

2. Trees should be used to frame the house and provide background. They should never block or hide the house.

3. Do not over plant - be sure you know the ultimate size of each plant and allow room for growth. Do not depend on heavy pruning to keep plants within desired size.

4. Balance is important in landscaping. Do not arrange one area of the property with more color or more heavily planted than another area.

5. Create focal points or centers of interest. These focal points can be outstanding plants, pieces of tasteful statuary or a distant view.

6. In order to make people feel welcome, do not put large shrubs near the door. Use

somewhat larger shrubs near the corners of the house and gradually taper plantings to lower shrubs near the door.

7. In general, do not depend on a foundation planting of perennials, annuals and roses in the front of the house. They are ineffective most of the year.

8. When planning your landscape, do not overlook shrubs with outstanding winter coloring, branching habits or fruit. Plan for year-round effect.

9. In general, plants with fine texture are better placed in the foreground; coarser materials with large leaves in the background.

10. Select plants that will grow well in the geographical area and under the management you will give them.

Above all use your imagination and have fun.