Basic Landscape Design and Maintenance

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Gardening...

British comedian and playwright Arthur Smith put it this way:

"If you want to be happy for a short time, get drunk; happy for a long time, fall in love; happy forever, take up gardening."

From the Beginning of Time...
On The Third Day of the Creation---

And God said, let the earth bring forth grass, the herb… and the fruit tree yielding fruit… Genesis 1:11

And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden… and out of the ground made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food… 2:8-9

Then, a Few Days Later –Adam Got His First Job:
And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it …2:15
At his farm near Gettysburg, speaking with pride of his retirement, President Dwight Eisenhower said that one of the most satisfying accomplishments of his life was “owning a piece of land and leaving it in better condition than he found it”.
Now it’s YOUR turn…

Basic Landscape Design and Maintenance

By Gary Fawson, USU Master Gardener
Maintaining a Beautiful Yard

1. StartWith a Purpose and a Plan
2. Choose the Right Plants
3. Give Your Plants What They Need
   A. Proper Environment
   B. Good Soil
   C. Careful Watering
   D. Proper Fertilizing
   E. Mulch
   F. Fine Lines
Where do we begin?

Start by Observing Nature...

What Do YOU like?

- Big Trees
- Sweeping Vistas
- Lots of Color
- Lush Lawns
- Streams & Water Features
- Large Play Areas
- Private Garden Rooms
- Woodland Glade
- Gazebos & BBQ Centers
Trees
Sweeping Vistas...
Lots of Color...
Lush Lawns & Borderers...
Streams & Water

Features
Large Play Areas...
Private Garden Rooms...
Woodland Glade...
Gazebos & BBQ Areas...
Know Your Plan:

1. Your Purpose
   - the function of the plants

2. Your Site
   - Climate
   - Soil
   - Sunlight Exposure
USDA Plant Hardiness

Zone 5 - 6

-20 to -10°F
Utah’s Climate is High Mountain Desert
Frost Free growing seasons in Northern Utah range from 30 days or less in the mountain valleys to 200+ days in lower elevations.
Soil

Acidic or Alkaline?

Most plants exist in conditions with a pH 5.0 (Very Acid) - 8.0 (Very Alkaline)

Utah Soils are Naturally Alkaline
What is the soil like at your site?

- Clay
- Sand
- Silt
Choose the right plant or pay...

Red Tip Photinia
Cold Hardiness: 10 to 0 Degrees

Common Lilac
Very Cold
Hardy and Excellent in Utah Soils
Most Utah Soils have less than 1% Organic Matter.

The best way to improve YOUR soil is to add, add and add again “Organic Matter”
When the soil is too heavy and wet, you can raise the planting area (build a birm) to help keep the roots above the water table and out of the heavy clay.
Sunlight

- 6 Hours + = Full Sun
- Dapple Shade
- Full Shade
Revue Our Purpose?

- Utility
- Color
- Shade
- Play
- Garden Room
- Privacy
- Etc.
1. Purpose
2. Right Plants
3. Proper Environment
4. Good Soil
5. Sunshine

Now we can draw up the PLAN...
Whether you are starting with a new yard or just changing a corner of your yard... draw a rough idea on paper of what your dream is...
Remember, in Utah our landscape will be ever changing.
In Conclusion,
Four Hints to Maintain What You Have Created:
Now, just two more items that will help you live in a beautiful yard:

Careful Watering is critical in a desert,
Before Sprinkling System

After-

About same time of
Proper use of Fertilizer

Make it Simple & Inexpensive...
For Lawns: Ammonium Sulfate 3 times:

- Memorial Day
- Labor Day
- St. Patrick's Day

Flowers/Gardens:
Balanced 12-12-12 in the Spring
Then as needed during growing season.
Some flowers may need a little more Phosphorus for better bloom, like 5-12-5
Iron is sometimes needed to help cure chlorosis in trees and turf.
3. Mulch

This can be your best friend in preventing weeds

Plus: Mulch helps preserve moisture, keep the soil cooler and decomposes for a richer soil.
4. Fine Lines

* Spray
* Shovel
* Trim
A good spray program can save you hours from weeding and give you more time to do the creative...
Spray “Roudup type” killer carefully along your edges.
Clean up the surface area with weed eater and rake...
Then turn the string trimmer sideways to cut along border...

... a shovel may be needed to establish a new border or re-define an older one...
Then use the string trimmer again to sharpen the edges.

... your square shovel can clean up the edge...
Now, to Wrap it up...

* Visit Nurseries

* Use some good Garden Books

* Call Larry Sagers on KSL Saturday mornings!
Now it is your turn...
... your turn, to dress it and keep it. Have Fun!
Thomas Jefferson, who was also one of America’s premier gardeners and had a great deal of influence on our early landscapes, said:

"Those who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God."

That’s YOU!

Thanks for Coming...