Landscape Design Series 17
Waterwise Do’s and Don’ts

Authored by
Larry A. Sagers
Horticulture Specialist
Utah State University
Funding Assistance From A Bureau Of Reclamation Grant
Waterwise Designer
Do’s and Don’ts
for
Utah Landscapes

Avoiding Landscape Problems
Waterwise Landscapes Require Good Designs
Waterwise Landscapes That Ignore Design Criteria are Doomed to Fail
Ziggy

HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS

PINK LAWN FLAMINGOS? ...GIMME A BREAK!!!
How do you use flamingoes
Christmas Flamingoes
More Christmas Flamingoes
Pink Floyd in Erda
Good designs make good landscapes
Some landscape design mistakes cause problems
Create a 3-dimensional effect

THINGS TO DO

CREATE A 3–DIMENSIONAL EFFECT
Avoid crushing plants against the house
Avoid planting to close to the home
Allow space for plants of natural size and shape
Small plants fill in slowly at first.
They create excellent long-term plantings
The right selections stay attractive for many years.
Allow shrubs to grow to their natural form
Avoid hedging to make them fit too small a place.
Freeform shrubs are the most attractive
Make exceptions for formal landscapes
Use mature plant heights
1/2 the height of the eves
These plant remain functional for years.
Avoid taller plants because of pruning
Place lower plants next to the door

THINGS TO DO

CHOOSE SMALL GROWING PLANTS

EMPHASIZE FOCAL POINT
Draw the eye to the focal point
Create a warm, eye-appealing look
The right-sized plants emphasize focal points
Well-chosen plants lead the eye to the focal point.

THINGS TO DO

FOCAL POINT
WARM EYE—APPEALING
They should not detract from the focal point.
Avoid interfering with form and function
Do not place large plants under windows
Select plants that do not need constant trimming
Window clearing is time consuming and difficult
It increases maintenance time and costs
Select plants that stay in the design bounds
Do not clutter the lawn
Lawns add landscape perspective and depth
Dividing the lawn is aesthetically unattractive
It makes trimming and mowing a nightmare
Do not frame windows or doorways
Choose small spreading shrubs
Framing individual window bisects the home

THINGS NOT TO DO

DONT’T FRAME WINDOWS

CHOOSE SMALL SPREADING SHRUBS
This detracts from the focal point
As plants grow larger, the condition becomes worse
The landscape becomes less attractive
Avoid planting large trees next to homes
Avoid one-gallon spruces next to the front door
These soon need removal
Removal often destroys the landscape beauty.
Overgrown trees also damage roofs and siding.
In extreme cases they damage concrete.
Avoid zigzagging across the front of the home
Zigzag patterns make a cold and harsh look

THINGS NOT TO DO

ZIG ZAG
COLD HARSH
Frame and draw the eye to the focal point
Use smaller plants next to the door
Taper up to larger sizes on corner plantings
House with overgrown plants
House with overgrown plants years later
Design Spoiled by One Incorrectly Selected Tree 2004
The End
For More Information
Contact Your Local Utah State University Extension Office
Check Them Out At
http://extension.usu.edu/