Top Ten Ways To Improve Your Garden

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1. Plan Your Landscape Designs, Vegetable Gardens and Orchards Carefully

Then Follow Your Design
How Do Most Yards Get Landscaped?
Ask Yourself This Question
How Do Most Yards Get Landscaped?

• Is it By Landscape Architects?
• Is It By Landscape Contractors?
• Is It by Local Nurseries?
How Do Most Yards Get Landscaped?

The Answer Is Simple...
How Do Most Yards Get Landscaped?

It is Plants on Sale !!!
How Do Most Yards Get Landscaped?

Most Homeowner Vehicles are Trained to Stop Whenever They Detect the Magic Word SALE
How Do Most Yards Get Landscaped?

There is nothing wrong with bargains but make certain you are getting assets and not liabilities.
A Simple Map Turns Ideas Into A Good Landscape. Changes Are Made With Pencil And Eraser Instead Of Crowbar, Shovel, And Wheelbarrow.
2. Fix Your Soil, It Can Never Be Too Good
Good Landscapes and Gardens Are Not Natural, They are Created
They Always Start With The Right Soil
Where Are You Planting?
Is This My Soil?
Is This My Soil?
What is topsoil?
The “stuff” on top?
Amending soils with organic matter

- improves drainage of high clay soils
- improves sandy soil water-holding capacity
- reduces compaction
- provides nutrients to plants
- improves soil “tilth” (ease of tillage, working with a soil)
- lowers soil pH
How much should I add?

• How much is already there?
  – Native Utah soils ~ 0.25 to 2.0%
  – Ideal soils 5-10%

• Are you satisfied with the current condition of your soil?

• Don’t Learn to live with it!

• Add organic matter to maintain soil conditions
Ways to add/preserve organic matter

• Grow plants
  - plants put organic matter back into soil with roots and leaf litter

• Mulch around trees - organisms will incorporate the organic matter for you

• Add extra organic matter to the entire area, not just the planting hole
Sources of organic matter

- Wood residues
  - chips/sawdust/bark materials persist but need extra nitrogen to prevent tie-up (1 lb of nitrogen per 100 lbs of material)
Add nitrogen if needed
Sources of organic matter

- Grass or leafy green residues
  - can’t go wrong with these
Sources of organic matter

• Composts and animal manure
  – good sources of organic matter and nutrients
  – watch for salts and weed seeds
  – Biosolids
Add leaves
4. Put The Right Plant In The Right Place
Landscape Assets
Landscape Liabilities
WHERE DO YOU WANT ME TO PLANT IT, HONEY?
I'm going to leave the planting part completely up to you, dear.
I'm sure you'll think of the perfect spot for our new little tree.
IF YOU PLANT IT THERE IT'LL END UP SHADING YOUR FLOWER BED.
This won't work either! It'll spoil my view of the sunset.
YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE A GOOD SPOT FOR IT ANYWHERE IN YOUR YARD
Did you find the right place for it, honey?

Yep, sure did.
5. Give Your Plants What They Need
Quality vegetables require high levels of minerals and water.
They grow rapidly and produce their edible portion in 25–100 days.
Six foot tall corn has to grow an inch per day
An 1100 pound pumpkin gains more than ten pounds per day
We want tender, crisp vegetables with succulent, tasty fruits
Plants that lack water and nutrients are not as productive nor as tasty
Follow guidelines for a productive garden of quality vegetables
6. Get Rid Of What Plants Don’t Need
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7. Grow More Of Your Own Fresh Fruits And Vegetables
8. Use Water Wisely

Water Issues
Utah Is The Second Driest State In The Nation
Gardening In A Water Challenged Environment

What We Have
Gardening In A Water Challenged Environment

What We Want
Gardening In A Water Challenged Environment

• The Issues
  – Supply
  – Cost
  – Plant Health
  – Associated Costs
Gardening In A Water Challenged Environment

• The Issues
  - Supply
Gardening In A Water Challenged Environment

• The Issues
  – Cost
Gardening In A Water Challenged Environment

• The Issues
  – Plant Health
Gardening In A Water Challenged Environment

• The Issues
  − Associated Costs
9. Learn Something New
Watch Your Garden
Add Something That Makes You Feel Good
Get In Touch With Your Sensitive Side
10. Share The Harvest And Share Your Knowledge And Abilities
Share The Harvest And Share Your Knowledge And Abilities
Rose Parade 2011
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The End