



Redding Garden Club

Garden Tips

Landscaping Ideas

By Sally Pfeifer

I took some time to pull together some ideas about landscaping. I'm not a landscape designer, but in the Master Gardening program we had some classes on design. These are some basic ideas:

If you have a designer's plan and can work towards that end, you save time and money doing some homework on your own about what you want the property to look like and what trees, shrubs and plants you like. This helps the designer use his or her talent to help you.

When you look at your property, you want your eye to flow to points of interest that give structure and a pulled-together look. This also gives you the opportunity to have what you like.

Your designer will tell you if the plants, shrubs and trees you like will do well in your yard. Look at other homes in your area. If a plant is appealing, see if that would work well on your property. Magazine pictures and photos are good to collect for a visual reminder.

Here is a list of questions to ask yourself:

Is the area sunny? How many hours of sun a day?

If the property is shady, how many hours of sun does it get?

Which direction does the property face—south, north, east, or west; sunrise or sunsets?

How is the drainage—does water pool or drain well?

Is sound or privacy a problem? Where you are too close to the road, you may want a screen for noise and privacy.

Can you work with old plantings of trees and shrubs, or do you need to clear out over-grown plantings?

Can I have that specimen tree I have wanted for years? A dogwood, magnolia or a beautiful Ginkgo tree should be in the plan.

These are a few general types of landscapes:

Woodland garden for shade or partial shade.

Ground cover with a path and steps to the house.

Flagstone paths with Russian sage and grass, catnip plants (*Nepeta faassenii*) are becoming popular.

Terracing with rock garden.

Opening up an area to let your eye flow to more of your property.

Putting in a shrub screening to cover up a driveway.

There are many more beautiful things you can do over time when working on your property. With a plan you can start with some focal trees or shrubs, not spending a lot, but with the idea of adding when you can, according to the plan. When it gets warmer and nurseries have their stock in, go and look at what attracts you. If a garden bed is to be added, choose the right location so it gets the sun it needs.

Remember to think about the time needed to maintain the garden and how to get water to it! Have fun planning your yard.