

All the Dirt

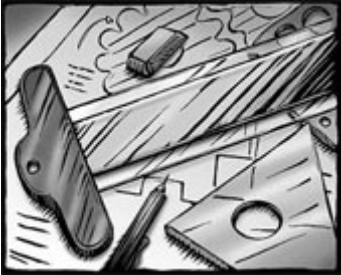
A periodical for friends and clients of Landscape Associates - Fall Issue

Creating The Perfect Landscape

We'd all like to have the best yard on the block, wouldn't we? Well, now you can! Here's ten tips for creating the perfect landscape, regardless of what you're starting with.

Think Simple

Before you embark on a big backyard project, decide what will work best in your yard. Maybe you don't have space for a big gazebo, or the right site is farther from the rest of the house than you'd like. Keep things simple and map out a landscape that's both functional and aesthetically pleasing.



Speaking of "mapping"...

Make a plan. One of the biggest landscaping mistakes people make is to start digging before they have a blueprint. Give some thought to your particular landscape. What are its strong points? What would you like to de-emphasize?

What would you like your landscape to do? Planning before planting can keep you from having to change course when you're half way through.

Be creative

Your landscape isn't limited to grass and a few flower beds. Fountains, ponds, sculptures and other landscaping accessories can make an ordinary space become extraordinary. Try stepping-stone walkways, arbors, gates and other structural pieces to give your landscape direction and depth.

Be Realistic

Shade plants only work if you have shade. Likewise, a sun-loving plant won't do well if you don't have a sunny spot to place it in. Before you invest in a multitude of plants, do your research. Talk to a landscape professional about your area and what type of plants might work best. You'll get much more enjoyment out of your landscape and enjoy simpler upkeep.

Irrigate

While you want an attractive landscape, you don't want to spend excessive time or resources watering it. Talk to a professional about proper irrigation.

Mulch

Different mulches provide different benefits. Bark and woodchips for example, are good for providing insulation and drainage while stones and rocks are more suited around trees and hedges. Some mulches also add to the nutrient value of your soil, giving your plants an added boost throughout the year.

Light It Up

Lighting not only helps you see where you're walking, it also adds an elegant touch and allows you and your guests to enjoy the outdoors after dark.

Think long-term

While your space might stay the same, your landscape won't. Trees and bushes grow and even your needs can change over time so keep that in mind when mapping your layout.

Make It Yours

Your landscape should work for you. Try different themes – formal English or rock garden, for example – and experiment with benches and other features. Factor in your normal outdoor activities and you'll end up with an outdoors that suits you.



Want to talk about your landscaping issues? Give us a call – we'd love to help you find the perfect landscaping for you.

Landscape Associates offers a full range of landscaping services throughout northeast Wisconsin.

We design, install, and maintain your outdoor living space or business environment.

Visit us on the web at www.landscape-associates.com or call 920.337.4915.



Landscape Associates

Unique design, with nature in mind

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Ten reasons to landscape during hard times

It's tough to know where to invest in uncertain times. Consider why now might be a great time to landscape:

1. Landscaping increases the value of your home and property.
2. If you're staying home more and entertaining more at home, you'll have a more pleasant environment for doing so.
3. Landscaping can correct drainage problems and other issues that devalue your property.
4. Landscaping is a long-term investment. You will reap immediate benefits and your yard will be even more beautiful and valuable over time.
5. Landscape renewal offers the opportunity to introduce environmentally friendly changes like rain gardens.

6. You can create a sanctuary of peace and serenity in which to retreat from the stresses of the world.

7. You will increase your home's curb appeal – create a competitive edge – if you are trying to sell.

8. Fire pits, outdoor kitchens and play areas encourage family and friends to gather and bond. Memories will be priceless.

9. Sometimes a small investment can result in big rewards – a pergola for a dining area... shrubbery that creates color and texture for the winter months... a small water feature.

10. Being surrounded by beauty is balm for the soul.

Need more reasons? Give us a call at 920.337.4915.

Mum's the Word



Colorful mums are indispensable to fall gardens. To enjoy them to their fullest, consider:

- Mums do best in full sun.
- They flourish in well-drained soil.
- Water mums well after planting, but try to keep the foliage dry. When leaves start to look limp, it's time to water again.
- If you're planting the mums for fall color only, they don't need fertilizer.