

LOW MAINTENANCE LANDSCAPING

Introduction

Low maintenance landscaping involves a combination of laying out the landscape areas, achieving low maintenance in keeping them up, and utilizing native species that require less water and will thrive in your yard without a great deal of care.

When laying out and planting flower and shrub beds, particularly those that border lawn areas, make sure they are easy to access to weed, prune and replace mulch. Make sure that the lawn and beds are easy to mow without a lot of maneuvering and hard to reach areas. Trees should be planted so that when mature, they will not encroach on adjacent trees, structures, power lines, or neighboring property. This also permits easier and safer pruning.

Using Native Plants

Planting native trees and shrubs in home landscapes is rapidly increasing in popularity. Native plants can be easily incorporated into a new or existing landscape to provide natural beauty and enhance habitat for wildlife. When properly selected and placed, native plants also benefit the environment through reduced water use and less need for pesticides and fertilizers. To top it off, native plants can result in lower, long-term maintenance costs, increased plant hardiness, and less work.

Below are several native shrubs to incorporate into home landscapes. These shrubs are available through your local nurseries and garden centers or online sources. Native shrubs include common witch-hazel, black haw viburnum, red chokeberry, Michigan holly, common ninebark, arrowwood viburnum, New Jersey Tea, buttonbush, bush honeysuckle, and shrubby cinquefoil.

Native trees include white oak, bur oak, red oak, Kentucky coffee tree, black gum, horn beam, serviceberry and juneberry, alternate leaved dogwood, Alternate leaved dogwood and the common paw paw.

The **Master Gardener Hotline** is open from April to October, Monday through Friday. Lines are available 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at 888-678-3464

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