



THE LANDSCAPE CONSULTANTS

Your design and installation team



Low-Maintenance Landscape Ideas

In today's busy world, we seem to have less and less time to be able to get things done. So when we think about the landscaping, sometimes just getting the lawn mowed is all that we have time for. Although there is no such thing as maintenance free landscaping, there is a few things that can be done to reduce the amount of care that the landscaping requires. Good planning, design, plant selection and correct maintenance, will help to keep the landscaping looking its best with little effort.

First, let's look at the features of your garden. What are the site conditions? Are there problem areas, desirable areas, and views?

Next you must look at the sun and shade patterns that happen through out the day in your yard. Make notes of the sunny and shady areas, as this will make it a lot easier later on.

Now access the existing plants, their location and condition. If you can identify the plant, is it at its full growth yet, if not "How much room will it need and is it going to out grow its present location?" If some plants have out grown their location, it is better to remove them now and replant. Also you should look at each plant and the maintenance that it requires like shearing, special care in winter or plants that are fast growing, as all of these are time consuming.

Check your soil for its drainage abilities. Too wet of soil has been the death of many plants.

Identify areas that are hard to maintain like lawn areas that have slopes. These can be both high-maintenance and unsafe.

Now that you have all of this information, you must sit down and think about what you and your families needs and desires are from the yard. If you have young children then you will want a play area that is safe and easy to see from the house. Or perhaps you do a lot of entertaining and require large patio areas that extent the living area of the house into the yard. If you have pets don't forget about them and they're needs. Many people like doing certain things and dislike others, so stop and think about things like raking leaves, watering plants, edging the lawn and of course weeding. When you have figured out which you like and dislike then it will become easier and easier to design the perfect low-maintenance yard.

Designing for Low Maintenance

Step 1: Keep the planting design simple but still being attractive and functional.

Step 2: Have smaller planting areas for the higher maintenance planting of bulbs, annuals and perennials flowers. These areas although small, if place in the right areas for high impact when you walk through the garden will be very effective. Using the right colours, soft colours for close to the house with the brighter primary colours farther away can make a big difference as to where your eye goes in the garden.

Step 3: When designing the planting beds, avoid sharp corners or narrow strips that the lawn mower can't reach. Soft, gentle curves or straight lines are the easiest to maintain.

Step 4: Edging the beds with a plastic edging or Allan Border Block can keep the mulch in the bed and the grass out.

Step 5: For high traffic areas place patios, paths or stepping stones, this will allow the grass to grow well and not require repairs.