

Five Steps to Landscaping Success

1

Determine the type or theme of landscape you would like to create.

Are you installing a foundation planting, screening an area, or establishing a specialty garden? Get ideas from garden centers, magazines or even your neighbors! Landscaping in steps will help you break your plan into workable portions and alleviate budget concerns.

2

Gather information about the site.

This info will help you to choose the right plant for a sustainable landscape.

This would include the following details:

- **Measurements:** Include the overall size of the area, and where windows, doors, and pertinent utilities are located.
- **Sun exposure:** How many hours of sun does it get and at what time? Does it face North, South, East or West?
- **Prevailing wind:** Is there a direct pattern in the summer or winter?
- **Soil Conditions:** Does it stay constantly moist or dry? Does the soil have a clay, sandy or loamy texture?

3

Make a list of the plants you find attractive.

- Trees and shrubs are great for form and structure, and also generally require less maintenance than annuals and perennials. However, annuals and perennials offer texture and color. A combination of different types of plants will meet aesthetic requirements.
- Choose plants that meet your determined site requirements. While Hostas are beautiful in the shade, they struggle with a full hot sun exposure. Also, consider plants with more than one seasonal feature, which will extend the beauty of your landscape over a longer period of time.

4

Consider maintenance requirements and spatial combinations.

- A thoughtful design combined with low maintenance plants can reduce the time spent maintaining your landscape. New varieties are available which require less pruning, spraying and “deadheading”. Do your homework to find these low maintenance gems.



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- The spatial arrangement focuses on how the plants combine to influence the look and feel of the outdoor “room”. You may want a formal look, which involves straight lines, or an informal look with more of a curvy form, or even a combination of the two.



Get drawing!

Graph paper and pencil is an excellent way to get your ideas down on paper. The squares will help you keep everything in proportion. Draw your plants based on their mature size. Your drawing doesn't have to be fancy, simple “xs” and “o's” can represent the plants. Draw any existing features such as structures and walkways first and then let your imagination run wild! At any point along the way, stop in and see the Wilson's staff. We will be happy to assist you with expert advice on the right plant for the right spot.