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LANDSCAPE

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

Your Home Grounds

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Modern landscaping combines beauty with utility, features simple design and easy maintenance. Well-landscaped homes in your area can give you ideas for your grounds; established rules and guidelines can help you carry out these ideas.

Don't be afraid to copy landscaping plans, because almost any landscape design is a composition of ideas previously used. However, do adapt the ideas to your yard.

And plan before you plant. Make a scale drawing of your house and yard on graph paper, using the largest scale the paper will allow — an ideal scale is one-fourth inch equals one foot. You can plan where you want what in the yard and can make your changes with an eraser instead of a spade.

Most landscape designers divide the yard into several areas. The **public area** is the front yard and parking space; the **private area** is the outdoor living room and play space, usually in the backyard. The **service area** includes the driveway, clothesline and garbage cans and trash cans, while the **garden area** is just that.

Base Planting: Base planting used to be called foundation plantings in days when shrubs hid high, ugly foundations. Now the main purpose of a base planting is to visually tie the house to the ground and emphasize a point of interest, such as the front door or a picture window.

Low, spreading shrubs, small trees, vines and ground cover may be used in base plantings; save flowers for other areas of the yard. Most landscape designers agree that a base planting should present a conservative look free from "gaudy bloom."

Nearly all base plantings are saucer-shaped. Achieve this by planting taller shrubs at the corners of the house, low spreading shrubs beneath windows and round shapes on either side of a doorway. When a shrub might block a view from a low window, plant ground cover instead. Or when an area is too small for a tree or a shrub, plant a vine.

Plant shrubs and trees at least 3 feet from the house or plant them at least one-half their mature width away from the house. If they're any closer to the building, they'll lean outward to get sunlight and will look unnatural; they'll also be too close to allow for space when you're washing windows or repainting.

Plant small shrubs in front of tall shrubs, especially at corners. This gives depth to the planting and keeps it from being a monotonous one-shrub row.

Width from the house to the edge of the planting should be 10 feet at the most. If a base planting is more than 10 feet wide, the house looks as if it is emerging from a brush pile.

Vines should not cover an entire wall, even a long unbroken one, and some wall should show between the vines. If the wall is brick, it looks good to see a few bricks that are uncovered.

Let the lawn meet the house in places — the base of the house should show occasionally. The house with a high, unsightly foundation is the only one that needs a continuous planting around it.

Most Idaho homeowners prefer evergreen base plantings with a few deciduous shrubs for emphasis. Deciduous plants offer color contrast through their bark, leaves, flowers and fruit.

Lawn: The lawn should slope away from the house for good drainage. Unless you have time to mow a large lawn, keep the grass area small. A lawn is as effective in landscape design as carpeting is in interior design.

For complete information on establishing and caring for a lawn, get a copy of Idaho Lawns, Bulletin 464, from your county Extension office.

Walks: In areas that have heavy snowfalls, concrete walks are best. If you aren't faced with snow-removal problems and don't need a smooth surface, brick or flagstone walks may be more interesting.

Usually, walks should be straight and conveniently located. If they are not, feet will soon wear away the grass as people take the shortest path from here to there.

You must have a reason for curving a walk. Walks may curve around obstacles, such as trees or big rocks. If you want a curve and don't have an obstacle, create one. Plant a tree or place large rocks near where you want the curve. (Any time you use rocks in landscaping, partially bury them so they will look as if they belong there, rather than looking as if you dumped them.)

Trees: Trees should be planted at least 30 feet from the house. Plant them at the sides to frame the house and in back to provide background. In town, trees can be planted on the parking to frame the house. If your house is large and spreading, use trees to frame just part of it.

Plant trees of proved hardiness.

Plant trees that will be in proportion to the house when they are full-grown. For instance, trees that are about 30 feet tall at maturity will be in proportion to a one-story house. Trees that grow to a height of 15 feet will make the house seem larger than it is and trees that grow to a height of 80 feet will dwarf it.

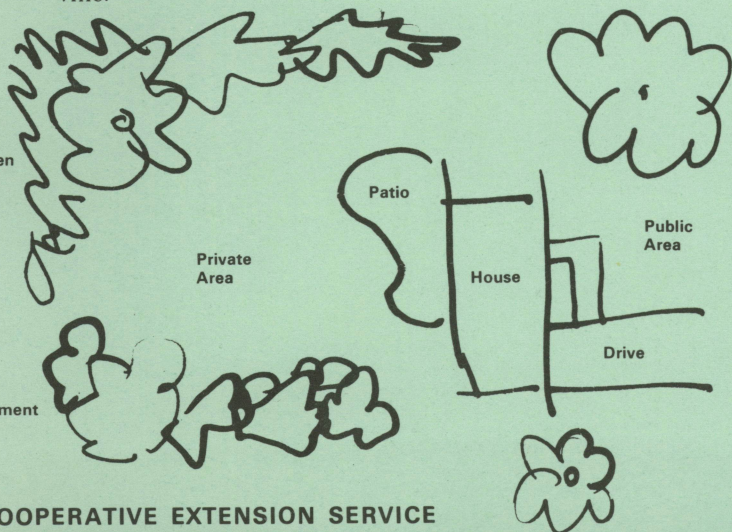
Don't plant large-growing trees under telephone and power lines or over septic tank, sewer, gas and water lines. Don't plant trees in a straight lines — they look more natural growing in a random pattern.

If you want a long-lived but slow-growing tree, plant a fast-growing one near it to give temporary shade. When the slow-growing tree is big enough, cut out the other tree.

PUBLIC AREA

Garden

Play equipment



PRIVATE AREA

The outdoor living room is where you and your friends and your children and their friends can relax and play. You can get privacy in this area by surrounding it with a fence, wall, hedge or shrubs. My vote goes to the border of flowering shrubs, planned to bloom throughout the season.

However, you may want a fence because it takes the least room. A stone wall can make you feel like you're in prison unless it is brightened up with vines and flowers. A hedge is fine but it needs trimming frequently.

Shrub border: Curves make the border interesting. A few bold curves mean more in landscaping than many short curves — it is the long, sweeping curve that makes for beauty. Remember: nature's lines are curved, man's are straight.

Plant three or more shrubs of the same kind together, repeating the grouping at different places in the border. Plan so that you will have something in bloom at all times.

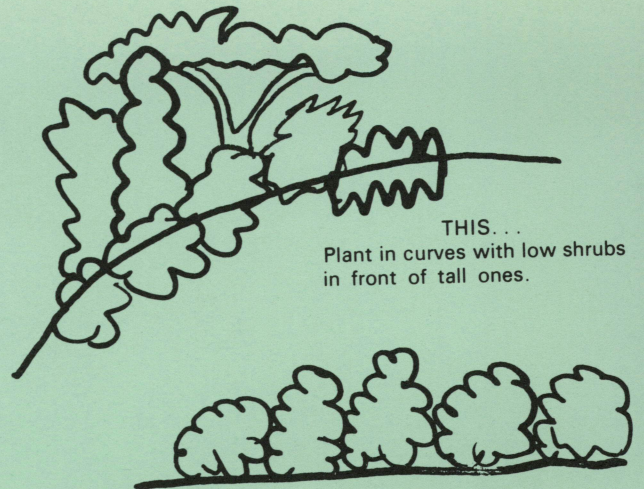
DO NOT alternate single specimens. For instance, don't plant a forsythia, a spirea, a lilac and a bush honeysuckle, then repeat the order.

Plant low shrubs in front of tall ones so the border will have depth. Vary the silhouette with small flowering trees and evergreens.

Plant flowers in front of the shrubs. Perennials and annuals can make a border that will have something in bloom throughout the season.

Trees: Plant shade trees in the corners of the yard. Canned or balled and burlapped deciduous or coniferous trees may be planted at any time. Bare-rooted deciduous trees may be planted in early spring, although in warmer parts of the state they may be successfully planted in the fall.

Lawn: Keep the center of the lawn open. Don't break up the open expanse with flower beds or trees. Play equipment, such as swings, croquet sets and badminton nets, will occupy this space while the children are growing up. If you have a lily pool at the side or corner of the lawn, drain it and fill it with sand until the children are older.



NOT THIS... Do not plant single specimens in a marching row.

Patio: Put the patio in a corner of the yard or near the house. The patio floor should slope away from the house. Give careful thought to the trees you plant to shade the patio. Trees that drop seeds, pods or flowers are a constant nuisance.

Swimming pool: Landscaping takes different planning if you want a swimming pool in the yard. Plant trees whose leaves won't drop into the water. Use concrete, rock and gravel in large expanses so grass won't get tracked into the pool.

Plan your plantings so you'll have plenty of privacy for sunbathing and lounging; avoid thorny plants in the pool area.

Safety is a must. Put a fence around the pool or around the entire yard.

PLANTS FOR IDAHO FALLS

Medium to Large Deciduous Trees

Male Green Ash
Thornless Honeylocust
Moraine Locust
Little Leaf Linden
Horse Chestnut
Norway Maple
Schwedler Maple
Weeping Birch
European Bird Cherry (May Tree)

Small to Medium Deciduous Trees

Hawthorn
Flowering Crab
European Mountain Ash
Japanese Tree Lilac
Flowering Plum
Ohio Buckeye
Bog Birch
Bradford Pear

Evergreen Trees

Scotch Pine
Austrian Pine
Englemann Spruce
Blue Spruce
White Fir

Medium to Large Flowering Shrubs

Beauty Bush
Snowball
Wayfaring Tree (Viburnum Lantana)
Lilac (Common, French Hybrids, Persian)
Villosa Lilac
Bush Honeysuckle
Spirea Van Houtte
Flowering Quince
Firethorn (Pyracantha)
Winged Euonymous
Peking Cotoneaster
Mock Orange (Philadelphus) (tender)
Shrub Roses (Rugosa, Harison Yellow, etc.)
Austrian Copper Rose
Red Twigged Dogwood
Lead Plant (Amorpha)
Sorbaria
Tamarisk
Siberian Pea (Caragana)
Bladder-senna (Colutea)
Buckthorn (Rhamnus)
Nanking Cherry
Forsythia (tender)

Small to Medium Flowering Shrubs

Mentor Barberry
Japanese Barberry
Snowberry
Coralberry

Hills of Snow Hydrangea
Shrubby Cinquefoil (Potentilla)

Evergreens for Base Planting

Upright forms

Rocky Mountain Juniper
Virginiana Juniper
American Arborvitae
Chinese Juniper
Upright Japanese Yew

Round forms

Globe Arborvitae
Mugho Pine

Spreading forms

Pfitzer Juniper
Compact Pfitzer Juniper
Von Ehron Juniper
Tamariscifolia Juniper
Savin Juniper
Spreading Japanese Yew

Creeping forms

Andorra Juniper
Bar Harbor Juniper
Creeping Juniper

Special forms

Meyer Juniper

**SERVICE
AND
GARDEN
AREAS**

Plan a turn-around in your driveway if you live on a busy street; then you won't have to back into heavy traffic. If your driveway isn't already in, plan a smooth-surfaced one. It will make a good place for young children to ride trikes and to roller skate, for older children to play basketball if you put a hoop above the garage door.

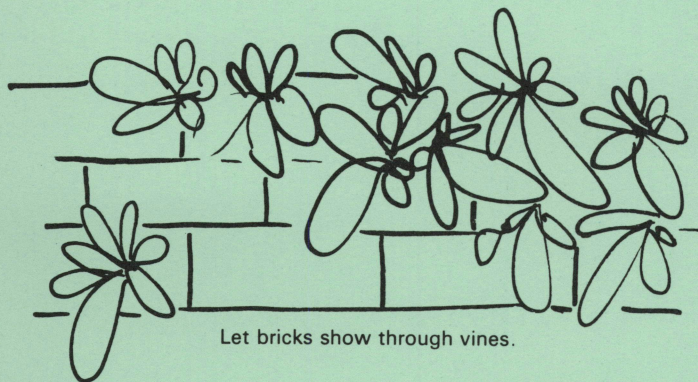
Place garbage cans and trash cans where they can easily be picked up and emptied.

The garden area is the place to plant vegetables, fruit trees and flowers for cutting.

**FOUR
AREAS
OF
IDAHO**

The lists show trees and shrubs that grow well in Idaho Falls, Twin Falls, Coeur d'Alene, Boise and the surrounding areas. If the climate where you live is not comparable to that in one of these cities, ask your county Extension agent for a list for your area.

I do not recommend poplars, willows, box elders and soft maples because they are short-lived, brittle and messy. Their root systems are shallow and raise sidewalks and driveways. I do not recommend elms because they are susceptible to Dutch Elm disease.



Let bricks show through vines.

Five basic shapes are used in base plantings.



special upright round spreading
creeping

**PLANTS
FOR
TWIN
FALLS**

Medium to Large Deciduous Trees

- London Plane Tree
- Thornless Honeylocust
- Moraine Locust
- Little Leaf Linden
- Horse Chestnut
- Male Green Ash
- Ruby Horse Chestnut
- Norway Maple
- Schwedler Maple
- Weeping Birch
- European Bird Cherry (May Tree)
- Tulip Tree
- White Oak
- Bur Oak
- English Oak

Small to Medium Deciduous Trees

- Hawthorn
- Flowering Crab
- European Mountain Ash
- Japanese Tree Lilac
- Flowering Plum
- Ohio Buckeye
- Bog Birch
- Bradford Pear
- Lady Apple
- Russian Olive

Evergreen Trees

- Scotch Pine
- Austrian Pine
- Englemann Spruce
- Blue Spruce
- White Fir

Medium to Large Flowering Shrubs

- Beauty Bush
- Snowball
- Wayfaring Tree (Viburnum Lantana)
- Lilac (Common, French Hybrids, Persian)
- Villosa Lilac
- Bush Honeysuckle
- Spirea Van Houtte
- Flowering Quince
- Firethorn (Pyracantha)
- Winged Euonymous
- Peking Cotoneaster
- Mock Orange (Philadelphus) (tender)
- Shrub Roses (Rugosa, Harison Yellow, etc.)
- Austrian Copper Rose
- Red Twigged Dogwood
- Lead Plant (Amorpha)
- Sorbaria
- Tamarisk
- Siberian Pea (Caragana)
- Bladder-senna (Colutea)
- Buckthorn (Rhamnus)
- Nanking Cherry
- Forsythia
- Smoke Bush or Smoke Tree
- Cornelian Cherry
- Kerria
- Burkwoodi Viburnum
- Pearl-Bush (Exochorda)

Small to Medium Flowering Shrubs

- Mentor Barberry
- Japanese Barberry
- Snowberry
- Coralberry
- Hills of Snow Hydrangea

- Shrubby Cinquefoil (Potentilla)
- Oregon grape
- Jetbead (White Kerria)
- Hypericum
- American Holly
- Euonymous horizontalis

Evergreens for Base Planting

Upright forms

- Rocky Mountain Juniper
- Virginiana Juniper
- American Arborvitae
- Chinese Juniper
- Upright Japanese Yew
- Lawson Cypress (tender)

Round forms

- Globe Arborvitae
- Mugho Pine

Spreading forms

- Pfitzer Juniper
- Compact Pfitzer Juniper
- Von Ehron Juniper
- Tamariscifolia Juniper
- Savin Juniper
- Spreading Japanese Yew

Creeping forms

- Andorra Juniper
- Bar Harbor Juniper
- Creeping Juniper

Special forms

- Meyer Juniper

**PLANTS
FOR
COEUR
d'ALENE**

Medium to Large Deciduous Trees

Male Green Ash
Thornless Honeylocust
Moraine Locust
Silver Linden
Little Leaf Linden
Red Oak
Scarlet Oak
Pin Oak
White Oak
Bur Oak
Horse Chestnut
Ohio Buckeye
Sugar Maple
Norway Maple
Schwedler Maple
Weeping Birch

Small to Medium Deciduous Trees

English Hawthorn
Flowering Crab
European Mountain Ash
Japanese Tree Lilac
Flowering Plum
Bradford Pear

Evergreen Trees

Scotch Pine
Austrian Pine
Blue Spruce
White Fir

**PLANTS
FOR
BOISE**

Medium to Large Deciduous Trees

London Plane Tree
Thornless Honeylocust
Moraine Locust
Little Leaf Linden
Horse Chestnut
Male Green Ash
Ruby Horse Chestnut
Norway Maple
Schwedler Maple
Weeping Birch
European Bird Cherry (May Tree)
Sweetgum
Ginkgo
Tulip Tree
Japanese Pagoda Tree
Scarlet Oak
English Oak
White Oak
Bur Oak
Red Oak
Pin Oak

Small to Medium Deciduous Trees

Hawthorn
Flowering Crab
European Mountain Ash
Japanese Tree Lilac
Flowering Plum
Ohio Buckeye
Bog Birch
Goldenrain Tree
Goldenchain Tree
Bradford Pear
Lady Apple
Flowering Dogwood
American Hornbeam (Carpinus)
Russian Olive
Persimmon
Saucer Magnolia
Star Magnolia

Evergreen Trees

Scotch Pine
Austrian Pine
Englemann Spruce
Blue Spruce
White Fir

Medium to Large Flowering Shrubs

Forsythia
Weigela (tender)
Beauty Bush
Snowball
Lilac
Bush Honeysuckle
Kerria (tender)
Spirea Van Houtte
Flowering Almond
Flowering Quince
Pyracantha (tender)
Cornelian Cherry
Pee Gee Hydrangea
Winged Euonymous
Peking Cotoneaster
Syringa
Shrub Roses
Butterfly Bush
Rose of Sharon (tender)

Small to Medium Flowering Shrubs

Mentor Barberry
Japanese Barberry
Snowberry
Coralberry
Hills of Snow Hydrangea
Daphne

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Tamarisk
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Oregon grape
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Hypericum
American Holly
Euonymous horizontalis

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