

## MENS LIFE BLOOMINGTON

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

### Key Topic | Landscaping CliffNotes: Ideas for Creating a Fantastic Yard

**Overview:** The idea of having a beautiful garden is as old as time itself. The creation story, as recorded in the first chapters of Genesis, takes place in a garden. In this session you will hear some professional ideas for how to create a killer backyard for entertaining and enjoyment. With spring right around the corner, this can give you a great head start. In two weeks, we will explore the idea of how beautiful gardens reflect God's creativity.

**Focus Verse:** I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. | Ecclesiastes 2:5

#### Presentation Points:

- **Design Process:** Determine your goals, assess what you have and then envision a master plan.
- **Success Criteria:** Good functionality within the boundaries of the area that looks good.
- **Underlying Guiding Principal:** Order and unity with a focal point enhanced by repetition and a line that draws the eye to follow while keeping thing in proper scale and balance.
- **Adding Plants to the Design:** Analyze the conditions and functions for the plants. Make sure they match your master design.
- **Basic Plan Needs:** Size, Form, Color, Texture of your plant is important but don't forget the need for sunlight, water, nutrients etc..
- **Maintenance:** No such thing as a "no maintenance" landscape but you can minimize it.

#### Topic Questions: (References are on back)

- What would you consider to be one of the most beautiful places you have had the opportunity to visit?
- Complete this statement, "For me, my yard is..." Answer in terms of priority, level of success, enjoyment...
- What can spending time in a well landscaped park, garden or back yard do for the soul?
- How would you assess the amount of time you spend in places like this? What could you do to change that.
- When you think of gardens in the Bible what are some of them that come to mind?

#### Key Verse Topic:

*Read 1 Corinthians 3:7*

It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow.

- In what way might this verse be applied to our own landscaping practices?

#### Application Question:

- Tomorrow is supposed to be a fantastic day. 65° and sunny. What is one thing you could do tomorrow to enjoy God's beautiful creation?

#### Biblical Basis Sneak Peak: (2 weeks from now):

Lord, from the moment of creation we have seen that the beauty of nature around us is a reflection of your character. Help us to daily appreciate this beautify and the reminder that you are the God of life.

# Landscape Design Tips for Beginners

## **Determine Landscape Needs and Wants**

Make a list of needs and wants. Do your kids need a play space? Do you want to grow vegetables? Would your family enjoy gathering on a patio? Do some very rough sketches of the yard with thoughts of where you want to place things; it's a great organizing principle for landscape design for beginners. They don't need to be master plans (they can just be ideas).

## **Think About Location**

Study the sun and wind patterns. You might want to place a patio on the west side of the house, but it will get lots of afternoon sun, which means dinnertime in August could be unpleasantly hot. And wind whistling around a corner will quickly extinguish a fire pit. Those are common mistakes in backyard landscape design for beginners. Your design should take into account what the sun and wind do at different times of the day and year.

## **Spend Time in Your Landscape**

Coming to quick conclusions about your yard can lead to choices that don't work in the long term. Live with it for a while before making any changes. After spending more time outdoors, you'll start to see areas where you want to go and sit that you wouldn't have thought of at first.

## **Start Small**

Sure, complete outdoor makeovers can happen in just three days on your favorite home and garden show, but they have a huge crew to handle the heavy lifting, which is not a situation enjoyed by most beginner home gardeners. Part of creating a landscape you'll love is slowly developing a plan and enjoying the process. From your master plan, start with a small flower bed. Go out and work on it for an hour or two when you have the time, and worry less about filling everything up right away.

## **Find a Focal Point**

Any good garden design has a focal point or series of focal points, and it's an easy principle to put in place. That may be a sculpture or a stunning tree or a series of shrubs. Let the design draw your eyes around the landscape.

## **Focus on Scale and Pacing**

It's the trickiest principle in landscape design for beginners, but scale and pacing give your yard a pulled-together look. There will be variations in size, shape, and color, with tall plants against a building or in the back of a flowerbed, and paths that lead people through the space.

## **Be Open to Change**

Unless you're strongly devoted to something, be honest about what's working for you and what's not in your design. Even experienced landscapers they discover elements that were once liked, no longer reflect current style. It's okay to experiment and edit as you go.

Taken from:

<https://www.bhg.com/gardening/landscaping-projects/landscape-basics/landscape-design-for-beginners/>