



step by step

Carry out an outdoor design project

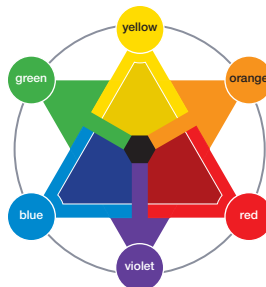


Plan your project

1

Planning your landscaping project will give you the chance to let your imagination run free. It's important to consider your house's architectural style, as the yard and the house are considered to be a single entity. With good planning and by following a few basic rules, it can be an easy and agreeable exercise.

- ▶ **Harmony.** Colours, height, materials, shapes, styles etc., all these factors must merge naturally into the landscape. To help with colours, use the chromatic circle.
- ▶ **Balance.** Take the house and yard proportions into account when determining the dimensions of structures and flowerbeds. Integrate the largest number of elements without compromising balance.
- ▶ **Conservation.** Take the surrounding environment into account so it's integrated into your landscaping.
- ▶ **Creating a focal point.** A focal point attracts the eye and stimulates curiosity. It focuses the attention of the person passing through.
- ▶ **Your own preferences.** Make a list of your tastes and needs (see guide on following page).
- ▶ **Phase 1,2,3.** It's not necessary to finish the entire project in the same year. Divide your plan into stages so you can leave room for changes that will come up as you go along.
- ▶ **The choice of plants.** It's the last stage of the planning process. Make your choices according to sun exposure and the needs of each variety. Play with heights and colours to create depth and growth effects.



Canadian hardiness zones

North West Territories	
– Yukon	0a
Victoria (CB)	6b
Kamloops (CB)	5a
Edmonton (AB)	3a
Grande Prairie (AB)	2a
Saskatoon (SK)	2b
Regina (SK)	2b
Winnipeg (MB)	2b
Brandon (MB)	2b
Toronto (ON)	6a
Sudbury (ON)	3b
Ottawa (ON)	5a
Thunder Bay (ON)	2b
Québec (QC)	4a
Baie Comeau (QC)	3b
Montréal (QC)	5a
Trois-Rivières (QC)	4b
Saint-Jérôme (QC)	4b
Fredericton (NB)	4b
Edmundston (NB)	3b
Charlottetown (PE)	5b
Halifax (NS)	6a
Cape Breton (NS)	5b
Saint John's (NF)	5a
Corner Brook (NF)	4a



Important points

Here are a few items to check before starting your plan

- Have a building location survey nearby.
- Inquire about municipal rules for certain specific installations.
- Determine your hardiness zone.
- Identify the prevailing wind direction.
- Check sunlight exposure (at different times of day).
- Find the north.
- Have the soil analysed to determine its composition.
- Are there undesirable vistas as opposed to vistas you would like to enhance?
- Do your neighbours' windows and balconies offer a view onto your yard?

Identify your needs

2

Establishing a list of your needs will allow you to take everyone's tastes into account and fully profit from your environment. **What are you seeking from your outdoor landscaping?** What is the main purpose of the landscaping: relaxation, play, swimming, etc? With proper planning and by following the ensuing points, it will be easy to prepare your own landscaping plan.

Key planning factors

- Determine your landscaping **budget**.
\$ _____
- Determine the **time that you have for maintenance each week**. (Lawn mowing, removing wilted flowers, pool or pond maintenance, etc.)
_____ hour(s)
- Determine the **number of paths and access points**.
Main path = 1.5 meters minimum width (5 feet)
Yard access gate = 0.9 m (3 ft)
 - Number of front accesses: _____
 - Number of rear accesses: _____
- What **materials** will be used for the various accesses?

<input type="checkbox"/> Wood	<input type="checkbox"/> Stone	<input type="checkbox"/> Cement
<input type="checkbox"/> Gravel	<input type="checkbox"/> Earth	
- The **number of parking spaces**:
1 car = 2.75 m x 5.5 m (9 x 18 ft)

- Are there **undesirable vistas or noise sources** to be disguised?

<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, which ones: _____
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- Is there a **clothesline**? (Be careful to not obstruct play or relaxation areas)





<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
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- Do **pets** have access to the yard?

<input type="checkbox"/> Kennel	<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosure
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- Do you plan to have yard structures?**

<input type="checkbox"/> Bower, dimensions: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Pergolas, dimensions: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Pavilion, dimensions: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Fence
- Electricity and irrigation**, are they necessary?

<input type="checkbox"/> In the front yard	<input type="checkbox"/> In the back yard
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- Do you plan to install...**

<input type="checkbox"/> A swimming pool
<input type="checkbox"/> A pond
<input type="checkbox"/> A dining space, a lawn, a patio <i>For a patio or a lawn:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 table, 6 chairs = 2.8 m x 3.4 m (9 x 11 ft) • 1 table, 4 chairs = 2.8 m diam. (9 ft diam.) Dimensions: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> A rest and relaxation area (hammock, swing, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> A children's play area (sandbox, swing, etc.) <i>Sandbox: 1.2 m x 1.2 m x 45 cm (4 ft x 4 ft x 18 in)</i> Dimensions: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> A garbage storage box Dimensions: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> A shed <i>Standard size: 3 m x 3.65 meters (10 x 12 feet)</i> Dimensions: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> A composting corner Dimensions: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> A vegetable garden <i>For a family of 4 = 10 m² (108 ft²)</i> Dimensions: _____
- Determine the **garden style**.

	
<input type="checkbox"/> English	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal
	
<input type="checkbox"/> French	<input type="checkbox"/> Freestyle

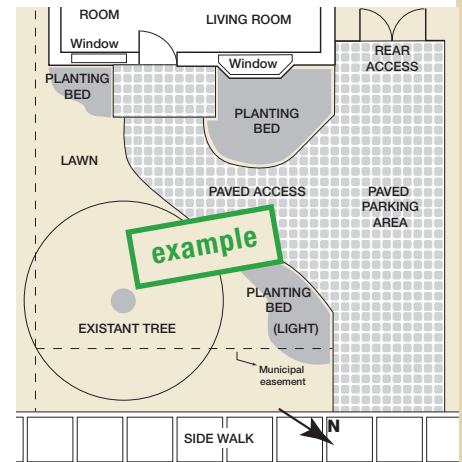
13. As well as the **dominant colour**: _____

Draw the front yard plan

3

- ▶ Using a survey of your property, determine the **front yard space**. Mark the **north** and indicate the **prevailing wind** direction.
- ▶ Show **sunlight exposure for each area of the plan** (play areas, shed). Reserve the sunlit areas for planting.
- ▶ Indicate **easements** (electricity, water mains, telephone).
- ▶ Position the **house**. Indicate doors and windows. Show **parking spaces**. Show **accesses to the main entrance**.
- ▶ Draw in all **fixed elements** making sure to respect the scale of measure being used (ex.: hedge or fence, lawn, tree, etc.)
- ▶ Draw the outlines of the **planting beds**.

Scale: 1 unit = 1 foot



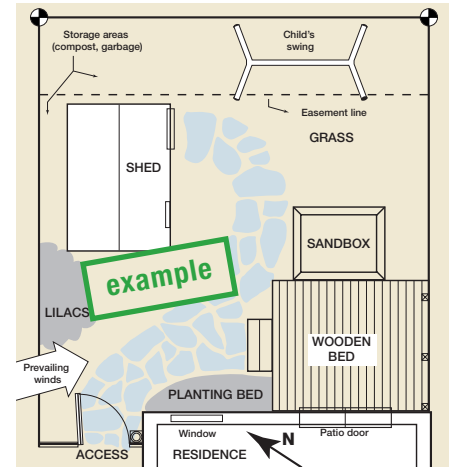
Never forget:
Correcting a landscaping error
is easier on paper than in the yard.

A large grid for drawing the front yard plan, consisting of 20 columns and 20 rows of squares.

Draw the backyard plan

4

- ▶ Using a survey of your property, determine the **backyard space**. Mark the **north** and indicate the **prevailing wind** direction.
- ▶ Show **sunlight exposure**. Reserve the sunlit areas for planting and the pool, and shaded areas for the shed, the garbage storage box, etc.
- ▶ Indicate **easements** (electricity, water mains, telephone). Position the **house**. Indicate doors and windows. Determine and position **accesses**.
- ▶ Position the **shed and all fixed structures** (patio, lawn). Draw the limits of play areas, dining, etc.
- ▶ Position the **pool** (even if it isn't yet installed in the first year. A tree or shed shouldn't be placed in its future emplacement).
- ▶ Indicate desirable and undesirable **lines of sight**. Transpose all the **remaining elements** such as swings, birdhouses, etc.
- ▶ Indicate all **grass areas**. Draw the outlines of the **planting beds**.



Scale: 1 unit = 1 foot



Choose your plants

5

When choosing your plants, it is important to respect the plants' sunlight and maintenance requirements. If a parcel of your yard receives less than two hours of sunlight per day, you should use **shade plants**; on the other hand, if the parcel of the yard receives four to six hours, use **semi-shade plants**. If the sun is present for more than six hours, use **sunlight plants**.

The following is a list of easy maintenance plants having different sunlight needs.

Full-sun coniferous

'Gold Lace' Chinese Juniper



Full-sun shrubs

'Marée d'Or' Forsythia



Full-sun perennials

Centaurea



English name	Latin name	ZONE	Height ↑	Width ↔
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Gold Lace' Chinese Juniper	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Gold Lace'	3	1.50 m	1 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Plumosa Compacta' Juniper	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i> 'Plumosa Compacta'	2	40 cm	1 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Witchita Blue' Juniper	<i>Juniperus scopularum</i> 'Witchita Blue'	3b	3 m	90 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> 'European Weeping Larch	<i>Larix decidua</i> 'Pendula'	2	3 m	1 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Nidiformis' Norway Spruce	<i>Picea abies</i> 'Nidiformis'	3	80 cm	1.50 m
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado Blue Spruce	<i>Picea pungens</i> 'Glauca'	2	20 m	5 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Golden Globe' White Cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> 'Golden Globe'	4b	1 m	1 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Yellow Ribbon' Golden Cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> 'Yellow Ribbon'	3	2 m	70 to 80 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Trost's Dwarf' Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i> 'Trost's Dwarf'	3b	2.50 m	1.50 m
<input type="checkbox"/> Siberian Pea Tree	<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	2b	3.50 m	2 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Pink Lady' Japanese Quince	<i>Chaenomeles japonica</i>	4b	60 cm	1.25 m
<input type="checkbox"/> Dogwood	<i>Cornus alba</i> 'Gouchaultii'	2	1.50 m	1.50 m
<input type="checkbox"/> Cytisus	<i>Cytisus decumbens</i>	2	30 cm	60 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Russian Olive	<i>Elaeagnus commutata</i>	2	2.50 m	1.50 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Marée d'Or' Forsythia	<i>Forsythia x</i> 'Marée d'Or'	4	60 cm	1.50 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Lydia Broom	<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	3	70 cm	1.25 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Sea buckthorn	<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	3	5 m	4 m
<input type="checkbox"/> Beauty bush	<i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i>	4b	2 m	3.50 m
<input type="checkbox"/> Dwarf Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera xylosteoides</i> 'Clavey's Dwarf'	4	1.25 m	1.50 m
<input type="checkbox"/> Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	2	40 cm & +	60 cm & +
<input type="checkbox"/> Flowering Almond	<i>Prunus triloba</i> 'Multiplex'	4	1.50 m	1.50 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Laciniata' Staghorn Sumac	<i>Rhus typhina</i> 'Laciniata'	4	2.50 m	2 m
<input type="checkbox"/> Spirea	<i>Spiraea</i>	2b to 5	variable	variable
<input type="checkbox"/> Lilac	<i>Syringa</i>	2 to 5	variable	variable
<input type="checkbox"/> Yarrow	<i>Achillea</i>	2b to 3	40 cm & +	35 cm & +
<input type="checkbox"/> Anemone	<i>Anemone</i>	3 to 4b	20 cm & +	25 cm & +
<input type="checkbox"/> Aster	<i>Aster</i>	3 to 4b	30 cm & +	35 cm & +
<input type="checkbox"/> Bellflower	<i>Campanula</i>	3 to 5	20 cm & +	30 cm & +
<input type="checkbox"/> Centaurea	<i>Centaurea</i>	3 or 4	45 cm & +	50 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum</i>	2 to 3b	25 cm & +	30 cm & +
<input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian Leopard's Bane	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Magnus'	3	1 m	50 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Globe Thistle	<i>Echinops ritro</i>	3	1 m	60 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Perennial geraniums	<i>Geranium</i>	4 or 5	15 cm & +	30 cm & +
<input type="checkbox"/> Daylily	<i>Hemerocallis</i>	3	40 cm & +	60 cm & +
<input type="checkbox"/> Iris	<i>Iris</i>	3 to 4b	20 cm & +	15 cm & +
<input type="checkbox"/> Spike Gayfeather	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	3	50 cm	40 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Bergamot	<i>Monarda</i>	4	70 cm	35 cm & +
<input type="checkbox"/> Poeny	<i>Paeonia</i>	3 or 4	60 cm & +	70 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Balloon Flower	<i>Platycodon grandiflora</i>	3b	35 cm & +	30cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-Eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	3	60 cm & +	45 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Thyme	<i>Thymus vulgare</i>	4	5 cm & +	25 cm

Choose your plants (cont'd)

Semi-shade coniferous



'Tamariscifolia' Juniper



English name	Latin name	ZONE	Height ↑	Width ↔
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Boulevard' Sawara False Cypress	<i>Chamaecyparis pisifera</i> 'Boulevard'	4b	2 m	1 to 1.50 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Pfitzeriana Compacta' Juniper	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Pfitzeriana Compacta'	4b	80 cm	1.50 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Tamariscifolia' Juniper	<i>Juniperus sabina</i> 'Tamariscifolia'	2	50 cm	1.5 m
<input type="checkbox"/> Siberian Carpet Grass	<i>Microbiata decussata</i>	2	30 cm	1.50 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Acrocona' Norway Spruce	<i>Picea abies</i> 'Acrocona'	4	4 m	2 m
<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Pine	<i>Pinus mugo pumilio</i>	2	3 m	4 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Fastigiata' White Cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> 'Fastigiata'	3b	6 m	1.50 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Hetz Midget' Globe Cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> 'Hetz Midget'			

Semi-shade shrubs



'Snowbell' Mock Orange



<input type="checkbox"/> Amur Maple	<i>Acer ginnala</i>	2b	5 m	4 m
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Chokeberry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> 'Viking'	4	1.50 m	1 m
<input type="checkbox"/> Grey Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	2b	2 m	2 m
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose Daphne	<i>Daphne cneorum</i>	3	30 cm	80 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Pink Diamond' Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> 'Pink Diamond'	4	1.50 m	1.50 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Pleniflora' Kerria	<i>Kerria japonica</i> 'Pleniflora'	5	1 m	1.50 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Royal Star' Star Magnolia	<i>Magnolia stellata</i> 'Royal Star'	4b	2.50 m	3 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Snowbell' Mock Orange	<i>Philadelphus virginialis</i> 'Snowbell'	4	1.20 m	1.20 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Diabolo' Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> 'Diabolo'	2	2 m	2 m
<input type="checkbox"/> Rhodora	<i>Rhododendron canadensis</i>	2	80 cm	70 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Weigela hybrids	<i>Weigela x hybrida</i>	4	60 cm & +	80 cm & +

Semi-shade perennials



Columbine



<input type="checkbox"/> Columbine	<i>Aquilegia</i>	3	35 cm & +	30 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Astilbe	<i>Astilbe</i>	3b	60 cm & +	50 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Turtlehead	<i>Chelone obliqua</i>	4	60 cm & +	50 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Delphinium	<i>Delphinium</i>	3	1.20 cm & +	60 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Bleeding Heart	<i>Dicentra spectabilis</i>	3	50 cm & +	80 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Queen-Of-The-Prairie	<i>Filipendula rubra</i>	3	1.20 cm & +	80 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Alumroot	<i>Heuchera</i>	4	35 cm & +	35 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Hosta	<i>Hosta</i>	3	35 cm & +	35 cm & +
<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Deadnettle	<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	3	20 cm	30 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Plume Poppy	<i>Macleaya cordata</i>	3b	1.20 cm & +	1 m
<input type="checkbox"/> Primrose	<i>Primula</i>	4	20 cm & +	15 cm & +

Shade coniferous



'Capitata' Japanese Yew



<input type="checkbox"/> 'Densiformis' Hybrid Yew	<i>Taxus x media</i> 'Densiformis'	5	1 m	2 m
<input type="checkbox"/> Canadian Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	4	20 m	8 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Cole' Canadian Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i> 'Cole'	4	30 cm	60 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Jeddeloh' Canadian Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i> 'Jeddeloh'	4	40 cm	80 cm

Shade shrubs



'Magic Berry' Coralberry



<input type="checkbox"/> Summersweet	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	4	1.50 m	1 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Annabelle' Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> 'Annabelle'	2b	1.25 m	1.50 m
<input type="checkbox"/> American Elder	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	3	2 m	2.50 m
<input type="checkbox"/> False Spirea	<i>Sorbaria sorbifolia</i>	3	1.50 m	1.50 m & +
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Magic Berry' Coralberry	<i>Symphoricarpos x doorenbosii</i> 'Magic Berry'	2	1.25 m	1.50 m
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Onondaga' Sargent Viburnum	<i>Viburnum sargentii</i> 'Onondago'	3b	2.50 m	2 m

Shade perennials



Solomon's Seal



<input type="checkbox"/> Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	3	35 cm	35 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Snakeroot	<i>Cimicifuga ramosa</i>	4	1 m & +	80 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Lily-of-The-Valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	3	15 cm	20 cm & +
<input type="checkbox"/> Creeping Jennie Moneywort	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	3	10 cm	30 cm & +
<input type="checkbox"/> Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis</i>	4	25 cm	20 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese Spurge	<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	3	20 cm	30 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	3	40 cm & +	25 cm
<input type="checkbox"/> Foamflower	<i>Tiarella</i>	3	25 cm	35 cm

7

Client info

Name: _____	Estimated project start date: / /
Address: _____ _____	Project site:
City: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Same
Postal code: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> New construction
Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/> Other address: _____
• Home: () _____	_____
• Work: () _____	City: _____
• Mobile: () _____	Postal code: _____

Schedule

Date

		Date
Phase I	Front yard	
	1. Have the yard levelled to prevent water from flowing towards the house; make a 5% slope towards the street.	
	2. Have the parking area done.	
	3. Have the main entrance path done.	
	4. Install electricity for lighting and irrigation.	
	5. Prepare the ground, level with at least two inches of lawn soil.	
	6. Plant the large plants (trees) and hedges.	
	7. Plant grass, sod or seed.	
Phase III	8. The planting bed shapes are kept for the end, as well as the choice and planting of plants.	
	Backyard	
Phase II	9. Rough shaping of ground (first levelling to prevent water from flowing towards house).	
	10. Installation of the pool, the fence (inquire about municipal bylaws governing fence height).	
	11. Installing the shed (stay away from easements).	
	12. Constructing the lawn, the patio, the pavilion and the paths.	
	13. Installation of electricity and irrigation systems.	
Phase III	14. Add at least two inches of good quality soil to plant grass, sod or seed.	
	15. Plant hedges and trees.	
	16. The planting bed shapes are kept for the end, as well as the choice and planting of plants.	

Phase I Year 1: stages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Phase II Year 2: stages 9, 10, 11, 12

Phase III Year 3: stages 8, 13, 14, 15, 16

A successful landscaping project takes place over a few years.

- Divide the job into phases that will allow for changes throughout the project.
- Be aware of your financial capacities and the time you can afford to spend on the project.
- Establish a realistic schedule; this way, your landscaping won't become a chore in lieu of a source of pleasure.
- For big jobs like paving, electricity and irrigation, get professional help.
- All jobs that require heavy machinery should be done first (swimming pool, parking, main entrance, pond).

