**Landscaping**

Landscape gardening involves integration of space, plants and other accessories in an aesthetic manner to meet the needs of the man. This branch of horticulture is an important field in which architecture, art and horticulture (knowledge of plants and their cultural requirement) are combined to achieve beauty and utility.

The space here refers to the land as well as vertical space. Accessories includes mountains, rivers, natural ponds, statues and other garden adornments. Plants include all types of plant materials viz. trees, shrubs, creepers, and climbers, annuals, biennials, herbeaceous perennials, bulbous plants, ornamental palms, lawn grasses etc. The primary requisite before landscaping a place is the 'plan\* to a scale indicating the location of permanent features such as road, rocks, large trees, buildings or the central object viz. the house etc.

**Landscaping of Home**

The basic principles in landscaping plant types with reference to a home ground is briefly discussed below:

1. The landscape plan must taken into consideration at least four general uses of
land.
a) The public areas, the frontage, is viewed from the street or by one approaching the front door. This area is put into limited use by the family. It is desirable to keep this land minimum in area. Lawn, trees to frame the house and son\* shrubbery may be planted in this area.

b) Foundation area includes the small areas surrounding the- house. It is very important and this should receive much and early attention. This area may be assigned to plant attractive shrubs or herbaceous perennials.

c) The Utility or service area includes driveways, cloth yards,, a place for    garbage, Tennis court etc.
d) Outdoor living or private area is planned for privacy. It is usually away from the approach area. It may be located to either side of the house with screening accomplished by fence, shrubs or trees. It usually occupies a large area.
Home landscaping should primarily aim at providing shade. Home ground may be assigned judiciously for outdoor living, parking the vehicles, children play area, corner for growing sacred flowers and flowers for personal decorations and vegetable gardening.

2) Locating or arranging the plant material is the final step in developing the horizontal plan or blue print. The functions or purposes of plant materials include shade, screening, privacy, background, accent, framing, wind break and specimen plants.

Shade is obtained primarily from broad leaved evergreen trees in our country. The shape and ultimate size of trees for shade are important criteria of selection and placement.

Screening is frequently attained by effective use of shrubs, although vines on trellises and fences are also effective screening materials.

Privacy in the home grounds can be obtained from buildings, fences and plants. Back ground plantings generally consist of trees or shrubs along the back or distant and of the ground.  They give a feeling of depth and soften the harsh lines produced by man made structures. They add coolness to the surroundings during summer.

Accent points of the landscape are those which have some distinct features and should catch the eye immediately.

Framing plants are those which encircle the main point of interest, the house in a home plan The trees and shrubs on either side both in the back yard and fore ground form the framing view of the bouse.

Wind breaks are usually of tall growing trees with strong branches and are placed on the boundaries to reduce, wind velocity!

**Landscaping of City Parks**

In city there may be parks of several sizes from very large to medium size and also squares or small gardens are generally found at street inter sections. The small gardens or squares are planted with a view to relieving the eyes of the people passing by them or for a short resting period for those who care to use them. Therefore, these may be planted with a path of grass, few flower beds, one or two shades or flowering trees or a group of shrubs and trees. The medium to large parks are meant for a place of recreation and these are considered as lungs of the cities. These should be a place of beauty as well as utility.

Most of the cities in India have developed unplanned and hence there is hardly any space for a large park. But to give the citizens of such cities a breathing place garden or large parks may be laid out in the nearest vicinity of the countryside easily approachable by car or bus or even by bicycle. But in the present day conditions in a developing country like India, it may not be possible to take up such ventures in the immediate furore.

The prospect park as (1) a long meadow, which is a park like open space; (2) an undulated and rising hilly section with woodland scenery (3) a lake and its surroundings (4) a number of sceneries of objects of beauty.

The Bud ha Jayanti Park in New Delhi falls in to this category. The vast park called "Rabin dr a Kan an" in South Calcutta with large grassy open spaces, a huge lake with islands, stadium, lily pool garden with a miniature zoo, flowering trees, shrubs, and a hanging bridge may come into this category.

The small city park may be an area any thing between 5 and 100 hectares or little more. A large rural park gives a degree of scolusion from the city but the small city park, as it is situated within the city, has no such characteristic although the features may be the same as that of a large rural park. In the small parks, the scenery created ill not look so natural as those of a large rural park, because of the limitation of space.

Good flowering and shade trees should be planted in groups or singly in some comers or other suitable places for creating beauty as well as a place for resting. Garden benches should be constructed at regular intervals especially under the shade of the trees. Few interesting and are shrubs should also be included. Besides these, some garden adornments such as statues and fountains can ajso be planned in appropriate parts of such parks.

The third category of city parks may be called as 'pleasure grounds' which have large reserve areas for playing games, and often" this is the main feature of these parks. A restricted swimming pool is also often a feature of a pleasure ground. If it is meant for the children, features such

**Landscaping of Educational Institute**

Compounds around our educational institutes such as Schools and Colleges are generally grossly neglected. It is a pity that the importance of landscaping in schools and colleges is not properly understood by the authorities. As a result, the campus present a bare and neglected appearance. A planned and properly landscaped school building brings a world of difference in appearance and beauty than an unplanned one. Moreover, a good garden in the campus inculcates aesthetic sense to our younger generation.

It is imperative that our administrators and citizens should take landscaping of campus seriously and while planning any architectural design for educational buildings it should incorporate in it a landscape' design also. Instead of taking up gardening of the campus in bits, it is necessary to have a master plan of the whole area and to implement it in phases, according to the resources available.

The general recommendation is to plant large trees in the school compound. In the periphery of the school campus, along the rear and wings, a thick belt of large shady trees should be planted to bring down noise and cut down dust and storms. This plantation will also help keep down severe heat and cold. The front should be planted with medium sized flowering trees for beauty. The trees should not completely obstruct the view of the building from outside.

For enhancing the scenic beauty is also suggested to plant a row of flowering trees, with different blooming seasons, in front of the large trees along the periphery. It is difficult to give any general recommendation regarding the types of such trees as this will vary according to the architectural design, situation, and climate. The object is to provide beauty and comfort depending on convenience. A thickly planted belt of Eucalyptus (not withstanding the objections in -certain quarters against the genus especially.for the reason that these plants draw enormous quantities of ground water and release this in the atmosphere), for peripheral planting is considered ideal. Silver oak (Grevillea robttstd), Polyalthia longifolia, Futranjiva roxburghii, seedling mango, and rain tree {Samnea samari) are also very suitable for this purpose.

Shrubs play an important part in the school landscaping. Border planting of shrubbery on large grounds or at the back of the school campus serves useful purpose of filling the gaps between the trees and. lawns.

A lawn looks nice in an educational institution, but it is very difficult to maintain.  The play ground can be planted with lawn, if this can be maintained or
should be left bare.

A bougainvillea creeper trained over the wall of the building can change the whole look. Similarly, a Signonia venusta supported against a wall also looks beautiful, Creepers climging with their rootlets such as Ficus repens, Campsis radicans can also be trained over some stone or brick wall or pillars.

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