



Your Full Service Nursery & Landscape Center
Since 1987
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Achieving Your Ideal Landscape

Landscaping your yard, whether starting from fresh dirt or improving an existing landscape, can be intimidating. Working with a landscape designer can help prevent costly mistakes. But first, it's beneficial, and fun, if you think about your goals and desires for your landscape before working with a designer.

Start with a wish list. Here are a few questions to get you started:

- Do you want your landscape to conserve energy with shade trees and windbreaks?
- Do you want to create wildlife habitat in your yard for birds, hummingbirds or butterflies?
- Do you want an entertainment area for outdoor parties?
- Do your children need a play area?
- Do you need to block a view? Save a view?
- Do you want to include a private area for relaxation?
- Do you want to include edibles in your landscape (fruits, vegetables and herbs)?

Now spend some time in your yard. Get familiar with the amount of sun and shade at different times of the day. Are there areas that are rarely used? These could be designated for wildlife habitat. Are there low spots that collect water (but not too much) that could be used for vegetables or plants that require regular water? Look for existing pathways – do the kids always walk the same way to the back door or do the dogs always follow the same paths to their favorite spots? Consider making these gravel paths in your final landscape – habits are hard to break! Also, look at your yard from inside– the areas you see from your windows are perfect for showy plantings with four-season appeal that can be appreciated from inside.

Now you're ready to think about plants! Consider using predominately native or non-native but water-wise plants that are suited to our semi-arid climate. There are numerous lovely flowering shrubs, trees, perennials, cacti and succulents that require minimal water once established. If you enjoy tending to your plants then vibrant perennial beds are a great choice for season-long color. If you prefer a lower maintenance landscape then emphasize shrubs and trees that can offer spring or summer flowers, fall color and interesting winter bark texture. Don't forget the benefits of ornamental grasses – low maintenance, dramatic seed heads, varied foliage color from blue to

burgundy and winter colors from tan to rusty red, texture and motion. Visit our nursery to browse our large plant selection and ask questions of our dedicated staff.

Finally, make an appointment with our landscape designer who will work with you to put your goals and dreams into your custom landscape design.