

 **This Old  
House®**

# complete landscaping







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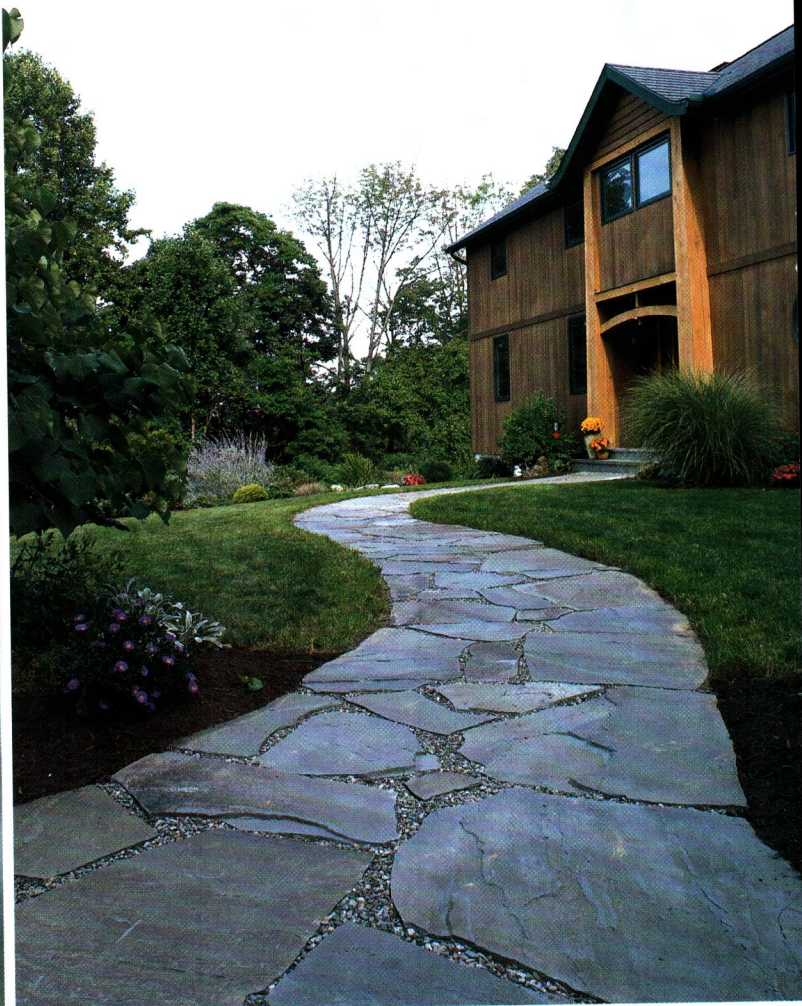
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to dig up or under that new pathway. While the locations of these lines may seem obvious and easy to remember now, they may not be later. Be sure to mark their locations on your plan.

Also establish the placement of features that will be put in later, such as a pool or pond, and note walks, paths, patios, and play areas.

**Complete construction** Now's the time to complete any projects that involve heavy equipment, whether for structures or for planting large boxed trees. This is a labor-intensive stage; consider using a contractor for specialized work.

#### **Finish grading and irrigation**

Once all construction projects are completed, get the soil ready for planting. Spread topsoil saved from the grading stage onto planting beds or lawn areas; also add any amendments or fertilizers needed. Install sprinklers for the lawn and adjust as needed. If the system has an electronic controller, make sure it works before filling trenches. Then establish the final grade and finish installing sprinklers and landscape lighting systems.

**Plant** This satisfying phase of actually putting most of the plants into the ground comes last to protect them from the rigors of construction. Start with the largest plants (not including the box-size trees that went in earlier), moving on to smaller shrubs, ground

covers, and perennials. Order plants for delivery as close to planting day as possible and inspect them on arrival for quality and health. Once planting of shrubs and ground covers is complete, finish up with sprinklers or drip systems as needed. Then, finally, when everything else is done, plant the lawn.

One artful aspect of landscaping is timing all the preliminary work so that the plants go into the ground at the most favorable time. When everything is in place, sweep, clean up debris, adjust sprinklers if needed, and enhance the new landscape with some mulch. Then find a comfortable seat and enjoy the fruits of your labor.



*At the end of the project, sprinkler heads get a final adjustment to ensure they're covering intended areas.*

## **HIRING A PRO**

**A**lmost anyone can handle finish grading and planting, but other steps require a bit more expertise. When it comes to figuring out who is going to do the heavy lifting, Roger Cook's rule of thumb is "If the project is going to take you more than two weekends, consider hiring a pro."

**LANDSCAPE DESIGNERS** know the plants that do well locally, and they are familiar with local landscaping resources. Most are willing to work on small projects, and they charge fees ranging from \$40 to \$100 an hour.

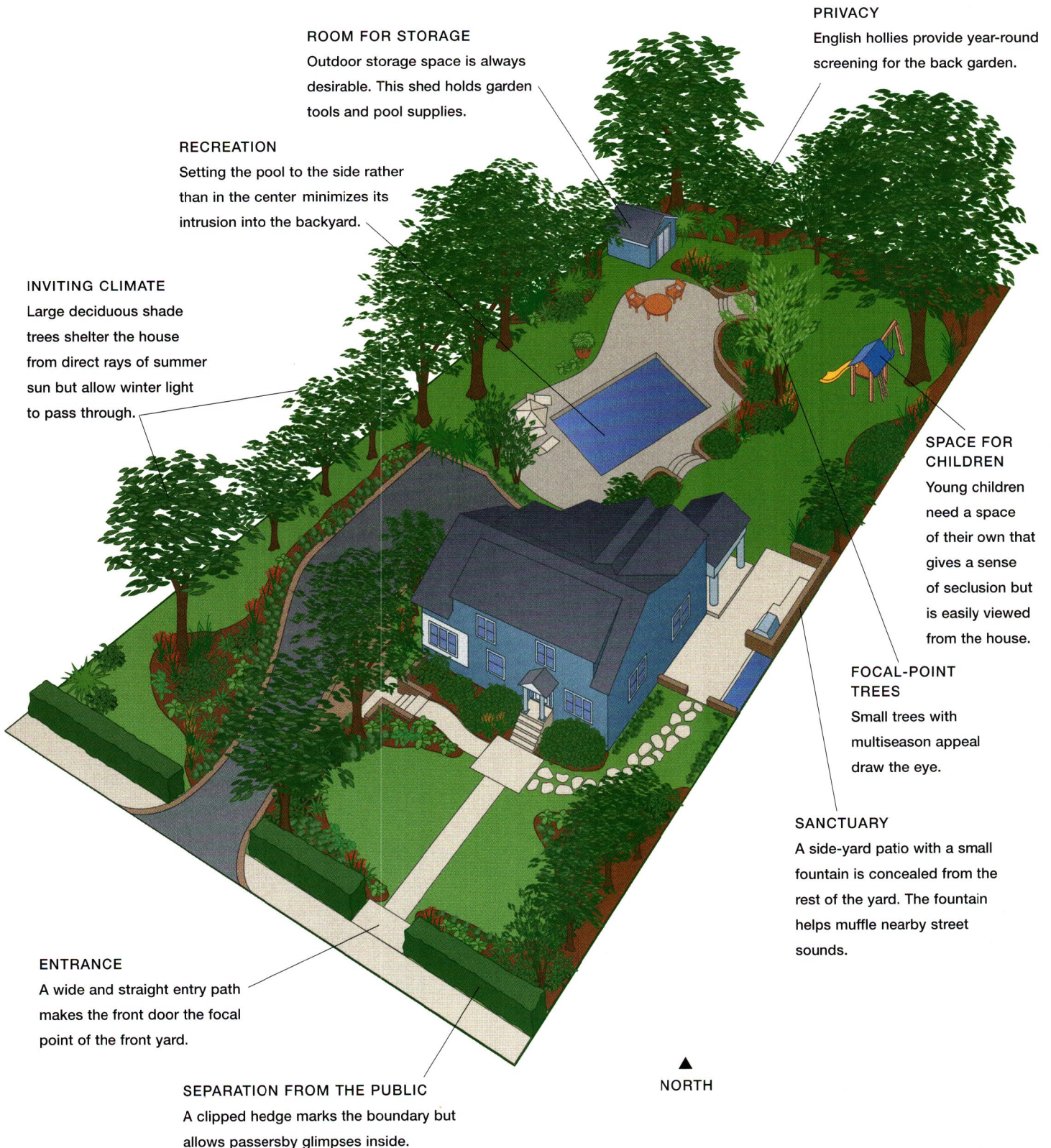
**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS** have studied design at a university and are state licensed to design more complex grading, retaining walls, and drainage systems. Their fees start at \$100 an hour.

**LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS** are installation specialists, often working closely with designers or architects. Their fees range from \$40 to \$80 an hour.

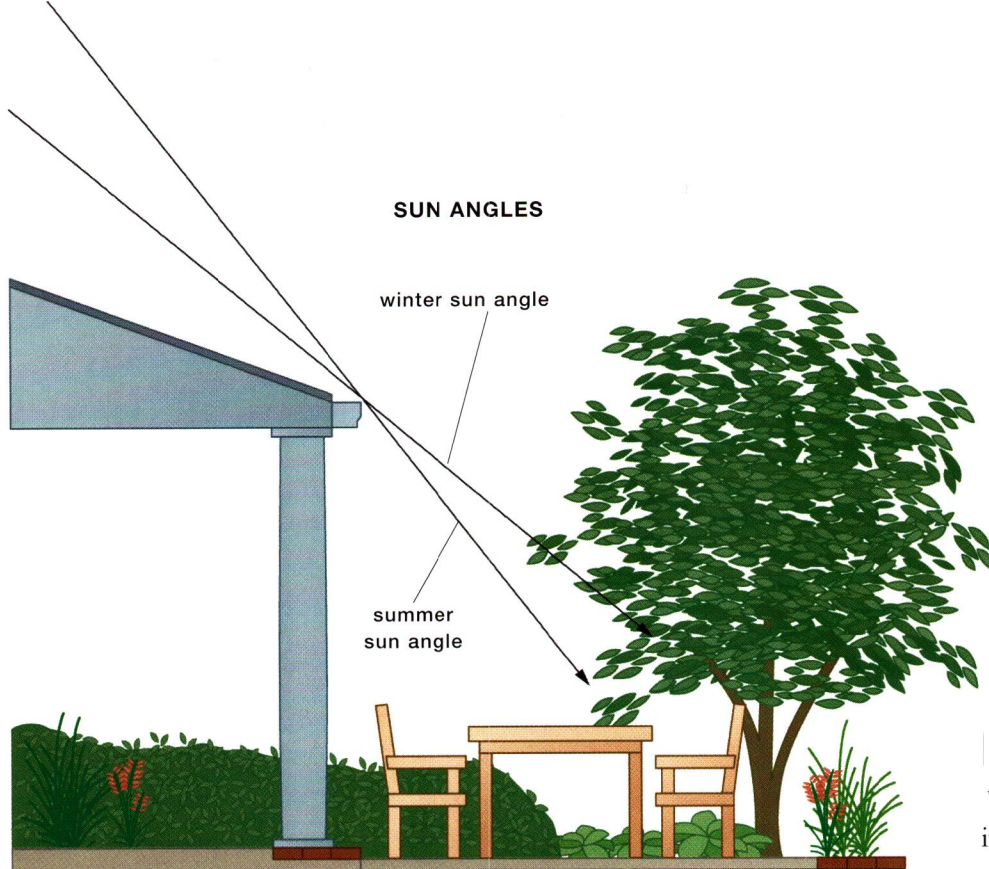
When it comes to choosing plants, garden-center pros can suggest options. Or check with your county's cooperative extension office. There you'll find state university landscape specialists who are generally well informed about which plants work best in your area.



## FEATURES OF A WELL-DESIGNED LANDSCAPE







are shaded. In winter, the sun is low in the southern sky, so north-facing exposures receive much less sun. These effects become more pronounced at northern latitudes but are important factors to consider throughout North America.

A patio in full summer sun will need sun-tempering measures, while a patio that receives low winter sun will be warmed, a bonus during cold months. If you don't consider these factors carefully, your outdoor spaces may not be as inviting as you'd hoped they would be.

### legal considerations

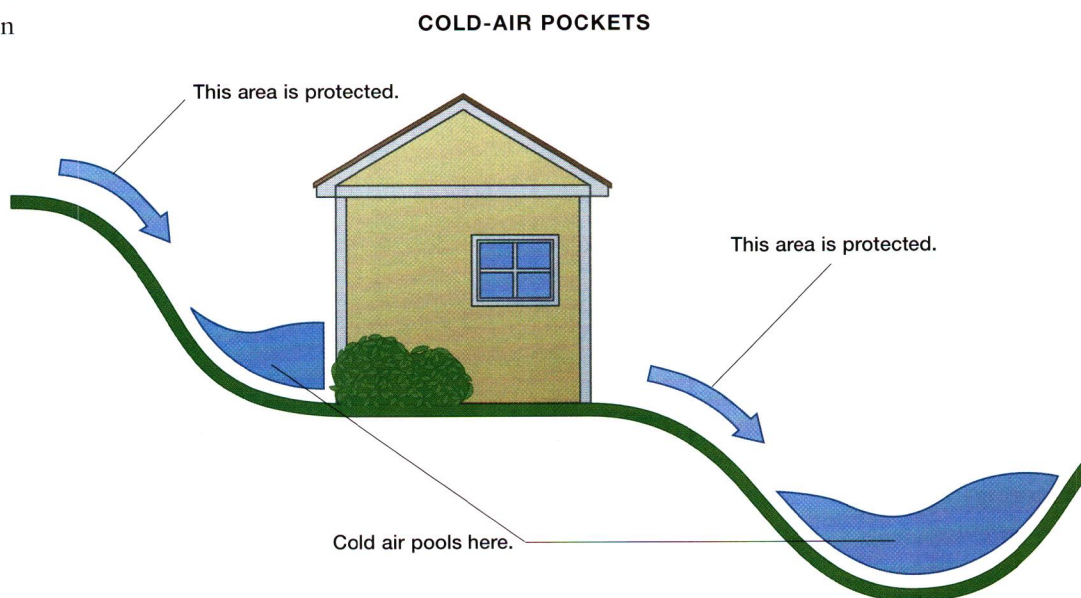
Your city or county building department's building codes regulate what a given landscaping project can or must include.

For example, what are your lot's setbacks, and are there restrictions on what can be built in those areas? How high can fencing be? How must outbuildings be positioned? Often, permanent structures are prohibited on city easements, and fence heights are typically limited to 6 feet. Does

the lot contain heritage trees that must be saved, or is it infested with weeds, brush, and nuisance plants that must be removed?

Also keep in mind—for good community relations as well as legal reasons—how the changes you're contemplating will affect neighbors. Even if neighbors don't have to be notified when the permitting process starts, it's smart to talk to them before finalizing plans. Don't be dismayed; you might pick up some additional ideas.

The preceding is, in a nutshell, the way to get started planning your new landscape. The remainder of this chapter takes you through the next steps of planning, closing with several examples of successfully renovated landscapes to inspire you.



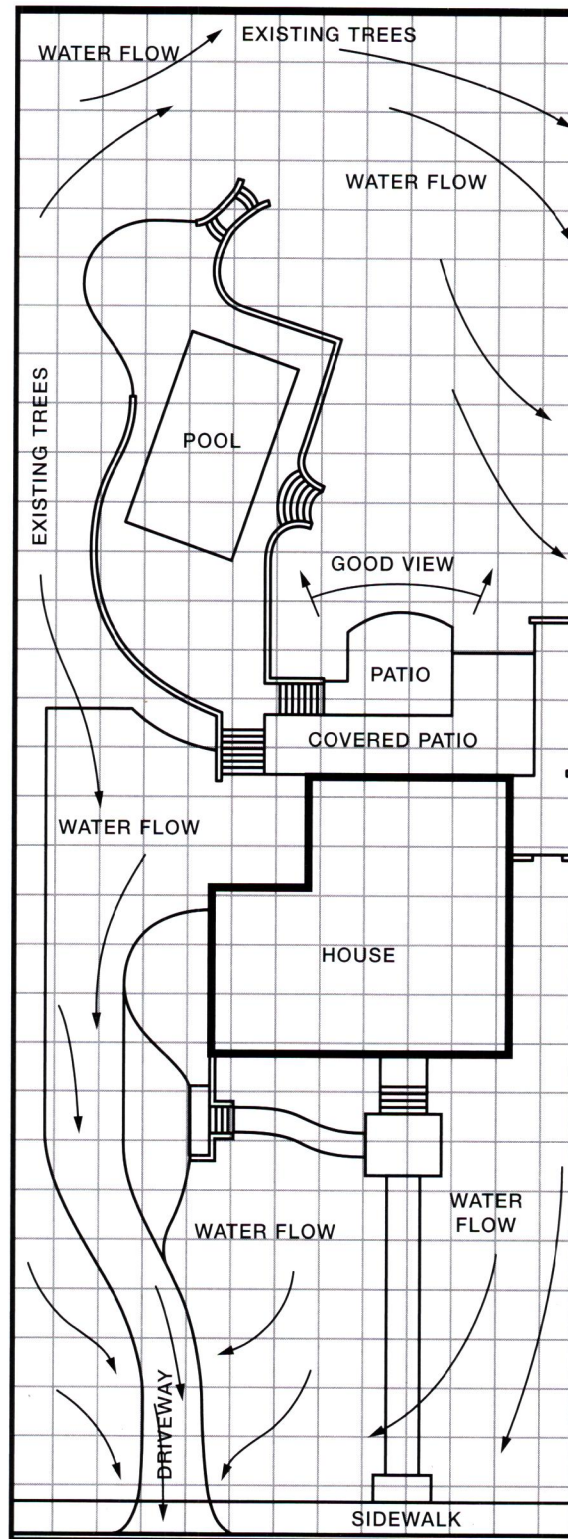


# develop a base plan

**B**efore you can turn your wishes and ideas into a coherent and aesthetically pleasing final plan, you'll need to work on a scale diagram of your property, or plot plan. This diagram will become your base plan and, finally, your new landscape plan.

If you're lucky, you may find a deed map that gives the property's dimensions and orientation; the next best thing is a topographical plan. Also check with your town or county property or land department for such maps; architectural plans depict sites as well. If nothing is available, you can measure the lot's features and transfer them to graph paper; a good scale is  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch to 1 foot.

If the terrain is complicated or the lot irregular, consider hiring a professional surveyor, engineer, or landscape designer. If you're doing it yourself, use a 100-foot steel tape and enlist a helper. Be prepared to measure everything on your lot: perimeter boundaries and dimensions; topography (high and low points), drainage, and exposure; placement and size of buildings, with windows, doors, eaves,



downspouts, and drains marked; location of decks, patios, paths, fences, and so on; utility lines, easements, and setbacks; location of existing plants, lawn, shrubs, and large trees; soil conditions, including filled or badly draining areas; direction of prevailing winds; and any other relevant information. If views are important or unsightly intrusions need to be hidden, mark their direction.

Make the base plan as accurate as possible, including as many details as you can. Then, just to be safe, make working copies. Place one copy under a sheet of tracing paper to begin your bubble plan and, ultimately, your final plan.

## bubble diagrams

The bubble diagram is usually little more than a doodle, but it is a good way to get started thinking on paper. Think in terms of spaces and their functions rather than in details or precise shapes.

This is the time to be fanciful; if an idea clearly doesn't work, just move on to another piece of paper.

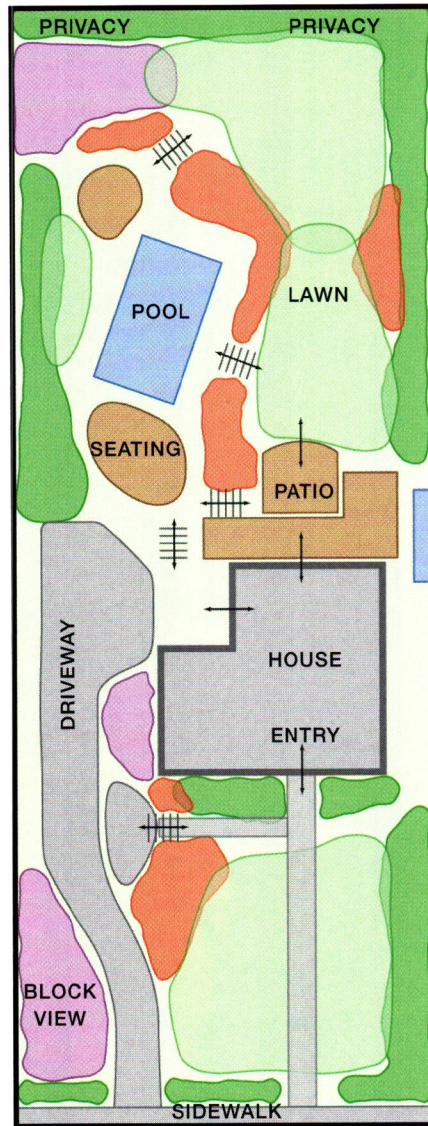


## BUBBLE DIAGRAM

To make a bubble diagram, place tracing paper over your base plan, then sketch in rough circles, squares, or triangles to indicate different activities and garden areas you want to incorporate (right). Where areas share more than one activity, let the bubbles overlap. Also note areas that need screening from sun, neighbors, or wind.

As you sketch, think of different areas and how they will be used. For example, play areas for small children should be within view of wherever an adult is most likely to be, and trash and garden tools should be out of the way yet accessible. Choose the best locations for patios, decks, and storage.

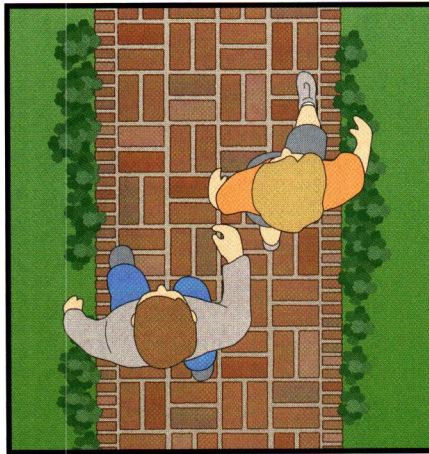
Keep in mind how much space each activity or setting requires.



PATHWAY CLEARANCE



SERVICE PATHWAY 2' TO 3'

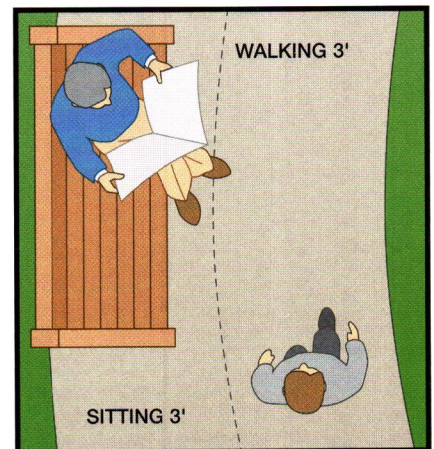


MAIN PATHWAY 4' TO 5'

(The diagrams below give specifics for path and bench clearance.) This information will help you critique your first passes at a bubble diagram. Perhaps the patio you drew is really too large for the available space. Maybe garden structures or activity areas intrude too much into quieter locales. Don't let these issues stop you now; just keep sketching until you're satisfied.

Look closely to see what works and what doesn't in terms of your preferences. Put down another layer of tracing paper and take another pass, then look again. Compare the pros and cons of the different bubble diagrams. If you keep at it, you will find yourself getting closer to a final version of your plan.

BENCH CLEARANCE





A photograph of a garden scene. In the foreground, there are several pink flowers with five petals, growing from green foliage. A stone path, made of irregular, light-colored stones, leads from the bottom left towards the center. The background is filled with dense green bushes and trees. The overall lighting is soft, suggesting a sunny day with some shade.

CHAPTER TWO

# ideas

GET YOUR CREATIVE JUICES FLOWING BY COLLECTING IDEAS  
FROM SOME OF OUR FAVORITE GARDENS



is a pollutant and is likely to annoy neighbors. Try for the subtle effects that small amounts of light can produce. Leaving some areas in shadow actually enhances their mystery.

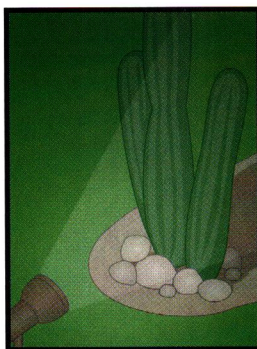
As you might expect, the subtlety required of accent lights has encouraged the development of subcategories, shown at right. When you understand what they do, you'll be able to develop your own lighting plan. In all cases, look for simple, unfussy fixtures that disappear into the garden.

## planning systems

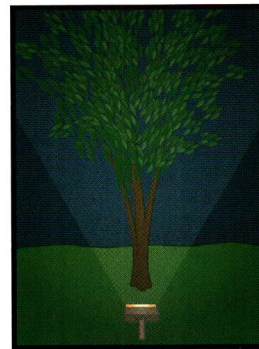
Most landscape lighting systems operate on 12 volts and are called "low voltage." And the heart of low-voltage lighting systems is the transformer. Choose one based on the total number of watts needed for the system (the sum of all the lamps used) plus 25 percent, so the transformer doesn't operate at full capacity. To allow for future expansion, buy a transformer with 50 percent greater capacity. A typical 300-watt transformer, large enough for 12 lamps at 20 watts each, costs about \$300. But variations are many: some can power multiple circuits, some include timers, and some are made for direct burial.

Direct-burial lighting cable is either 12, 10, or 8 gauge, with the smaller gauges indicating larger size. Costs range from 30 cents for 12 gauge, to 90 cents per foot for 8 gauge.

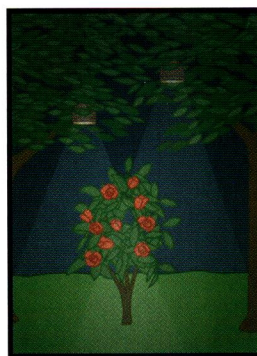
## ACCENT LIGHTS



**SHADOW LIGHTS** are bright and aimed at the subject. They cast a broad enough beam to throw a magnified shadow onto a nearby wall.



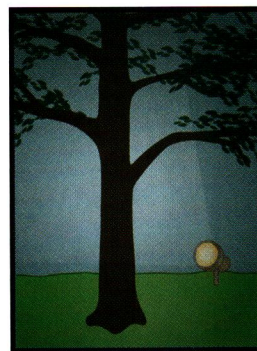
**UPLIGHT FIXTURES** are mounted low and aimed upward, usually into the branches of a tree. The undersides of branches are illuminated, and the topmost canopy reflects the light's glow.



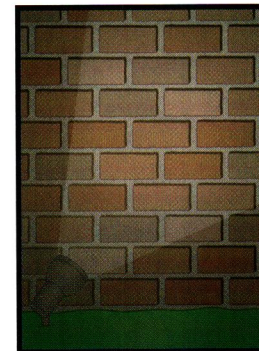
**MOONLIGHTS** provide dim light and are mounted high in trees, imitating the light of the moon and creating soft pools of light on the ground.



**SPOTLIGHTS** are what you'd expect: lights focused on a special plant, pot, sculpture, or focal point. The light source may be either below or above the object.



**BACKLIGHTS** are situated behind an object, such as a tree, and the light is directed toward viewers. The result is a dramatic silhouette.



**GRAZING LIGHTS** are aimed nearly parallel to the surface, to accent its irregularity or texture. The surface is usually a wall or fence, but it may also be a tree or the surface of a pond.



and sound. If you have the space, place the slab between 25 and 50 feet from the pool: any closer and you'll hear the noise; any farther and you'll need larger equipment to pump water the extra distance.

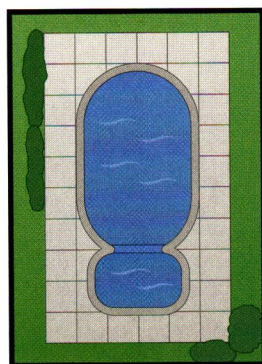
## pool construction

Pools can be built aboveground or completely or partly in-ground. Fully in-ground pools are typically accessed from patios.

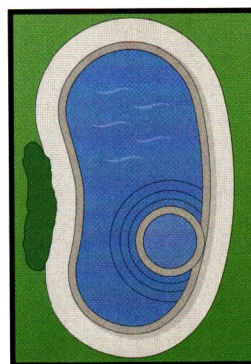
For the structure, concrete (usually sprayed as Guniting or Shotcrete and reinforced with steel) combines workability, strength, permanence, and flexibility of design. Interior finishes include paint, plaster, and tile, in ascending order of cost. To keep the price down, save tile for details—edgings, step markers, and around the waterline. Use glass tiles or pebble aggregate to add glimmer and texture.

Vinyl-lined pools are usually much less expensive than concrete styles because materials cost less and installation is quicker. The liner generally rests on a bed of sand and is supported by walls made of aluminum, steel, plaster, concrete block, or wood. These walls can extend above grade, making them especially economical for sloping sites. Vinyl is not as durable as concrete, but leaks can be repaired.

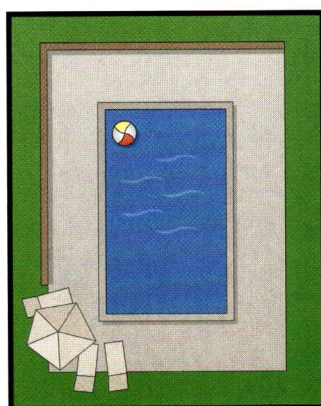
Fiberglass pools consist of a one-piece rigid fiberglass shell supported by a bed of sand. These pools are fairly quick to install, but the choices of pool shapes and sizes are limited.



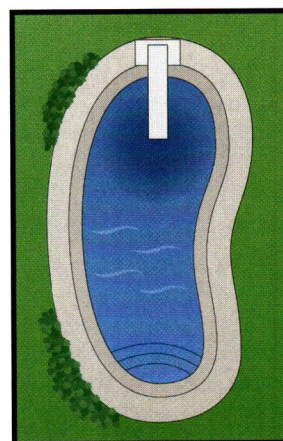
**SPLASH POOL** features a shallow, sloping "beach entry" for small children.



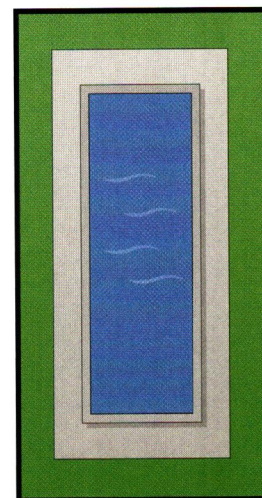
**FREE-FORM POOL** is an all-purpose type, but you can determine its shape.



**SPORTS POOL** is 5 feet deep in the middle and 3 feet at the ends, good for games, aerobics, and lap swimming.



**DIVING POOL** includes a board and a deep end that's at least 7 feet deep.



**LAP POOL**, which is 5 feet deep, 8 feet wide, and about 30 feet long, fits where other pools can't.

## spas

Hot tubs and spas have the same function but differ in materials and form. Both use virtually identical support equipment to create hot, bubbling water.

Spas run the gamut of design choices, from boxy portable models to those of pool-sized proportions. A portable, self-contained spa doesn't have to be permanently installed and comes as a complete unit, ready to be plugged into a 120-volt outlet (or wired

to a 240-volt circuit). Its support equipment is part of the package.

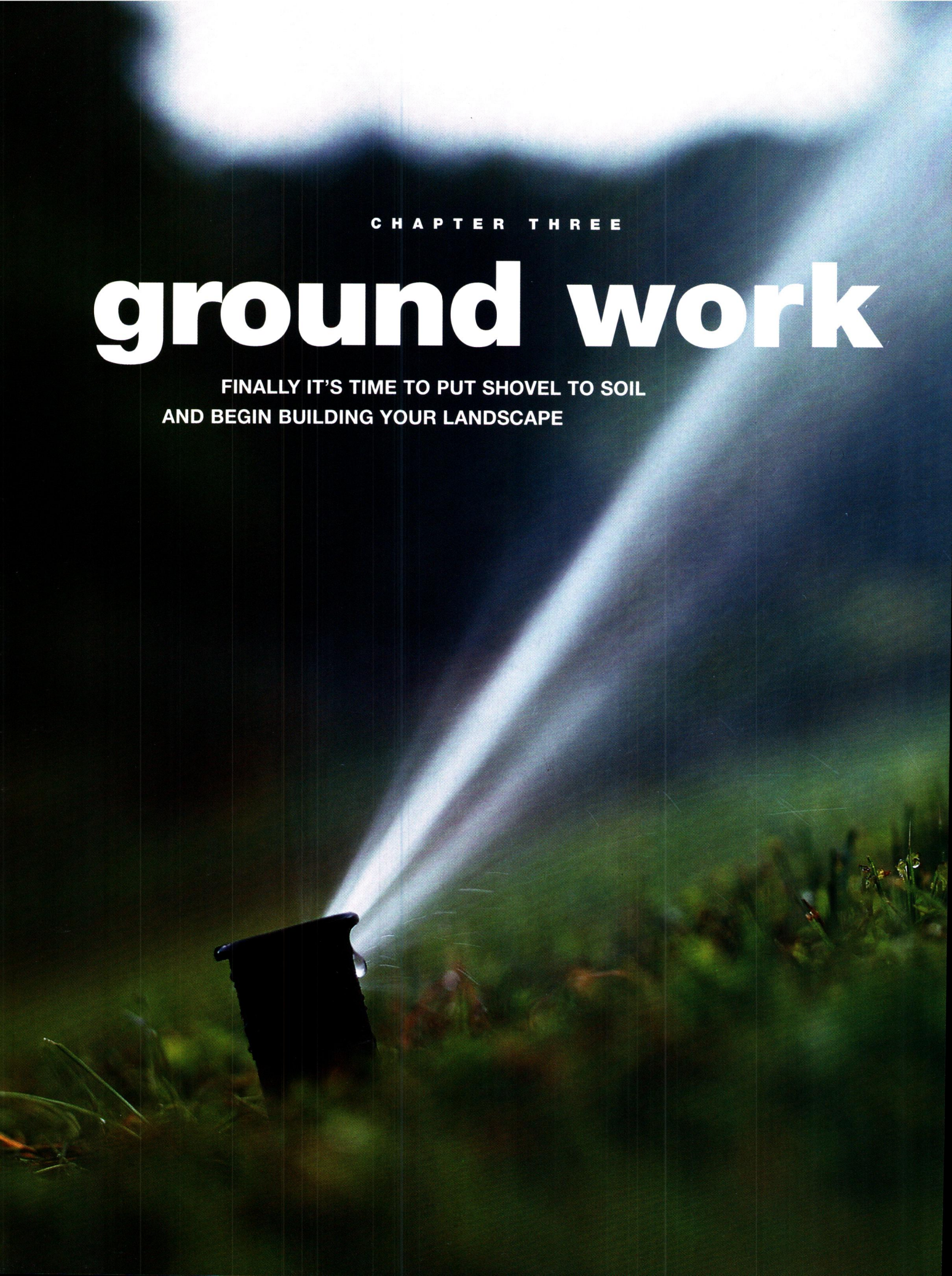
In-ground spas can be set into a hole dug into the ground or into an above-grade surface such as a deck that is supported by a concrete pad from below. Shopping for an in-ground spa means choosing between a factory-molded shell made of acrylic reinforced with fiberglass or high-impact thermoplastics, or a more expensive, longer-lasting shell made of concrete.



CHAPTER THREE

# ground work

FINALLY IT'S TIME TO PUT SHOVEL TO SOIL  
AND BEGIN BUILDING YOUR LANDSCAPE

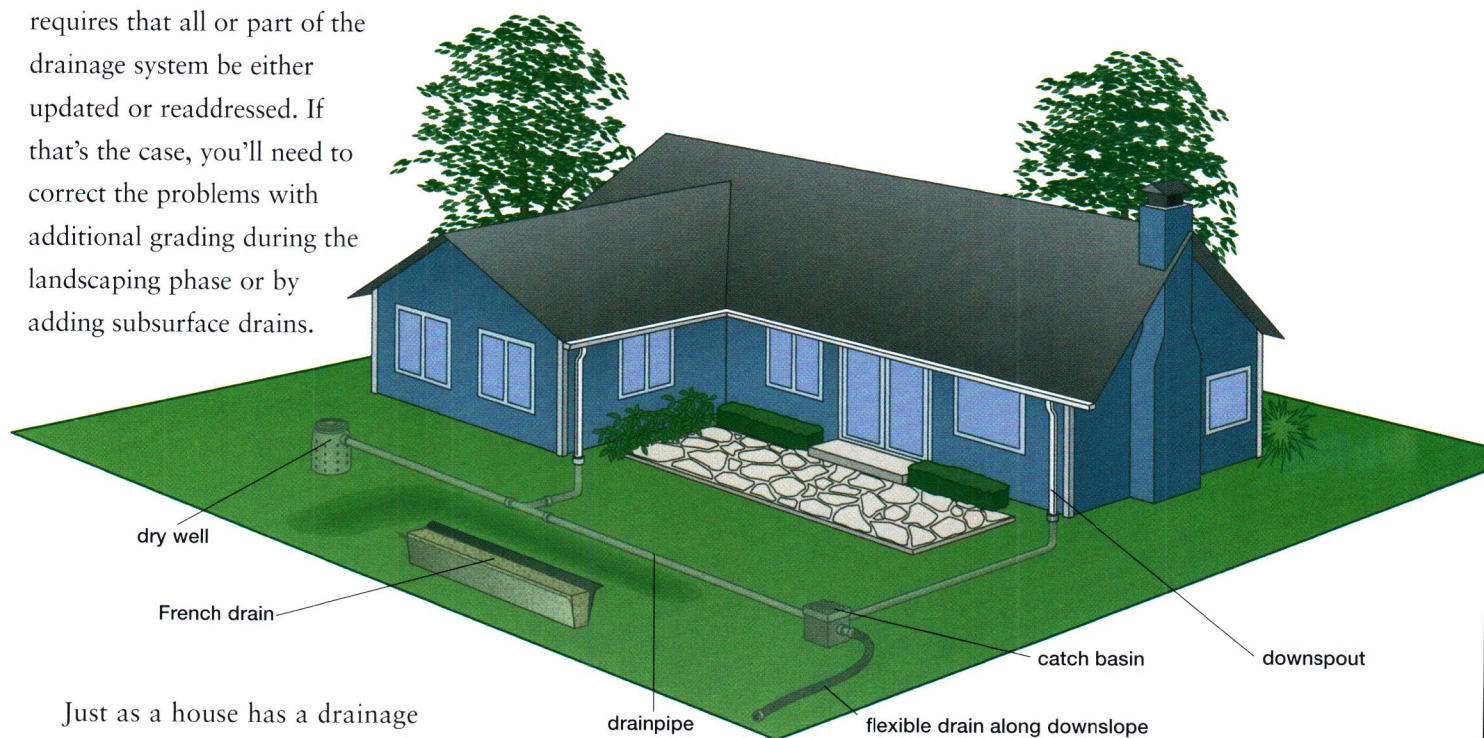




# subsurface drainage

In many yards, surface drainage is insufficient, and relandscaping requires that all or part of the drainage system be either updated or readdressed. If that's the case, you'll need to correct the problems with additional grading during the landscaping phase or by adding subsurface drains.

## WAYS TO MANAGE WATER MOVEMENT AND DRAINAGE



Just as a house has a drainage system, yards that are slightly lower than surrounding properties, or that have high water tables or water-collecting low spots, will have to have their own array of inlets, outlets, pipes, and basins to catch and redirect water on and below grade. While rough and finish grading will help keep surface water away from the house, subsurface drains are often required to handle larger amounts of water.

One of the biggest sources of excess water in a landscape is the water that gutters and downspouts funnel from the roof to the immediate

area around the house. Unless that water is redirected, it will eventually flow into the crawl space or basement, which can set off a host of water-related problems.

The illustration above shows some of the strategies used in subsurface drainage networks. Water from downspouts is directed to underground drain lines; water that puddles in a low spot in the lawn is collected and drained. It can be diverted to a dry well or a French drain; both help speed its absorption by the earth. Most water goes to a catch basin that

allows debris to sink to the bottom while the water keeps moving.

If you plan to build a patio or deck beside your house, it's a good idea to install a drainpipe beneath the area first, particularly if there will be a downspout nearby. That way, rainwater will readily flow away from the area rather than flood it.

### French drains

Also called curtain drains, French drains are ditches installed in a low area that would otherwise allow water to pond. Water is held until it



## planning the system

Just as for all sprinklers, plan drip systems around separate circuits that deliver water to plants with similar needs. Where drip systems differ is in their precision, giving individual plants what they need and wasting less to evaporation, weeds, or runoff.

Some points to consider in planning circuits are:

- Separate plants that need the most water from those that need the least into separate circuits if possible. When it's not, add extra emitters around plants that need more water.

- Sandy soil may need higher flow rates than heavier loam or clay soils. If water puddles around a plant, reduce the flow rate, or cycle two shorter waterings with a gap between them.

- Water larger, deep-rooted trees and shrubs less often but for a longer time than annuals and flowerbeds.

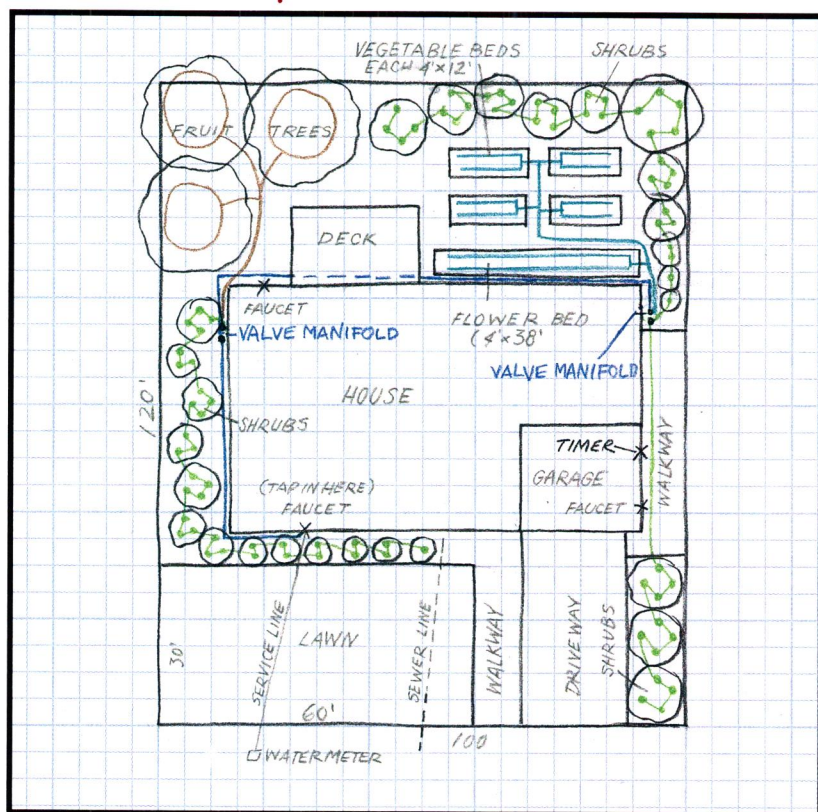
As with a sprinkler system, you'll need a scale drawing of your property showing all the areas to be watered. Then you need to determine the flow rate and water pressure (see page 74). But remember that drip devices are rated in gallons per hour. If your

water supply provides 10 gpm, that is equivalent to 600 gallons per hour (10 gpm  $\times$  60 minutes per hour).

When you begin selecting the emitters, you'll be choosing between output rates of  $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon, 1 gallon, or 2 gallons per hour. The total output for any one circuit should not exceed 75 percent of the water volume available.

Starting from the water source, also measure the different runs through the garden. The total run distance of any one circuit should not exceed 400 feet, because water friction in the pipe causes uneven flow.

A TYPICAL DRIP IRRIGATION PLAN



**Main pipe** runs between the water source and the valves. If you must deliver water long distances, run a  $\frac{3}{4}$ - to 1-inch PVC pipe underground to the area, install a riser and hose bib, and then install the valves and antisiphon device there.

**Lateral lines** carry water from the valves to the area to be watered. This pipe is commonly  $\frac{1}{2}$ - or  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch flexible polyethylene tubing. Branch lines, emitters, and microtubing can all be attached to it.

**Spaghetti tubing**, or microtubing, is  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-diameter solid vinyl tubing designed to carry water to plants some distance from the lateral line.



# landscape edging

**A**n attractive edging can make the difference between an ordinary landscaping project and an outstanding one. Edging may be used to define one particular area or to separate adjoining spaces, such as a lawn from a flowerbed. Some edging, like flexible plastic, is nearly invisible, while other types are bolder, such as brick or cobblestone.

When selecting edging, consider whether to place it flush with the ground or raised. Around lawns, flush edging allows you to mow over it rather than trim around it. But raised edging better highlights the area it surrounds, which is often the objective.

## selecting edging materials

Before choosing a material, consider whether you want your edging to make a statement, simply be utilitarian, or not be noticed at all. Following are some of the most widely used edging materials.

**Brick** is one of the most traditional and versatile edgings and can be laid in sand or mortar. Bricks can be installed flat or on edge, end to end, or side by side. They come in a wide range of colors and sizes, but for landscaping purposes, always select



those marked SX, which indicates they're capable of withstanding severe weathering.

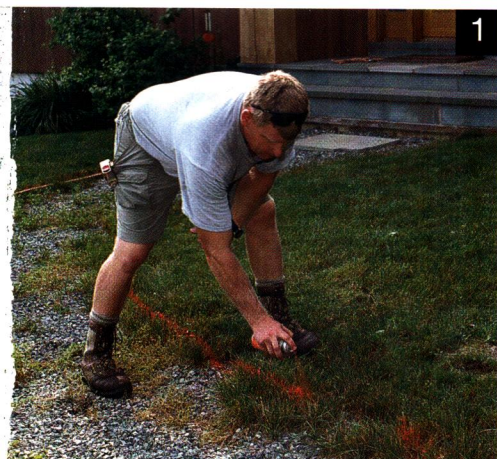
**Wood**, treated or naturally decay-resistant 1-by-6, goes with many landscape styles and can be made to curve. Hold the boards in place with wood stakes driven into the ground on the outside of the curve and screw through the board into the stake. To curve a board, make a series of cuts, called kerfs, at least half way through the board on the inside of the curve. Space the kerfs about 2 inches apart. Benderboard is  $\frac{3}{4}$ -by-6-inch lumber often cut from redwood that serve well for informal edging along curving borders or pathways. Most popular in the West, they are thin enough to bend easily without kerfing.

*Composite wood edging is quick to install and creates a tidy border between mulched bed and lawn.*

**Plastic and composite wood** boards have become increasingly popular as edging materials. Both are highly resistant to rot and flexible enough to bend around curves without being kerfed. Once bent into position, they tend to hold their shape without immediately springing back, which makes them easier than wood to install. They are most often used as deck planking and sold for that purpose in  $\frac{3}{4}$ -by-6 pieces.

Composites (made of recycled plastic and wood fiber), are sold by brands such as Trex and SmartDeck, and come in 1-by-4, 2-by-4, 1-by-6, and  $\frac{3}{4}$ -by-6 dimensions, and in brown and tan.





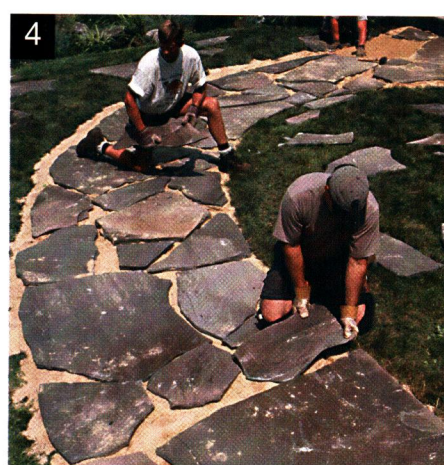
**1** Mark the proposed path outline by laying out a hose or rope. If you have an existing concrete walkway, you can remove it after first breaking it into manageable pieces with a rented jackhammer. Move the hoses around and look at the path from different angles until you feel satisfied. If possible, make the path about 4 feet wide, so two people can walk comfortably side by side. For a smooth transition at the house entryway and at the driveway, flare both ends of the walk. When you're satisfied, use landscaper's spray paint to mark the outline.



**2** Although the flagstone itself will be bedded in sand, the entire walkway needs a solid foundation. Within the walkway outlines, dig down 8 inches to remove all soil or large rocks. Fill the excavated area with 5 inches of large-diameter unwashed drain rock. With a steel rake, level the gravel and then hand tamp (above), or use a rented gas-powered plate compactor, to thoroughly pack the base.



**3** For a short walkway, bagged sand available at home-supply centers is convenient, but for larger projects get a truckload from a sand and gravel supplier. Use a steel rake to spread the sand about 2 inches thick over the pathway, bringing it up to about 1 inch below the adjoining grade. (For more convenient mowing, the finished walkway should be level with adjacent lawn.) The sand will allow you to more easily level the flagstone, which varies significantly in thickness.



**4** If possible, start by laying out the flagstone pieces parallel to the sand-covered walkway. While adjusting the pattern, move the stones about on grass; making adjustments on the sand messes up the sand bed. Position the straightest edges along the pathway edges and beside the house entrance. Where necessary, shape the pieces with a hammer and brick set. Lay the flagstones out in a random pattern and fill in the spaces between the larger slabs with smaller pieces. A close fit is not necessary.



**5** The final step is to fill the joints with crushed rock or  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch river rock, both of which complement the flagstone and will not wash away, as sand can. Sweep the rock back and forth over the surface until all the spaces are filled. Once everything is in place, water the entire walkway thoroughly to further compact the rock between the joints.





**11** Put the stringer in place to check for fit. When satisfied, use that stringer as a pattern to mark the remaining stringers. For stairs more than 3 feet wide, use a center stringer for additional support. Make sure the stringers are equally spaced and then attach them to the joist hangers with joist hanger nails. (You'll have to notch the top of the stringer on the underside to make the joist hangers fit.)

If you want the first tread to be one step lower than the deck, the rim joist may not extend low enough to hang the stringers. In this case, make a drop board, also called a hanger board. Make one by nailing 1-by-4 cleats or metal fasteners to the back of the drop board, fitting it edge to edge with the bottom of the joist, and then attach it.

**12** Once the stringers are in place, install the treads and risers, starting with the risers. The risers should fit so that no space is visible at the top or bottom when the tread is in place. If necessary, rip wider boards to fit and then install them. Outdoor stair treads are often made of two 2-by boards with a  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch space between them for rainwater to drain through. The front of the tread should overhang the riser below by 1 inch or so. You may need to mix 2 by 4s, 2 by 6s, or 2 by 8s to get the exact fit, or rip the inside board narrower.







1

**1** For these 6-by-6 posts, the hole should be 10 inches in diameter, to leave 2 inches all around for the tamping bar. With a posthole digger, dig the hole approximately 34 inches deep and then add 2 inches of crushed rock as a drain. To position the bottom of the pickets 2 to 5 inches above the ground, adjust the post height by adding or removing some rock.



**2** Set the post in the hole. While a helper holds a level on the post to keep it plumb, shovel in 4 to 5 inches of crushed rock around the post; the rock packs well and drains better than soil. Tamp the material thoroughly, then add another layer and tamp that. If working alone, use a fence-post level that straps to the post.

**3** Put a screw in the outside face of the post 5 inches above the ground and run mason's string to a stake driven at the end of the fence or at the first corner. Pull the string taut and wrap it around the stake 5 inches above grade. The string must be flush with the outer face of the post. From the first post, measure out the length of the fence panel and dig the next hole there. Put the post in the hole, but do not set it until the fence panel is installed.

**4** Slide the fence panel rails into the mortises of the first post and then into the mortises on the second post, which is still loose in the posthole. Be sure the second post is plumb in all directions. Use wedges under the panel to adjust its height. When correct, set the post, continuing to check for plumb in both directions. When this post

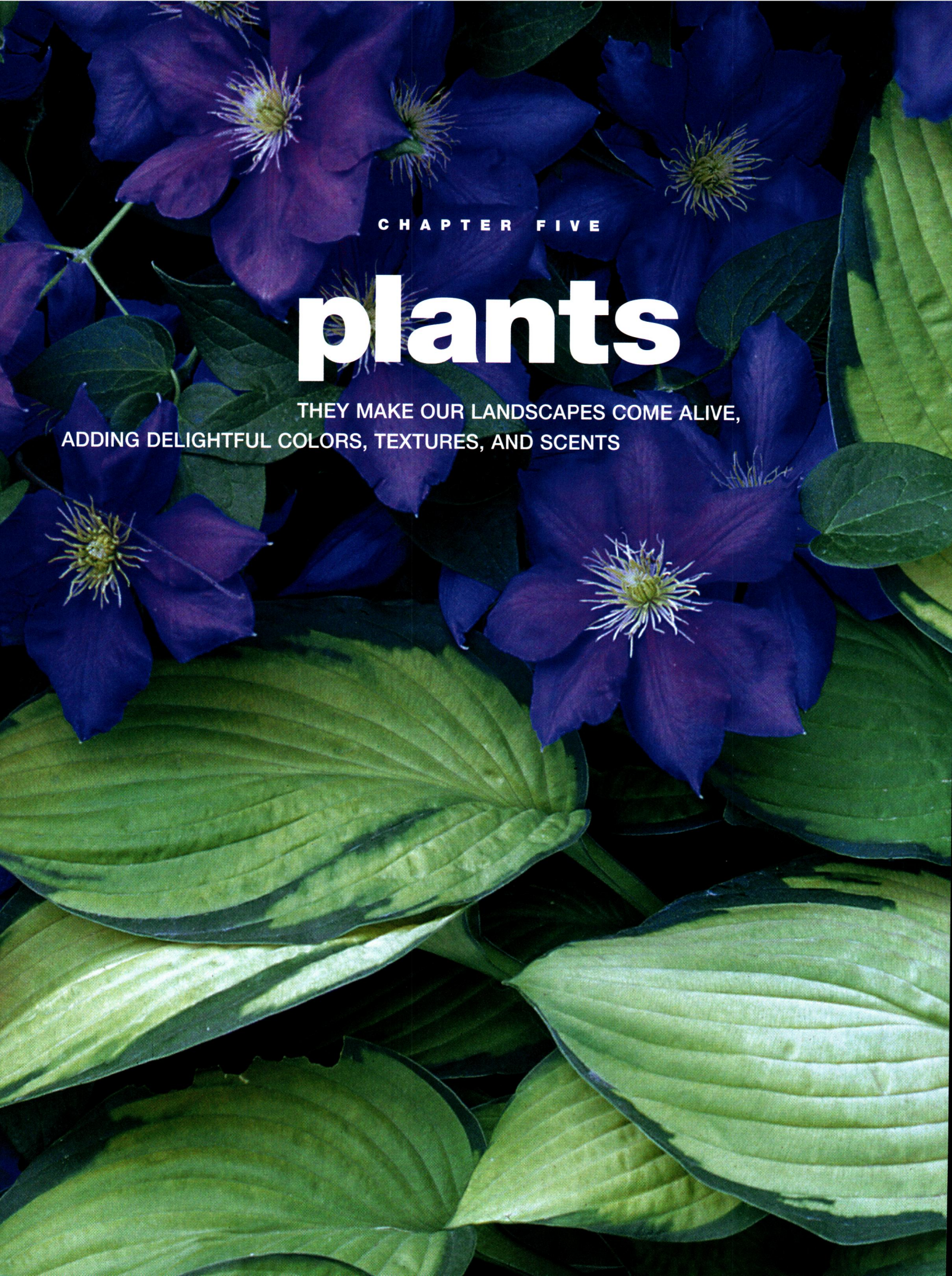


and all successive ones are set, the outer face of each post should just touch the string. If the wind is blowing, watch that it does not push the string out of line.

Double-check your work as you proceed by taking a few moments to sight down the posts, ensuring that the tops are all in line and not leaning in or out.





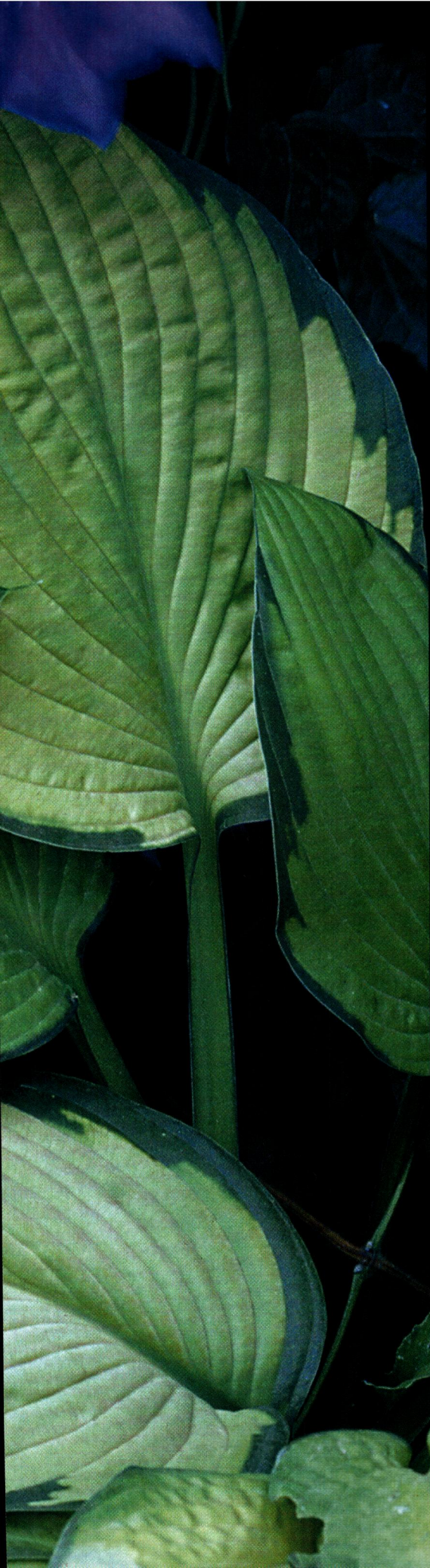


CHAPTER FIVE

# plants

THEY MAKE OUR LANDSCAPES COME ALIVE,  
ADDING DELIGHTFUL COLORS, TEXTURES, AND SCENTS





AWARE OF IT OR NOT, WE ALL RESPOND TO PLANTS.

Though it's the structures—the house, walkways, decks, and porches—that define outdoor spaces, plants and the way they are combined create the sense of beauty and unity that a pleasing landscape requires. Trees, shrubs, ground covers, vines, and lawns are used to create outdoor spaces that are comfortable, appealing, and engaging.

But landscape styles and trends change over time. For instance, a generation ago, the favored look was cubed or balled plants lined up singly around a house. Today, plants are massed less formally, in groupings that need less pruning yet are visually strong. Their shapes, textures, and colors are employed to highlight the architectural features of a home.

In this chapter, you'll learn more about the roles permanent plants play in the landscape and how to plant them and keep them healthy. Starting on page 153, lists of plants for various uses offer a guide to choosing the best ones for different situations. For information about lawn planting and care, see page 176.





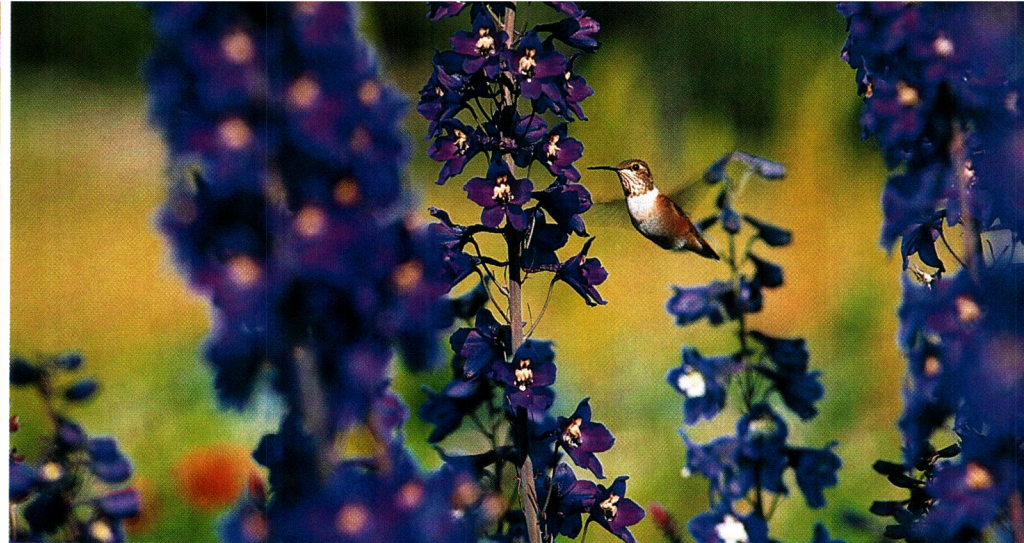
Lamb's ears, named for its oblong, woolly white leaves, grows to 1½ feet tall and spreads freely by surface roots.

- Bog sage, *Salvia uliginosa*; 10°
- Chinese meadow rue, *Thalictrum delavayi*; -20°
- Meadow rue, *Thalictrum rochebrunianum*; -20°

## PERENNIALS WITH GRAY OR SILVER LEAVES

Many silver- and gray-leaved plants are lovely in their own right. But they show off best when used to contrast plants that have dark green leaves. They also make appealing companions for plants with bright or pastel flowers. Most are sun-lovers that tolerate drought; the hairs that create the silver or gray appearance on leaves reflect heat, keeping leaves cool while offering protection from the drying effects of wind.

- Yarrow, *Achillea clypeolata*; -30°
- Beach wormwood, *Artemisia stellerana*; -30°
- False dittany, *Ballota pseudodictamnus*; 0°
- Snow-in-summer, *Cerastium tomentosum*; -40°
- Cardoon, *Cynara cardunculus*; 0°
- Dead nettle, *Lamium maculatum* 'Beacon Silver', 'Pink Pewter'; -30°



Delphinium blossoms enrich the summer garden with cool color while providing nectar to a visiting hummingbird.

- Crete dittany, *Origanum dictamnus*; 10°
- Russian sage, *Perovskia atriplicifolia*; -20°
- Bethlehem sage, *Pulmonaria saccharata* 'Janet Fisk'; -30°
- Cobweb houseleek, *Sempervivum arachnoideum*; -20°
- Dusty miller, *Senecio viravira*; 10°
- Lamb's ears, *Stachys byzantina*; -30°
- Woolly thyme, *Thymus pseudolanuginosus*; -20°
- Mullein, *Verbascum olympicum*; -20°

## PLANTS THAT ATTRACT HUMMINGBIRDS

Hummingbirds are unique among birds in their dependence on nectar to sustain their high energy level. By including some brightly colored flowers in your landscape, you can easily lure them into view. They prefer tubular or trumpet-shaped flowers. To view hummingbirds easily, place plants that attract them near patios and terraces.

- Texas hummingbird mint, *Agastache cana*; -20°
- Golden columbine, *Aquilegia chrysantha*; -30°

- Western columbine, *Aquilegia formosa*; -30°
- Crocosmia, *Crocosmia* 'Lucifer'; -10°
- Delphinium, *Delphinium belladonna*; -30°
- Candle delphinium, *Delphinium elatum*; -40°
- Alum root, *Heuchera americana*; -30°
- Coral bells, *Heuchera sanguinea*; -40°
- Lion's tail, *Leonotis leonurus*; 30°
- Cardinal flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*; -40°
- Lupine, *Lupinus* hybrids; -20°
- Maltese cross, *Lychnis chalcidonica*; -30°
- Bee balm, *Monarda didyma*; -30°
- Beard tongue, *Penstemon digitalis*; -30°
- Firecracker penstemon, *Penstemon eatonii*; -30°
- Coral fountain, *Russelia equisetiformis*; 25°
- Pineapple sage, *Salvia elegans*; 10°
- Hummingbird sage, *Salvia spathacea*; 20°
- Scarlet hedge nettle, *Stachys coccinea*; 0°
- California fuchsia, *Zauschneria californica* (*Epilobium canum canum*); 10°



# resource directory

## cooperative extension

Each state's land-grant university includes a cooperative extension program that provides information, publications, and sometimes soil testing. Remote offices are located in each county. Check in your telephone directory under the university name. For links to cooperative extension web sites, see: [www.ext.colostate.edu/links/linkexte.html](http://www.ext.colostate.edu/links/linkexte.html). Ohio State University sponsors a search engine that includes plant-related guides from 46 different universities and government institutions across the U.S. and Canada. See <http://plantfacts.osu.edu/web>.

## soil testing

### Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA)

Fayetteville, AR  
800-346-9140  
<http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/soil-lab.html>  
Links to soil-testing services and kits

### Midwest Laboratories

Omaha, NE  
402-334-7770  
[www.midwestlabs.com](http://www.midwestlabs.com)

### Soil and Plant Lab

Santa Clara, CA  
408-727-0330  
[www.soilandplantlaboratory.com](http://www.soilandplantlaboratory.com)

### University of Massachusetts

**Soil Testing Lab**  
Amherst, MA  
413-545-2311  
[www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest](http://www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest)

### Wallace Laboratories

El Segundo, CA  
310-615-0116  
[www.bettersoils.com](http://www.bettersoils.com)

### Woods End Research Laboratory

Mt. Vernon, ME  
207-293-2457  
[www.woodsend.org](http://www.woodsend.org)

## poisonous plants

Poisons and toxins are common in many plants, that use them as a means of self-defense. See the Cornell University Poisonous Plants Informational Database at [www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/index.html](http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/index.html).

## design-related web sites

**Planning the Home Landscape**, by William C. Welch, Extension Landscape Horticulturist, Texas A&M University, <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/homelandscape/home.html>

**Residential Landscape Design**, by David Williams, Extension Horticulturist, Assistant Professor, and Ken Tilt, Extension Horticulturist, Associate Professor, both in Horticulture at Auburn University; [www.aces.edu/department/-extcomm/publications/anr/ANR-0813/anr813.html](http://www.aces.edu/department/-extcomm/publications/anr/ANR-0813/anr813.html)

**Residential Landscaping**, by M.A. Powell, Specialist in Charge, Horticulture Extension, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, North Carolina State University; [http://ipm.ncsu.edu/urban/horticulture/res\\_landscaping.html](http://ipm.ncsu.edu/urban/horticulture/res_landscaping.html)

## associations and organizations

### American Society of Landscape Architects

Washington, DC  
202-898-2444  
[www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org)

### American Wood Preservers Association

Granbury, TX  
817-326-6300  
[www.awpa.com](http://www.awpa.com)

### American Wood Preservers Institute

Fairfax, VA  
703-204-0500  
[www.awpi.org](http://www.awpi.org)

### Associated Landscape Contractors of America

Herndon, VA  
703-736-9666  
[www.alca.org](http://www.alca.org)

### Association of Professional Landscape Designers

Chicago, IL  
312-201-0101  
[www.apld.com](http://www.apld.com)

### Brick Industry Association

Reston, VA  
703-620-0010  
[www.bia.org](http://www.bia.org)

### California Redwood Association

Novato, CA  
888-225-7339  
[www.calredwood.org](http://www.calredwood.org)

### Forest Products Laboratory

Madison, WI  
608-231-9200  
[www.fpl.fs.fed.us](http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us)

## information about working with and caring for wood

### Forest Stewardship Council

[www.fscus.org](http://www.fscus.org)  
Information about certified forest products; includes a link to a searchable database of products by type or wood species

### Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute

Washington, DC  
202-712-9036  
[www.icpi.org](http://www.icpi.org)

### The Irrigation Association

Falls Church, VA  
703-536-7080  
[www.irrigation.org](http://www.irrigation.org)

### National Concrete Masonry Association

Herndon, VA  
703-713-1900  
[www.ncma.org/use/srw.html](http://www.ncma.org/use/srw.html)

### Plastic Lumber Trade Association

Akron, OH  
330-762-1963  
[www.plasticlumber.org](http://www.plasticlumber.org)



# A comprehensive landscaping guide from the experts at This Old House

- How to beautify your garden with the best plants and building materials, making it a true extension of your home
- Step-by-step instructions for building paths, walls, water features, fences, decks, and much more
- All the essential first steps of landscaping, from planning and design to irrigation and outdoor lighting



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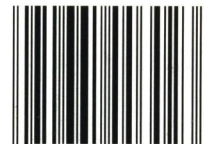
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