



6 LANDSCAPE MISTAKES GARDENERS OFTEN MAKE

Earth-Kind® Residential Landscaping School

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Landscapes certainly add to the value of our home and provide us with years of enjoyment...or at least they should! I've seen a million examples of " *It seemed like a good idea at the time*" over the years and want to instead help people have success in their landscaping endeavors. While many mistakes that deserve mention, here are a few common ones I see gardeners make:

1. **Not planning before planting.** Gardeners can become "plant collectors," arriving home with the latest plant acquisition with little knowledge of where to put it! Start with a landscape plan that is designed with aesthetic beauty in mind as well as water conservation and less maintenance.

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2. **Not preparing the soil first.** Spend a dollar on soil before a dollar on a plant! Sand and clay both need lots of compost added. Build up raised beds if drainage is poor. Get soil ready before you plant!
3. **Choosing poorly adapted plants.** Why is it we always want to grow something that belongs in another part of the country? Select naturally adapted and disease/pest resistant species and cultivars.
4. **Not considering location carefully.** Sun or shade, good drainage or poor, protected location or exposed. These all have huge effects on a plant's chance of success.
5. **Planting too close.** Crowding increases disease problems and can result in an unattractive planting. Keep in mind how large that shrub will grow before planting it under a window or next to a sidewalk.
6. **Not mulching properly.** You've heard all the benefits of mulch but still people fail to apply it to their plants. Avoid the silly "mulch volcanoes" around trees. Maintain a 2-3 inch layer of mulch around your plants. Over time as it decomposes it will release nutrients into the soil.
7. **Not starting off right the Earth-Kind way.** Avoiding these common mistakes. Earth-Kind landscaping considers planning, plant selection, soil preparation, maintenance, mulching and other key practices, using research-proven techniques to provide maximum garden and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting the environment.

