



UC Master Gardeners of Napa County

GARDEN DESIGN RELATED SIGNIFICANT POINTS

-Your gardening experience:

- Are you an avid gardener, have no interest in gardening other than the visual aspect or are you somewhere in between?
- Consider partnering w/a professional

-Purpose of the garden & type of garden desired:

- What are you planning to accomplish in this area?
 - ease of upkeep; year round color; what?
- Type of garden
 - Pollinator, low-water, native; vegetable etc.

-Scope of project (wish list)

- What are your plans for the Design?
- Think about creating a 'dream book' with pictures from magazines and descriptions that apply to the proposed project. Refer to it in the planning process.
- Check out what your neighbors are doing in their landscapes and ask who did their project(s)

-Who will be doing the work?

- DIY or professional or a combination of both?
 - Divide the ideas between DIY and a professional
 - ex: DIY-planting; Professional-lawn removal, and so on

-When desired start time of the project?

- Within a couple of months or longer? (plan on project to exceed time frame)
- Will project be broken down into installments over a period of time (months/years)?

-Cost & other considerations:

- Explore all costs of materials/labor on all projects including any irrigation needed to complete project.
- Be prepared for cost overruns
- Research landscape professionals in the area and interview selected ones
- Be aware of HMO's, CCR's, local City, County & State regulations & any permits required to implement/complete project
- To help control budget plant small rather than large. Plan on slow gratification as the plants grow in.

-Draw out existing landscape

- Landscape as it is now including measurements using plot map or Google Earth

-Add important notations:

- points of the compass
- Prevailing winds

- Different lines of sight e.g. want view of mountains maintained but not the view of the neighbor's yard, etc.
- different areas of the garden shaded at different times of the year e.g. where sun rises in fall, winter, spring & summer; any existing tall trees in landscape or perimeter; etc.
- Location of main water shut off valve; existing irrigation lines & water
- Mark proposed design project location(s) on current landscape map

-Additional Considerations:

- Check local nurseries for guidance, design help and plant selections
 - Don't plant invasives <https://plantright.org/>
- Hardscape vs landscape-know the difference
 - With some exceptions.....best time for hardscape additions/alterations or construction is in spring and early summer; best time for new landscape plants to be installed is in fall or early winter.
- Create & keep a map of existing & updated irrigation to refer to
- Keep a plant ID list of plants added to landscape for future reference
- Check out all the garden design related free apps & software online
- Consider future Climate Changes-drought, freezes, flooding etc.

-Locate research based gardening info to facilitate the proposed project

- See the document entitled 'Garden Design related research based info/links' listed on this link's contents

Gardening Questions? Call our Help Desk

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 am - 12 pm

UC Master Gardeners of Napa County are available to answer your home gardening questions. We encourage you to bring your questions or plant samples!

Drop-in:

UC Cooperative Extension-Napa County

1710 Soscol Avenue, Ste 4, Napa

By phone:707-253-4143 877-279-3065 (Toll free for AmCan & Up Valley) or through our website napamg.ucanr.edu

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