



Free Landscaping Guide

We thank you for requesting this free special report,
with the following information for you to discover:

- 6 critical questions to ask any landscape company
- Good and Bad plants for Virginia
- How to increase your home value by as much as 11%
- Going **Green** tips to help lower your energy bill

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6 Critical questions to ask any landscaper:

So you've gotten a touch of the "green thumb? Worry not, Oasis is here to help! With our experience, knowledge and outstanding service, we can transform your visionary lawn into reality.

Have you already painted a picture of what exactly you'll be seeing when looking outside the window? Chances are the vision may be blurry. If you're like most of our customers, finding where to even begin is difficult enough. We know just how challenging the decision process of landscaping can be. Team up with Oasis and those overwhelming feelings can be nipped in the bud.

Prior to even consulting a landscaper, there are some things you can ask and answer yourself. First, create an idea of what you want out of the new space. Is the lawn to be primarily used by children? Are you planning on dining outside? Do you wish to create a year-long usable space or are you concerned only about certain seasonal months? Should the plot be low maintenance or do you like to garden? Perhaps you enjoy bonfires, or cooking outside.

It's even more helpful to ask yourself what you want in the garden. Maybe you want definition, or more flowers or to grow tomatoes. Is there a demand for a shed? Would you enjoy a patio or walkway? Do you want archways, garden lights, stained wood, or a particular mulch? Any pre-existing particulars you might have are always good to think about.

But don't over do it. Don't expect to draw up blueprints by yourself. One or even a few specifics will be wholly beneficial for envisioning your new space. And always remember your budget. At Oasis, we're not concerned whether you want slight tweaking or total transformation – we're happy to have your business, and we will always stay within your budget!

When beginning negotiations for a landscaping contract it's important to be specific about your expectations. At Oasis, we know the important questions you should ask any landscaping company. If you decide on doing business with us, or opt for another landscaper, we would like to give our input to assure you'll be satisfied with not only the final product, but the service along the way.

1. Make sure of ANY consultation fees.

Nearly all landscaping companies will speak to you over the phone at no charge, but may charge a consultation fee for coming to your house. For a true estimate, a good landscaper should be present themselves at the actual location. Make sure, before you send out invitations, that you understand and accept any fees that may be involved. Don't let contractors send you a bill without previous knowledge.

2. Ask about portfolios and experience:

It's important to find out what types of work a potential landscaper has previously accomplished. Do they work entirely with hardscapes? Gradations? Do they just mow lawns? Unfortunately the word "landscaper" taken in its modern concept has many roots. Make sure any potential companies have worked or have the ability to work with your certain particulars. Unless you're of the giving nature, playing "guinea pig" for a landscaper's experience will leave you dissatisfied.

3. Clear the air of any particulars:

There are two possible points when you may discover hidden details; some of which may pleasantly surprise you (especially if it's with Oasis!). The first opportunity is when you first begin contract discussions. Remember, be specific and thorough. The second is before you sign,

Oasis Landscaping: Special Report

so make sure you read the contract completely, including the “fine print.” One important initial issue you should talk about is the guarantee. Make certain you fully understand what the guarantee covers and entails. Know if it covers your territory as soon as work begins or not until after completion, the total duration of coverage, unique clauses or any special conditions. You’ll want to ask about maintenance, before and after completion and any distinct conditions. Landscapers sometimes have special clauses that stay concealed unless asked about.

4. Find out what the next steps are before the contract is signed:

You’ll want to know if there is anything you can do to create a more conducive atmosphere. Find out when your location should expect workers. You may need to advise the neighbors to move their car. The homeowner’s association might need contacting. There might be more planning needed. You might have to schedule a time with your landscaper to pick out vegetation. From the dried ink to the completion of the plan, a lot can and needs to happen. Find out what it is!

5. Know what happens when things go wrong:

Georgia was supposed to be a utopian state – have you seen Georgia now? It’s just like any U.S. state, far from perfect. Problems can arise. The good news is you might not have to solve them. Weather, work conditions, special orders, cracked cement or even a daughter’s birthday party can put things on hold. Find out what happens in case of minor (hopefully never major) emergencies. You’ll want to know if a company charges for labor during prolonged weather delays.

6. When is the job complete?:

Of all things, both you and your landscaper should be most clear on this. If those mango trees special ordered from the Caribbean don’t make it State-side until the following summer, make sure you know who’s putting them in. That neighbor kid you’d otherwise rely on might be studying abroad. If you’ve set a finish date, know what the expectations are in meeting the deadline. You might want to put in mango trees yourself. Or you might want the company back every other week to mow, pull weeds and prune. Making sure both parties have agreed when and how a project will be completed. It is the only way to ensure common satisfaction.

Bonus Information:

Oasis landscaping would like to give you a few more brief pointers. These are some specific things to consider when planning your landscape. These hints can make a drastic difference between a successful landscape and one that’s poorly planned.

1. Habits of people using the space (gardeners, sunbathers, etc.)
2. Specific needs or desires for usage (sports, entertaining, etc.)
3. Available materials
4. General environment
5. Viewpoints and vantage points
6. A site’s natural ecology
7. Consideration for architectural elements

Good and Bad plants for Virginia:

Spring and Fall are certainly practical times of the year for landscaping improvements. It’s a chance to be objective about what you and your family would like when considering some interesting new landscaping, for the home turf. With all of the proven, available varieties of attractive trees and shrubs that will thrive in Virginia, the choices will not be a snap. All it takes is an extra cup of hot morning coffee as you scan nursery online catalogs, wondering what the final result might actually look like. Good? Wonderful? Great? Landscaping to turn heads, and then keep giving back peace and beauty all year long.

Oasis Landscaping: Special Report

The choices, depending on the overall mood you would like to create are well defined. Careful historical records charting the trees and shrubs that enjoy the Virginia climate are your guide. And the actual creative design, and installation should really be left to the everyday professionals like Oasis Landscaping. So every project is a journey about discovery, and making that very important future happen increases the value of your home & business in a very competitive real estate market. The highly talented staff at Oasis Landscaping understands the right plant & tree selection process, and will absolutely be there to insure a successful, quality, Guaranteed On-Time-Plan for you. The services include the following: Landscaping, Automatic Irrigation Systems, Yard Maintenance, Tree Services, Design/Build, Installation, Hardscape, Drainage, and Leaf & Snow Removal.

Plants and trees that love Virginia:

Trees:

- Red Maples October or Sunset: A beautiful tree, known for its variable formed leaves, a mature height of around 82 feet, and deep autumn scarlet foliage.
- Oak Pin Oak: A sturdy, well formed acorn bearing tree that works well in the city reaching a height of over 60 feet.
- Kousa Dogwood: A small strong tree featuring beautiful white flowers in May and June growing into a 15' to 25' spread.
- Serviceberry: A wonderful small tree growing to a 15' to 25' spread, with glowing scarlet and purple leaves in the Fall.
- Yoshino Cherry: A Japanese tree with white-pink flowers branching in an Asian pattern with glossy bark and dark-green leaves. It likes a lot of sun, soil that's well-drained and grows to 40' to 50'.
- Magnolia Jane: One of a hybrid group of magnolias created by the U.S National Arboretum in the 1950's. It's a small shrub or tree, with purple reddish flowers outside, and white flowers inside blooming in late spring to miss any frost damage, growing to 10' – 15' high.
- Betula Black Walnut: A beautiful tree attaining a spread of 50' to 75', and sought after for its nuts and prized hardwood.
- Green Giant Arborvitae: A generous, lush foliage lends itself for screens or hedges, in a triangular, narrow shape. 10' to 15' high with a spread of 3' to 4'.
- Dawn Redwood: A deciduous tree from the distant prehistoric past that adjusts well to contemporary landscaping. It grows up to 70' to 100' high with a 25' spread.

Shrubs:

- Spirea Little Princess: A spirited shrub with wiry, short stems and pretty pink flowers blooming in the summer heat. The Fall leaf color is a dark red, and the Spirea Little Princess prefers Sun, or areas of light shade.
- Knockout Roses: Here's an award winning shrub cherry-red rose, for clusters of roses all summer, and orange hips for a special splash of Fall color, growing to 24" high.

Oasis Landscaping: Special Report

- Boxwood Green Velvet: The shrub may be trimmed to virtually any desired form, at 3' high and 2' wide.
- Miss Kim Lilac: This delightful plant loves a humid, warm climate. And has beautiful fragrant flowers perfect for cutting and display.
- Viburnum plicatum tom Maresii or Shasta: A stalwart Shrub sporting foliage that's dark green, and comfortable in summer's heat and winter's cold.
- Itea Henry Garnet or Little Henry: Here's a shrub that's compact with branches that arch, and has white, large fragrant flowers that appear in the early summer. 3' to 5' high, and 4' o 6' wide.

Trees & Shrubs That Do NOT do Well in Virginia:

Trees: Fraxinus any variety, White Spruce, Pyrus Bradford, & Betula papyrifera (White or Paperbark Birch)

Shrubs: Daphne, Erica, Skimmia, Photinia, Leucothoe, Mahonia aquifolium, Juniper Tam, & Euonymus Emerald Gaity

How to increase your home value by as much as 11%:

In today's tough real estate market, quality landscaping will reward the homeowner with an increase in property value and the competitive edge that is needed to help sell your home. According to a recent article in Money Magazine, a Michigan State University study stated that professional, quality landscaping increases home values by as much as 11%.

To achieve the landscaping results you want, the following seven steps should be seriously considered:

1. Add splashes of vivid color:

Adding color to your yard is one of the easiest and least expensive steps you can do. Choose flowers and plants that are hearty and full of color. Here are a few examples that work well in Virginia:

Flowers: • Knockout Roses. Here's an award winning shrub cherry-red rose, for clusters of roses all summer, and orange hips for a special splash of Fall color, growing to 24" high. • Miss Kim Lilac: This delightful plant loves a humid, warm climate. And has beautiful fragrant flowers perfect for cutting and display.

Flowering Trees: • Magnolia Jane: One of a hybrid group of magnolias created by the U.S National Arboretum in the 1950's. It's a small shrub or tree, with purple reddish flowers outside, and white flowers strong tree featuring beautiful white flowers in May and June growing into a 15' to 25'spread. • Yoshino Cherry: A Japanese tree with white-pink flowers branching in an Asian pattern with glossy bark and dark-green leaves. It likes a lot of sun, soil that's well-drained and grows to 40' to 50'.

2. Remove any clutter:

Keep all flowering plants, shrubs and trees properly trimmed, and the grounds clear of any debris. If you have a yard that is not properly maintained, potential buyers will often assume that the rest of your home is maintained the same way.

3. Install multilevel landscaping:

Maintain visual interest by selecting plants of varying heights and widths. Also, the use of Trellises and elegant architectural pergolas will make your landscaping both special and distinctive.

Oasis Landscaping: Special Report

4. Enjoy your backyard:

Transform it into a delightful, beautiful outdoor family room and increase your available living space at a modest cost compared to constructing a formal room addition. This will pay huge dividends when it comes time to sell.

5. Fertilize:

Make the investment in maintaining your grounds with a schedule to add the necessary fertilizer appropriate for each plant variety and your lawn. Also consider installing an automatic lawn watering system to work with an irrigation plan. Today's automatic lawn watering systems use water efficiently saving you money in the long run and helping to use natural resources wisely.

6. Be attentive to the appearance of beds:

The practice of incorporating mulch and esthetically pleasing stones to give your garden beds a professional look is important. Don't overlook this simple, but important detail that will transform an ordinary yard into a spectacular living space.

7. Add a little Drama:

As Shakespeare said, "All the world's a stage," and the highly skilled and creative professionals at Oasis Landscaping will make all of your landscaping dreams come true.

Oasis Landscaping will provide the drama, style, visual presentation and a guaranteed well thought out plan using wonderful, bold color focal points and innovative design.

These seven steps, when provided by Oasis Landscaping will enhance your valuable property by creating an updated, beautiful look that will be admired by passersby and increase the value of your home for every season.

Going Green tips to help lower your energy bill:

Some energy facts to consider:

1. Heating and cooling, two of the largest aspects of a home's energy bill can be reduced by proper landscaping.
2. Strategically placed trees will shade windows to reduce cooling costs.
3. Creating a "buffer zone" of air with vines, shrubs and bushes close to a home will insulate the house, reducing both cooling and heating costs.
4. Dense trees placed to the north and northeast will guard against wind chill in the winter months.

Remind yourself that landscaping, unlike architecture, sculpture or art, does not look its best when new. Landscaping is something that takes hold. It systematically and naturally forms into its best element, especially after the staff has left and work has seemingly subsided. After a few months, a well designed project will bloom fully. Here at Oasis, we hope your future landscaping projects will look as good as the ones we have designed.