

A green silhouette of a plant with two seed pods and a grassy base. The plant has a central stem with several leaves and two elongated seed pods. The base is a dense patch of grass.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

JOHN WOMACK

What do you want?

- Lots of color
- An outdoor kitchen
- Drought resistant plants
- Lots of color
- Sitting areas
- Play areas
- A manicured yard
- A butterfly garden

Low maintenance

A forest look

Herbs

A vegetable garden/edible landscaping

Walks and paths

Lots of plants/just enough

Azaleas? Roses?

Rainwater collection

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

- CREATING A PLAN TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF AVAILABLE SPACE IN THE MOST ATTRACTIVE WAY
- SHAPING THE LAND TO MAKE THE MOST OF A SITE'S NATURAL FEATURES AND ADVANTAGES
- BUILDING NECESSARY STRUCTURES SUCH AS FENCES, WALL, AND PATIOS
- SELECTING AND GROWING PLANTS THAT BEST FIT THE DESIGN
- DESIGNING THE LANDSCAPE TO MINIMIZE MAINTENANCE NEEDS



ANALYSIS OF SITE AND FAMILY NEEDS

- PEOPLE WHO WILL USE THE LOT
- INDIVIDUAL DESIRES
- NATURAL MATERIALS ON LOT
- SURROUNDINGS
 - TOPOGRAPHIC
 - CLIMATE



FACTORS INFLUENCING LANDSCAPE

LOT CHARACTERISTICS WHEN CREATING A LANDSCAPE PLAN

- NATURAL RESOURCES

- TURF
- PONDS
- BROOKS
- GOOD SOIL
- MATURE TREES
- ROCK OUTCROPPINGS
- INTERESTING VARIATIONS IN TERRAIN

CLIMATE

- WIND
- SUNLIGHT
- RAIN
- TEMPERATURE

NEIGHBORHOOD SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

- TREES FOR SCREENING
- PLANTS TO BLOCK NOISE

PERMACULTURE

PERMACULTURE IS A SYSTEM THAT OBSERVES NATURE AND ITS SOLUTIONS AND THEN MIMICS THOSE SOLUTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, BUILD BERMS AND SWELLS TO REROUTE WATER TO WHERE YOU NEED IT. USE NATIVE PLANTS AND SHRUBS. GET THE BIG PICTURE BEFORE YOU START ON THE DETAILS OF YOUR LANDSCAPING.

WORK WITH NATURE, NOT AGAINST IT

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

DESIGN LANDSCAPE ACCORDING TO
EXPECTED LAND USE FOR THE FAMILY

EXAMPLES:

SMALL CHILDREN NEED OPEN LAWN
SPACE FOR PLAYING

GARDENERS NEED SPACE FOR GROWNING
VEGETABLES AND FLOWERS

CONSIDER OUTDOOR LIVING HOUSEHOLD
NEEDS

ALLOW FOR FUTURE CHANGES AS FAMILY
MATURES



COST EFFECTIVE MAINTENANCE

- DECIDE AMOUNT OF MAINTENANCE DESIRE
- THE SIMPLER THE SITE THE LESS MAINTENANCE REQUIRED
- MAINTAINENCE CAN BE MINIMIZED BY ACCOMODATING THE NATURE OF THE SITE
- PRIME CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE ELEVATIONS
- EXISTING TREES
- PROJECTED USES OF THE AREA



TO REDUCE MAINTENANCE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING IDEAS

- SMALL LAWN AREAS
- GROUNDCOVERS OR NATURAL PINE STRAW, BARN CHIPS, AND OTHER MULCHES TO CONTROL WEEDS
- PAVEMENT FOR HEAVILY TRAVELED AREAS
- BRICK OR CONCRETE MOWING STRIPS FOR FLOWER BEDS AND SHRUB BORDERS
- FENCES OF WALL INSTEAD OF CLIPPED FORMAL HEDGES FOR SCREENING
- RAISED FLOWER BEDS DESIGNED FOR EASY ACCESS AND WEED CONTROL
- AN UNDERGROUND IRRIGATION SYSTEM INSTALLED IN AREAS OF LOW RAINFALL
- SMALL ANNUAL FLOWER BEDS/ FLOWERING TREES AND SHRUBS FOR COLOR
- PLANTS THAT REQUIRED LITTLE PRUNING, SPRAYING, AND WATERING
- NATIVE PLANTS
- SIMPLE DESIGNS

LOW MAINTENANCE



LOW MAINTENANCE IS GOOD

EDGING MAKES IT EASY



THYME GROWS IN BETWEEN THE ROCKS



DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS FOR PUBLIC AREAS

- CREATE AN ILLUSION OF SPACE
- KEEP THE LAWN OPEN, USE SHRUBS ON THE SIDE OR IN FOUNDATION PLANTING
- WHEN CHOOSING SHRUBS TO FRAME THE FRONT DOOR, CONSIDER THEIR TEXTURE, COLOR, SIZE, AND SHAPE
- THE HOUSE SHOULD BE THE FOCAL POINT
- DRIVEWAYS SHOULD BE SAFE, USEFUL, AND ATTRACTIVE
- IF POSSIBLE, THE DRIVEWAY SHOULD BE HARD SURFACED FOR NEATNESS AND LOW MAINTENANCE. DO NOT PLANT TALL SHRUBBERY AT A DRIVEWAY ENTRANCE.
- CONSIDER FOOT-TRAFFIC PATTERNS TO PROVIDE EASY ACCESS FROM ONE AREA TO ANOTHER.
- GENERALLY THE WALKWAY TO THE FRONT DOOR PARALLELS THE HOUSE AND JOINS THE DRIVEWAY
- SOMETIMES LAND TOPOGRAPHY PROVIDES A GOOD REASON TO HAVE A CURVED WALKWAY, BUT AVOID WALKS THAT ARE CURVED FOR NO APPARENT REASON. THE WALKWAY SHOULD BE AT LEAST 4 FEET WIDE.

THE PUBLIC AREA

THE HOUSE AS THE FOCAL POINT



SPACIOUSNESS



DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE PRIVATE OR OUTDOOR LIVING AREA

- A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF AMERICAN HOMES
- NO YARD IS TOO SMALL TO HAVE A PRIVATE SITTING AREA WHERE FAMILY AND GUESTS CAN GATHER.
- EASY ACCESS FROM THE HOUSE TO THE OUTDOOR LIVING AREA
- THE OUTDOOR AREA CAN BE SIMPLE, AN OPEN GRASSY AREA, MAYBE ENCLOSED BY WALL OR SHRUBS
- THE OUTDOOR PRIVATE AREA OFFERS A SITE FOR:
 - FAMILY RELAXATION
 - OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING
 - RECREATION
 - OUTDOOR EATING
 - AESTHETIC ENJOYMENT

PRIVATE AREAS SHOULD CONSIDER THESE FACTORS

- PRIVACY
- LIVEABLE TOUCH
- YEAR-ROUND INTEREST
- CLIMATE CONTROL
- THE TERRACE OR SITTING AREA
- THE PLAY AREA
- SERVICE, WORK, OR PRODUCTION AREA



PRIVATE SPACES



PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

THERE ARE NO HARD AND FAST RULES FOR LANDSCAPING BECAUSE EACH DESIGN IS UNIQUE. AS IN ALL ART FORMS, LANDSCAPING IS BASED ON SEVERAL PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

SCALE

- THE PROPORTION BETWEEN TWO SETS OF DIMENSIONS
- KNOW THE EVENTUAL OR MATURE SIZE OF A PLANT WHEN LOCATING IT NEAR A BUILDING
- PLANTS THAT GROW TOO LARGE WILL OVERWHELM A BUILDING
- SMALL PLANTINGS AROUND A LARGE BUILDING MAY ALSO BE INAPPROPRIATE
- CONSIDER BOTH THE MATURE HEIGHT AND THE SPREAD OF A PLANT

Principles of landscape design

• Unity in landscape design

– Scale

- Relative scale or proportion of landscape affects viewer's mood

- Most landscapes should be proportional to human height or height of structure

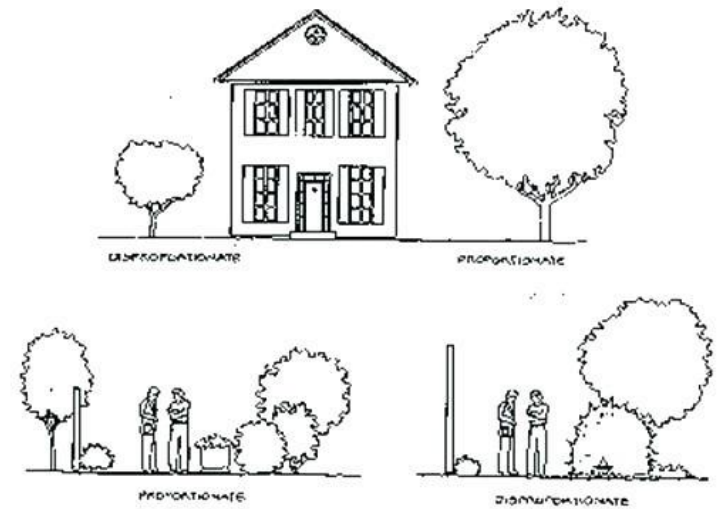
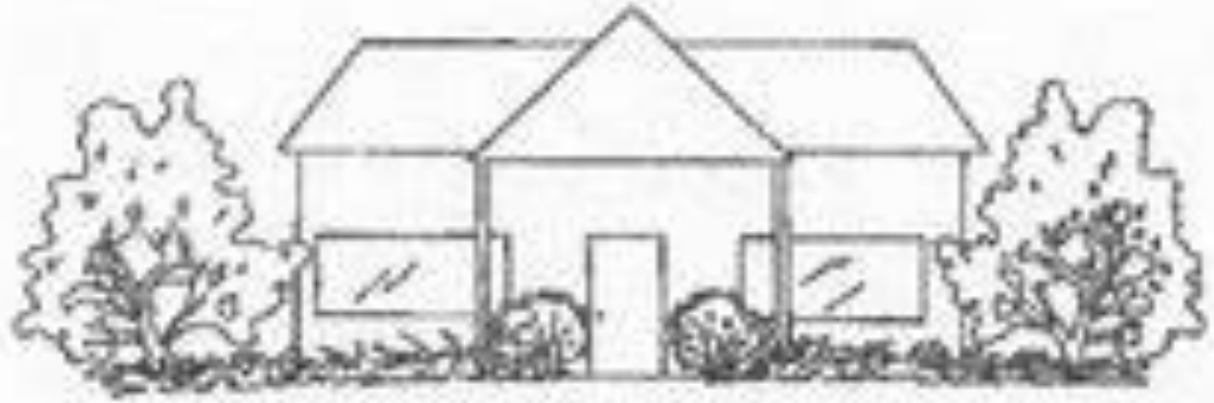


Figure 7-14. Relative scale is more accurately called proportion.

BALANCE

- AESTHETICALLY PLEASING INTEGRATION OF ELEMENTS IN A LANDSCAPE
- SENSE THAT THE PARTS ARE OF EQUAL VISUAL WEIGHT OR MASS
- CAN BE SYMMETRICAL OR ASYMMETRICAL
- SYMMETRICAL BALANCE IS FORMAL
- ASYMMETRICAL BALANCE USES DIFFERENT OBJECTS TO ACHIEVE EQUILIBRIUM



SYMMETRICAL BALANCE



ASYMMETRICAL BALANCE

BALANCE

SYMMETRICAL



ASSYMMETRICAL



UNITY

- A LANDSCAPE WITH TOO MANY SHOW PLANTS OR TOO MANY ACCESSORIES LACKS UNITY
- TOO MUCH CLUTTER DETRACTS FROM UNITY
- THE DESIGN SHOULD PRESENT A PLEASANT VIEW FROM EVERY ANGLE
- THE DESIGN SHOULD APPEAR AS A SINGLE UNIT



RHYTHM

REPETITION OF ELEMENTS THAT DIRECTS THE EYE THROUGH THE DESIGN
ELEMENTS APPEAR AT REGULAR INTERVALS AND IN A DEFINITE DIRECTION
CAN BE EXPRESSED BY COLOR AS WELL AS FORM



SIMPLICITY

- LESS IS REALLY MORE
- AVOID CLUTTERING THE YARD WITH UNNECESSARY OBJECTS
- CREATE SPACES INSTEAD OF FILLING THEM UP



ACCENT

- ACCENT IS FOCALIZATION AND DOMINANCE
- VARIOUS PARTS OF THE LANDSCAPE MAY LEAD THE EYE TOWARD A FOCAL POINT, WHICH MAY BE A GARDEN ACCESSORY OR A PARTICULAR AREA OF THE LANDSCAPE
- MANY TIMES, THE FOCAL POINT IS THE HOUSE



Example of accent, in which all elements lead the eye to the focal point, the house.

REPETITION

- **REPETITION DOES NOT MEAN MONOTONY**
- **CURVES MAY BE STARTED IN THE FRONT YARD, CONTINUED IN THE SIDE YARD, AND PICKED UP IN THE BACK YARD**
- **SUBTLY REPEATING DESIGN ELEMENTS SUCH AS BED LINES CONTRIBUTE TO CONTINUITY AND FLOW**



REPETITION



Example of repetition.

HARMONY IS ACHIEVED THROUGH A PLEASING ARRANGEMENT OF PARTS



HARMONY

HARMONY



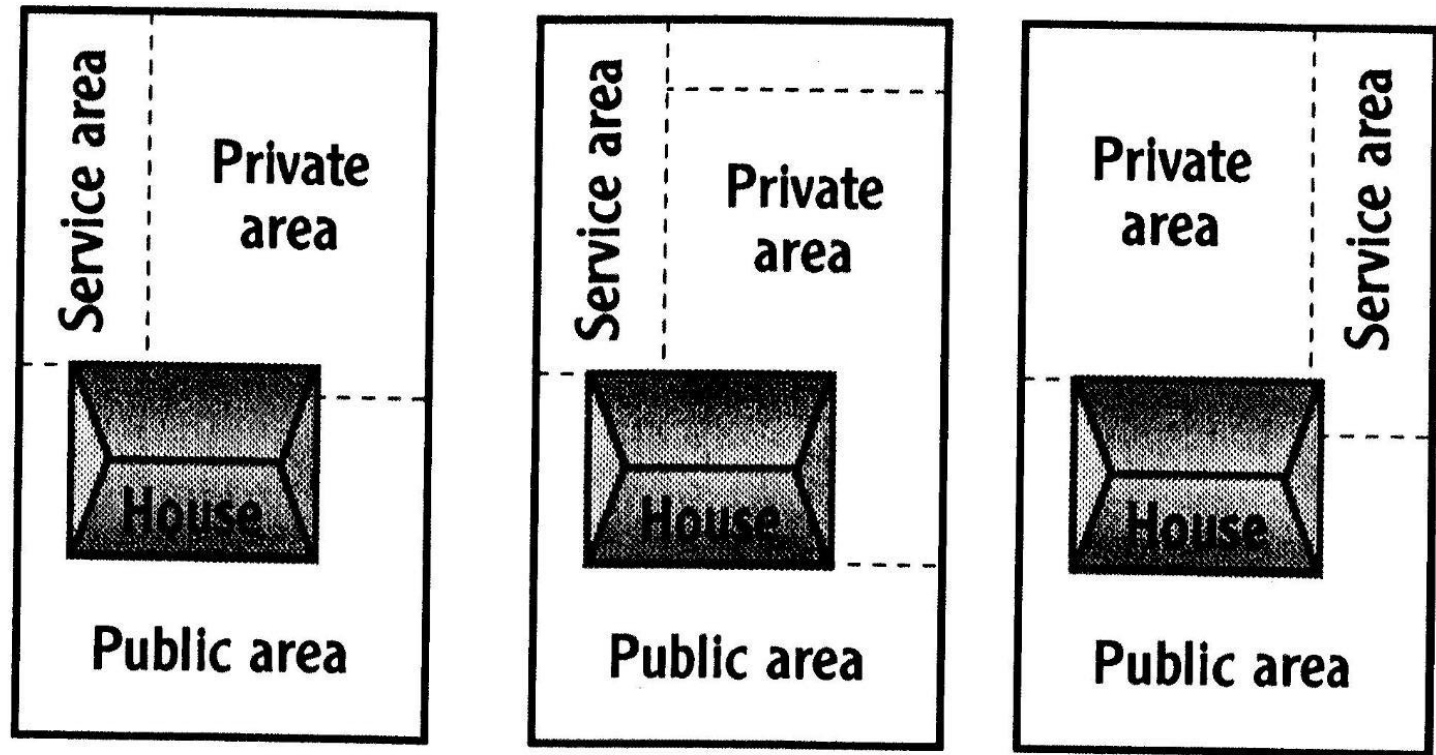
Harmony

LACK OF HARMONY

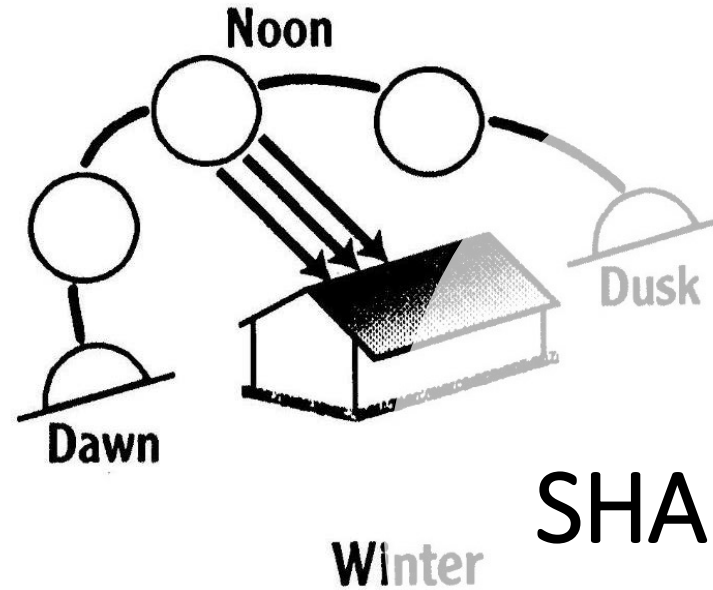
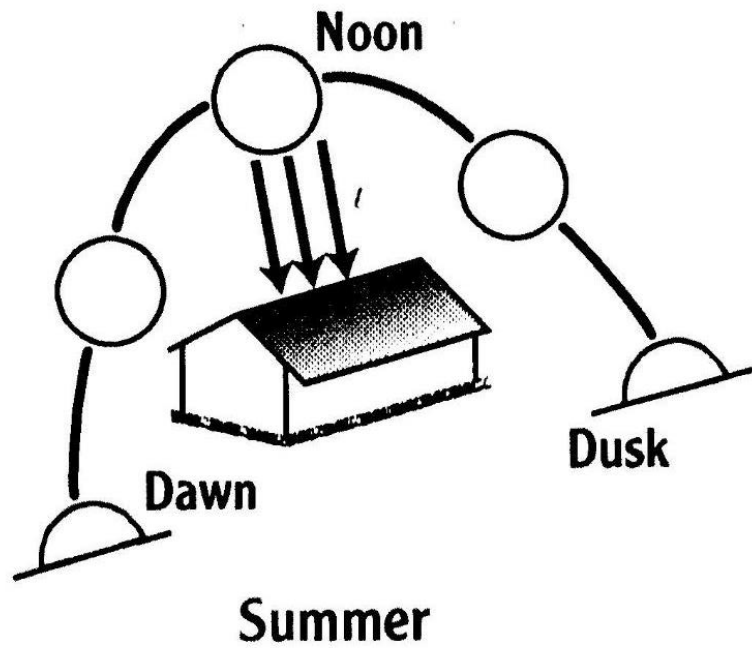


Lack of harmony

available space into use areas including the public area, the private area, and the service or work area (Fig. 7.1).



Division of landscape into use areas.



SHADE PATTERNS

Shade patterns at different seasons and times of day.

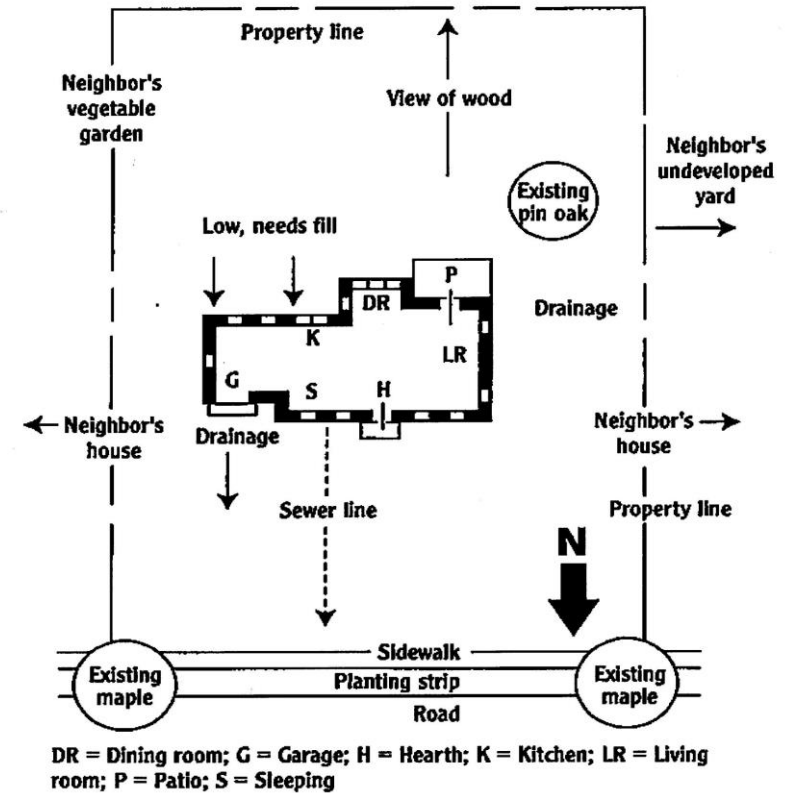
DRAWING A LANDSCAPE PLAN (7.7)

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO DRAW A LANDSCAPE PLAN THAT EMBODIES THE ELEMENTS OF GOOD DESIGN

- 1. PREPARE A BASELINE MAP**
- 2. DECIDE HOW TO USE THE GROUND AREA**
- 3. PLACE USE AREA ON THE MAP**
- 4. DEVELOP THE LANDSCAPE PLAN**
- 5. PREPARE A PLANTING PLAN**

PREPARING A BASELINE MAP

- CREATE A SCALE MAP OF HOME GROUNDS
- USE GRAPH PAPER
- LET ONE SQUARE EQUAL SO MANY FEET
- MAP TO SHOW PROPERTY LINES
- UNDESIRABLE FEATURES OF HOME GROUNDS OF ADJOINING PROPERTY
- ARROWS TO SHOW EACH GOOD VIEW
- HOUSE, GARAGE, OTHER BUILDINGS
- DOORS, WINDOWS, PORCHES, ROOM LOCATIONS
- EXISTING TREES



DECIDE HOW TO USE GROUND AREA LIST OF ITEMS TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS

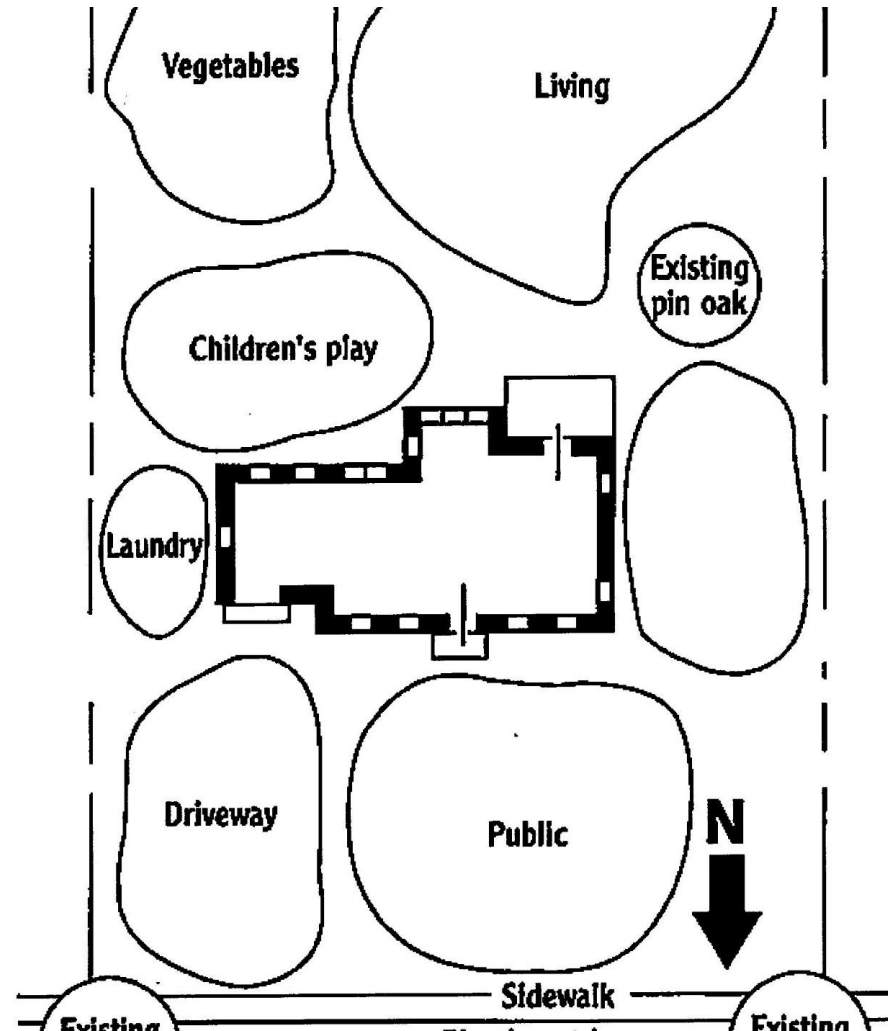
- CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA
- COOKING AND SEATING AREA
- DRIVEWAY
- FLOWER BEDS
- FRONT LAWN AREA OR PUBLIC AREA
- GARAGE
- GARDEN POOL
- GUEST PARKING
- FRUIT GARDEN
- LAUNDRY AREA
- OUTDOOR LIVING OR PRIVATE AREA
- VEGETABLE GARDEN
- WALKS

LOT PLANNING AREAS

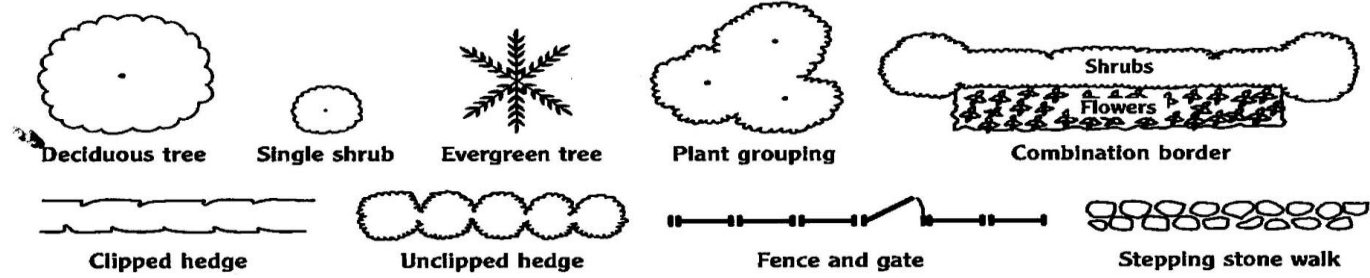
THE AREAS SHOULD FIT TOGETHER ACCORDING TO TRAFFIC FLOW AND USE

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- HOW WILL PEOPLE MOVE FROM ONE AREA TO ANOTHER?
- FROM HOUSE TO OUTSIDE AREA?
- WILL MOVEMENT BE COMFORTABLE?
- WILL PLACEMENT OF OUTDOOR AREA BE COMFORTABLE?
- WILL THE PLACEMENT OF OUTDOOR AREA BE FUNCTIONAL IN RELATION TO THE HOUSE?
- WILL THE AREA MAKE USE OF EXISTING FEATURES SUCH AS VIEWS OR TERRAIN?

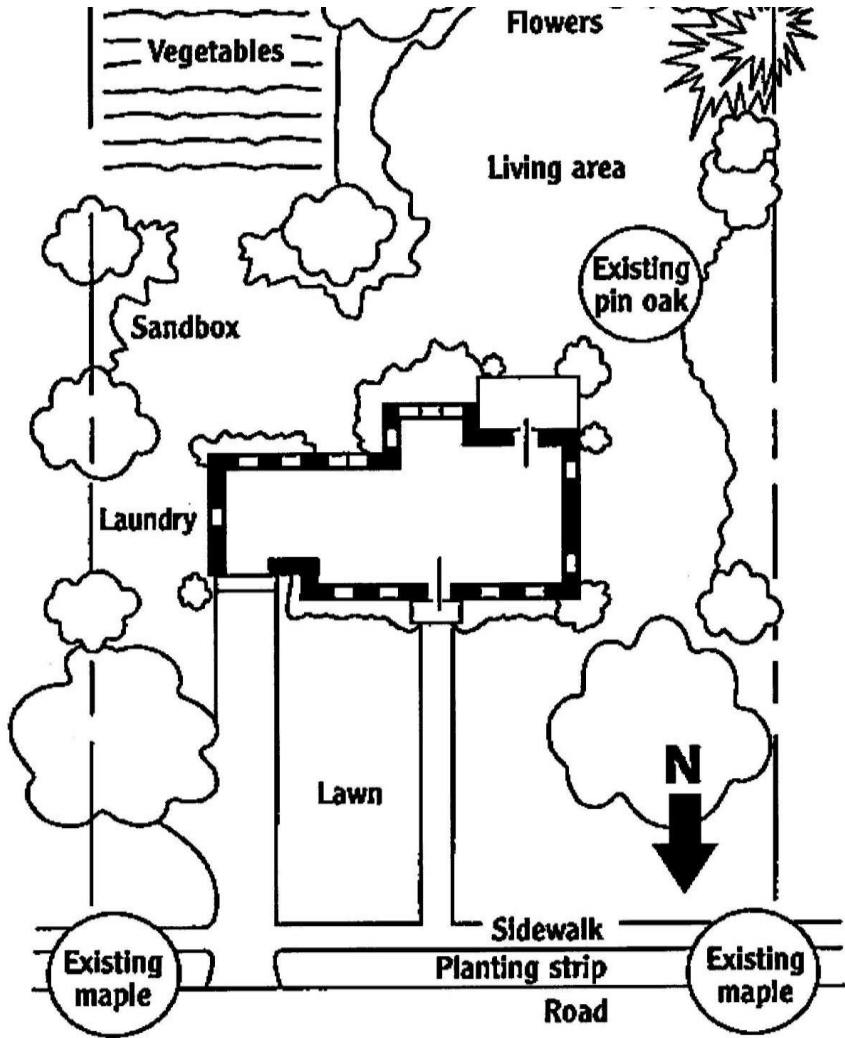


LANDSCAPE SYMBOLS



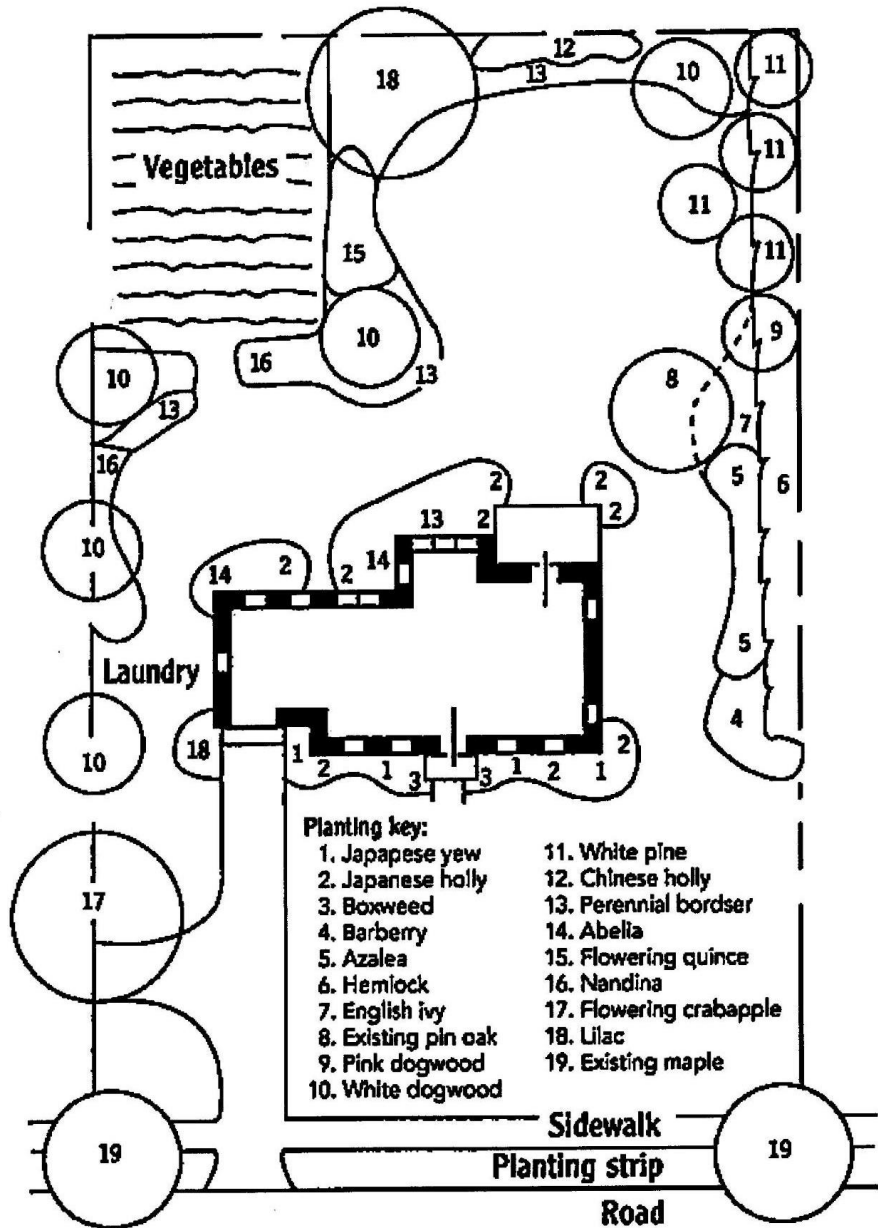
Landscape symbols.





MAP SHOWING WHERE PAVING, PLANTS, AND STRUCTURES WILL BE

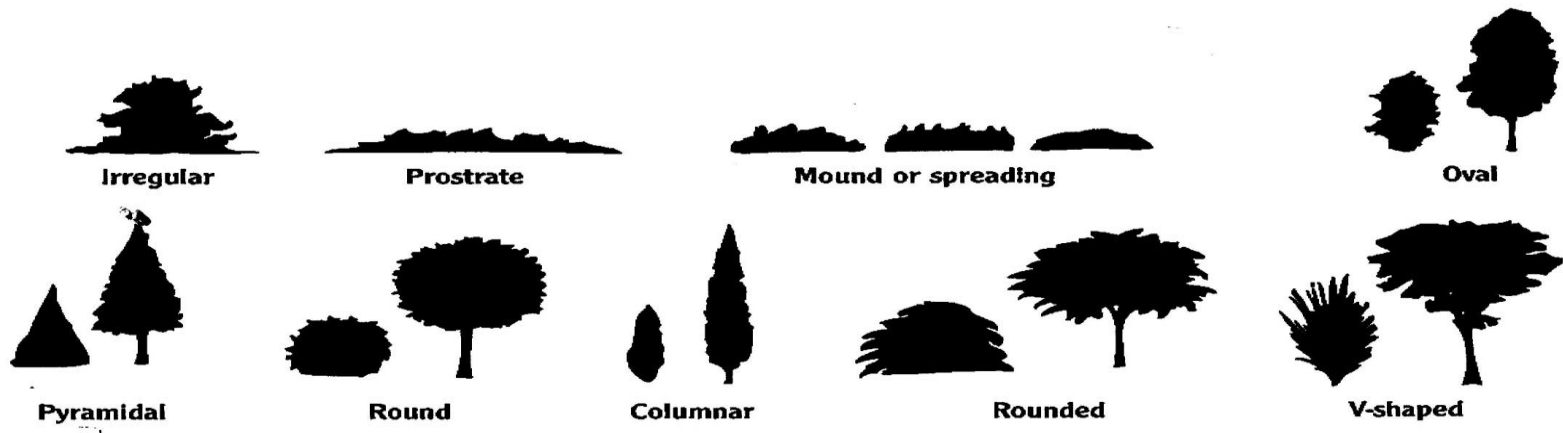
1. Map showing where paving, plants, and structures will be.



FINALLY, THE SPECIFIC PLAN

Designation of specific plantings.

PLANT FORMS



Plant forms.



PLANT SELECTION

CONSIDER:

- HARDINESS – PLANT LONGEVITY OR PERMANENCE AND ITS ABILITY TO WITHSTAND SEASONAL CLIMATE CHANGE
- SOIL AND MOISTURE CONDITIONS – DRY OR WET CONDITIONS
- DEGREE OF SUN OR SHADE – CAN TOLERATE SUN OR SHADE
- MAINTANENCE – PRUNING AND RESISTANT TO DISEASE AND INSECTS
- HYDROZONE – WATER REQUIREMENTS – NATURAL RAINFALL; SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION; FREQUENT WATERING
- AESTHETIC CONSIDERATIONS
 - VALUE
 - TEXTURE
 - COLOR OF FOLIAGE
 - FLOWERING
 - BARK
 - STRONG CONTRASTING TEXTURE CAN CREATE INTERESTING EFFECTS NEAR HOUSE

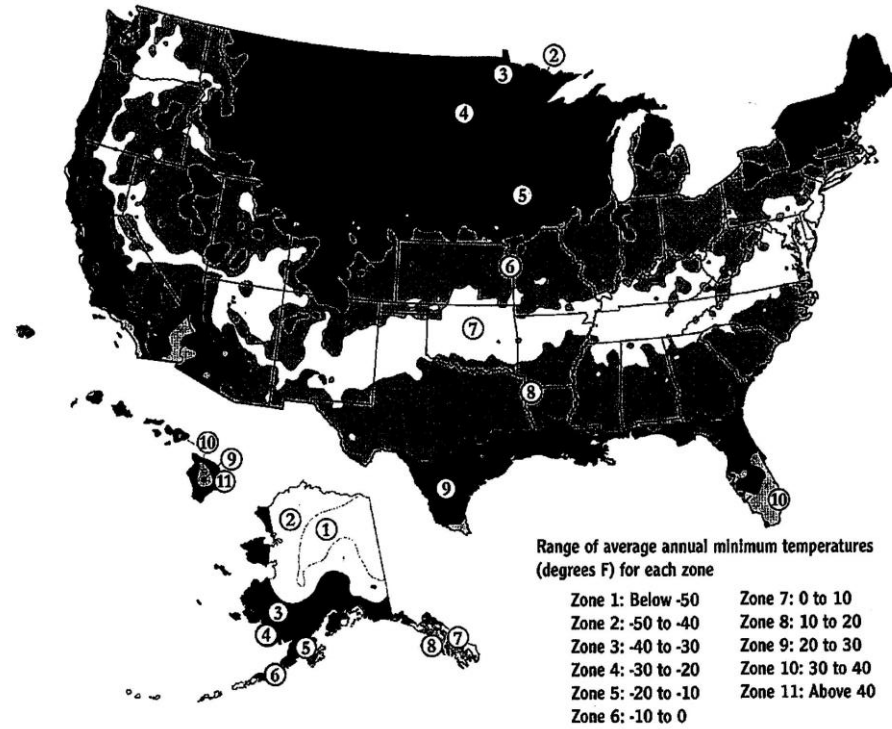
PLANT SELECTION - CONTINUED

- FORM – TREES AND SHRUBS DEVELOP MANY DISTINCT FORMS OVER TIME
- SIZE
 - WHEN CHOOSING PLANTS, CONSIDER THEIR SIZE AT MATURITY
 - DO NOT CHOOSE PLANTS THAT WILL GROW TOO LARGE FOR THE LOCATION
 - PRUNING – MEANS EXTRA MAINTANENCE
 - SELECT PLANTS THAT WILL IMMEDIATELY CREATE THE DESIRED COMPOSITION AND YET REMAIN AN APPROPRIATE SIZE FOR MANY YEARS

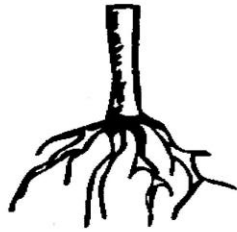


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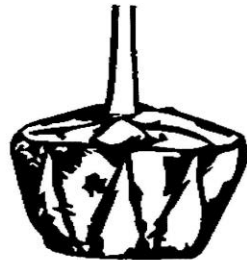
MAP OF ZONES



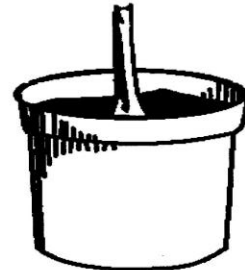
WAYS WOODY PLANT SPECIES ARE SOLD



Bare-root



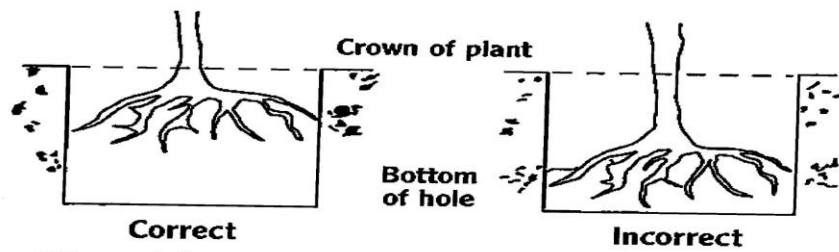
Balled-and-burlapped



Container-grown

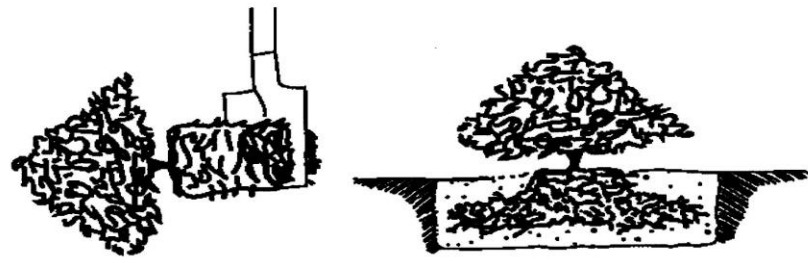
1. Ways woody plant species are sold.

PROPER PLANTING DEPTH



Proper planting depth.

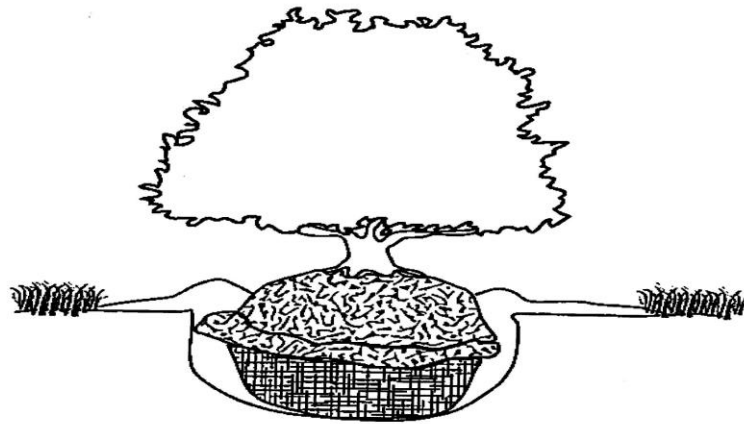
SPLITTING THE ROOT BALL OF CONTAINER-GROWN PLANTS



plants.

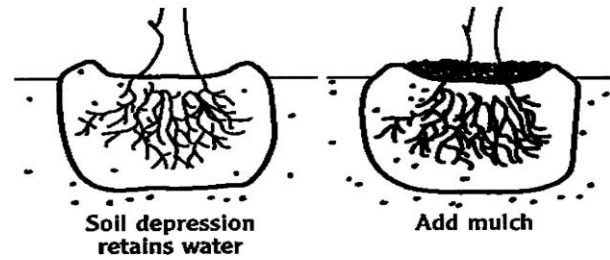
Splitting the root ball of container-grown

PLANTING IN A POORLY DRAINED SOIL



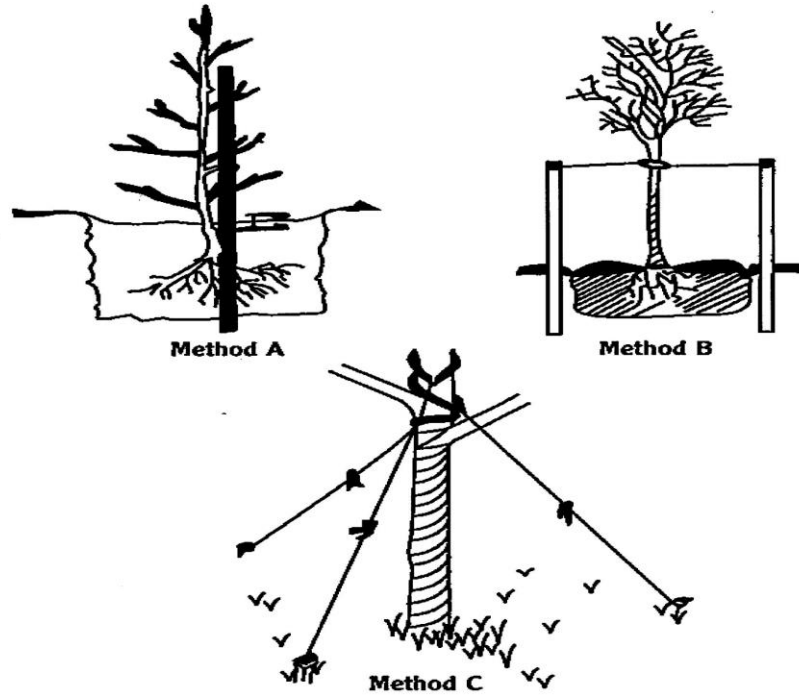
Planting in a poorly drained site.

SOIL DEPRESSION AROUND A PLANTING HOLE



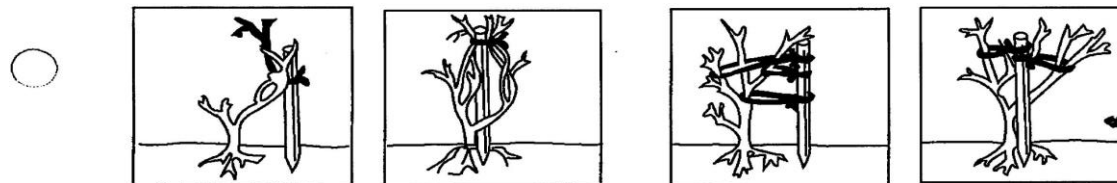
Soil depression around a planting hole.

GUYING TREES WITH A DIAMETER OF 3 INCHES



Guying trees with a diameter of 3 inches or more.

THE PLANTS ON THE LEFT HAVE BEEN TIED TOO TIGHTLY.
INSTEAD LOOSELY TIE THE MAIN BRANCHES AS SHOWN ON THE RIGHT

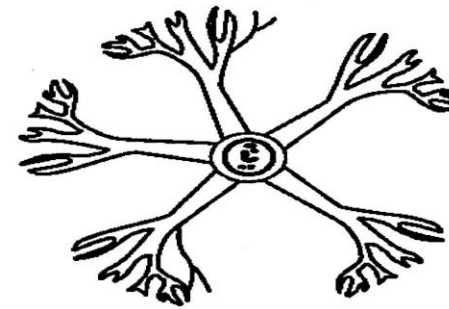


The plants on the left have been tied too tightly. Instead, loosely tie the main branches, as shown on the right.

SCAFFOLD BRANCHES OF TREES SHOULD HAVE PROPER VERTICAL AND RADIAL SPACING ON THE TRUNK



Side view



Top view

Scaffold branches of trees should have proper vertical and radial spacing on the trunk.

PRUNING BACK TO A BUD



Right

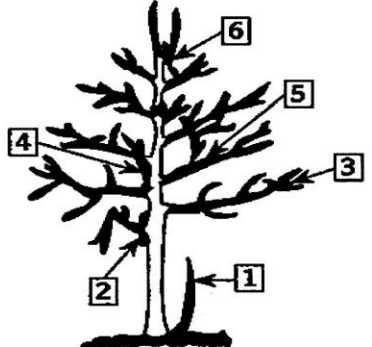


Wrong

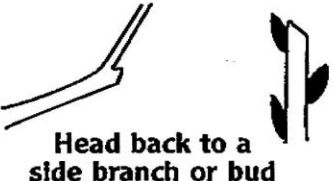


Pruning back to a bud.

PARTS OF A TREE TO PRUNE AT PLANTING TIME



- 1. Sucker
- 2. Broken branch
- 3. Heading back side branch
- 4. Water sprout
- 5. Interfering branch
- 6. Double leader



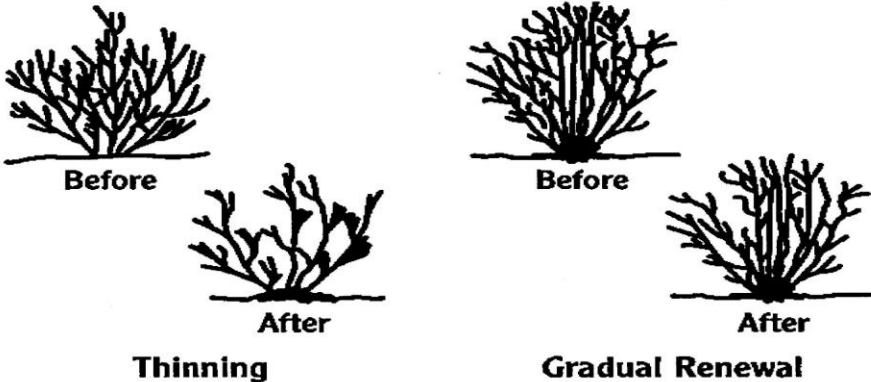
Head back to a side branch or bud



Correct Incorrect
Leave no stubs

Parts of a tree to prune at planting time.

DECIDUOUS SHRUB PRUNING



Deciduous shrub pruning.

PRUNING

Proper method of pruning crape myrtle



This plant, pictured before pruning, needs to have all the weak and dead stems removed.



Same shrub after removal of weak and interfering wood and base sucker growth.



Results of proper pruning are graceful, vigorous growth with a distinctive shape.

Pruning of crape myrtle.

Improper method of pruning crape myrtle



Cutting at the dotted line is the usual course taken by those who prune shrubs.



The same plant after bad pruning, as indicated above. The sucker growth remains.



Results: the lovely natural shape of the shrub is lost, and bloom will be sparse.

The Texas A & M Reference Section

aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu

Earth-Kind Landscaping

10 Ways to Make Your Landscape Earth-Kind

Planning the Home Landscape – Earth-Kind Edition

Base Plan

Needs

Site

Diagram

Materials

Plants

Landscape Construction

Accessories

Earth-Kind Plant Selector

Search the Earth Kind Plant Selector

Texas Superstars

Search the Earth-Kind Plant Selector

<https://hortsciences.tamu.edu/plantpicturepages/>

REFERENCES