



Common Landscaping Mistakes

- Incorrect watering practices.
- Wrong planting practices/soil preparation.
- Right plant but Wrong site.
- Not accounting for deer and other wildlife.
- Forgetting to plan for the mature size of the plant.
- Not accounting for maintenance requirements of the plant (fertilizer, winter preparation, fungicide needs, etc.) – See our Garden Calendar Checklists
- Bad pruning practices/timing -resulting in unnatural/undesirable look. Pruning during wrong time of year removes flower buds.
- Planting randomly - without a plan. Good landscapes follow a theme and create visual flow throughout the property.
- Forgetting the view from inside. You probably enjoy your landscape as much from your couch as from your lawn.
- Cutting grass too short. Set and leave your mower on a high setting and enjoy a thicker, healthier lawn.
- Using all straight lines and squares vs. natural curves. This applies to bed lines as well as planting schemes. This is OK for a formal style.
- Isolated plants. Plants placed together in masses create a much greater effect than isolated plantings or those with too few plants for the space.
- Beds too small. Don't be afraid to expand your beds. Rule of thumb: Beds should be about 1/3 as wide as your house height.
- Mulch too deep/too early. Mulch should be no deeper than about 3" (including old mulch). Deep mulch invites insects and disease as well as plant growth problems. Mulch should be applied in Spring after soil warms and in Winter after soil freezes.