

GREEN BUILDING - IN THE LANDSCAPE

WHEN PREPARING TO LANDSCAPE YOUR PROPERTY, IT'S TYPICALLY BEST TO WAIT ONE FULL YEAR BEFORE BREAKING GROUND TO OBSERVE THE SEASONAL CHANGES IN THE LANDSCAPE AND BECOME CONSCIOUSLY AWARE OF YOUR THOUGHTS, EMOTIONS AND IDEAS WHILE YOU INTERACT WITH THE SPACE. HIRE A LOCAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT TO HELP YOU THROUGH THE PROCESS. THIS FIRST YEAR OF LIVING IN THE SPACE SHOULD BE UTILIZED FOR INVENTORY, ANALYSIS, RESEARCH, PLANNING AND DESIGN OF THE SITE. AND ONCE THE GARDEN IS INSTALLED, IT MUST BE MAINTAINED PROPERLY. THIS LIST IS MEANT TO BE A STARTING POINT FOR IMPLEMENTING AND MAINTAINING A GREEN GARDEN. ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AND/OR PROFESSIONAL HELP MAY BE REQUIRED. HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR GREEN LANDSCAPING....

1. PLAN AHEAD 5-100 YEARS (WITH COMPETENT, CREATIVE DESIGN & QUALITY CONSTRUCTION)
2. CONSIDER THE **PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS** WHEN MAKING DECISIONS (THIS IS WHY GOOD DESIGN IS IMPORTANT)
3. IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO **DO IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME**, WAIT UNTIL YOU CAN, OR DO IT IN PHASES
4. **DO IT YOURSELF** (AS MUCH AS YOU WANT OR CAN), GROW YOUR OWN ORGANIC FOOD, DO YOUR OWN GARDEN MAINTENANCE.
5. **TEST YOUR SOIL** (NOMINAL FEE, VALUABLE INFORMATION)
6. OBTAIN SUPPLIES FROM LOCAL COMPANIES THAT **STRIVE TO BE 'GREEN'**. ASK WHERE MATERIALS CAME FROM AND HOW THEY WERE MANUFACTURED. AVOID USING PRODUCTS THAT NEED TO BE SHIPPED FROM FAR AWAY, ESPECIALLY FROM OVERSEAS
7. **CONSERVE WATER** AND OTHER **NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES** AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
8. INSTALL / MAINTAIN A **PROPER DRAINAGE SYSTEM & MITIGATE EROSION**
9. INSTALL / MAINTAIN AN **EFFICIENT IRRIGATION SYSTEM** APPROPRIATE TO PLANTING TYPE
10. USE NATIVE AND **NATURAL MATERIALS AND RECYCLE** EXISTING ON-SITE MATERIALS WHENEVER POSSIBLE
11. OBTAIN WOOD SUPPLIES FROM LOCAL COMPANIES THAT **PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE FORESTING** AND ARE CERTIFIED BY THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
12. REDUCE OR **ELIMINATE THE USE OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES**
USE **CERTIFIED ORGANIC** AMENDMENTS AND FERTILIZERS
13. REDUCE OR **ELIMINATE THE USE OF POWER TOOLS** (less Air, Water & Noise Pollution)
14. USE **LESS CONCRETE**, UTILIZE FLY ASH CONCRETE AS AN ALTERNATIVE
15. **REDUCE LAWN AREAS & RECYCLE** GRASS CLIPPINGS
16. **RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE** - KNOW HOW BIG A PLANT WILL GET & UTILIZE PLANTS THAT ARE DROUGHT RESISTANT (Natives, etc.), PEST/DISEASE RESISTANT, AND FIRE RESISTANT (IF APPLICABLE)
17. ALWAYS **MULCH** OVER BARE SOIL (IT CONTROLS WEEDS, MODERATES SOIL TEMPERATURE, RETAINS MOISTURE IN THE SOIL, IMPROVES SOIL STRUCTURE, ADDS ORGANIC MATTER AND PROMOTES BENEFICIAL ORGANISMS IN SOIL, AND HELPS MITIGATE EROSION)
18. USE **COMPOST** / COMPOST TEA TO IMPROVE SOIL STRUCTURE AND PLANT HEALTH
19. UTILIZE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (**I.P.M.**) & **ENCOURAGE WILDLIFE**
20. MAINTENANCE - **RESEARCH** AND UTILIZE GREEN METHODS (CHECK WITH CITY, COUNTY, LOCAL GREEN ORGANIZATIONS)
21. SPEND MORE **TIME OUTDOORS**. OPEN WINDOWS WHEN POSSIBLE (BRING THE OUTSIDE IN AND THE INSIDE OUT)



ENJOY THE PROCESS! CREATION AND PRESERVATION OF A GARDEN OR LANDSCAPE SHOULD BE REWARDING AND FUN!