

# LANDSCAPING HINTS

Landscaping can provide a positive, or, negative impression on your home. Many people assume how a home looks on the outside speaks to how it shows on the inside. Done properly, it can both increase the value of your home and make it sell quicker by adding curb appeal that will make prospective buyers want to see more. But it can also be a daunting task if it's a venture you're undertaking by yourself. Here are a few helpful hints to get you started.

Decide on a budget and stick to it!

Draw a picture of your house and yard. Include storage

areas, driveways, walkways, patio and existing garden areas. Walk around your property to decide what you want to go where.

Assess your family's needs. A family with young children may want to include areas for play, while the retiree with a green thumb may want more gardening area.

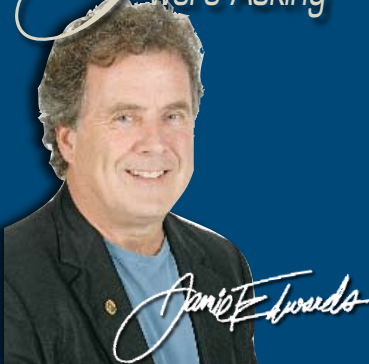
Consider how foliage will look year around. You don't want something that only looks good for two weeks out of the year. Also consider group plantings and flowers that bloom at different times, for a visually appealing design that will last the entire season.

Consult a landscaping professional. They are a wonderful resource as are garden centre staff.

Remember you don't need to do this all in one year. Accenting and improving over time helps you stay within budget and create the yard you've dreamed of!

Jamie M. Edwards, B.A., FRI, CRB, CRS is the Broker of Record for J.M. Edwards Associates Inc. and Past President of the Realtors Association of Hamilton-Burlington, Burlington Chamber of Commerce, and the Ontario Real Estate Association.

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E-mail your questions to  
jamie@jmedwards.com  
905-631-6363