



the Hedgelines

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New Year's Resolutions: Landscaping Edition



Achieve Your New Year's Resolutions with LMP

Improving your yard this year is a challenge but let us remind you: we're all in this together. As you start these projects this year, having the LMP team as your landscape partner ensures a well-planned, well-built, and correctly maintained landscape.

Are you looking for an advantageous resolution to make for the new year? Look outside! Your outdoor space offers countless ways to invest your time, money, and energy into something that will bring long-term payoff and instant gratification. Move over, gym memberships. Relax, weight loss programs. Landscaping is the new most popular pick for New Year's resolutions.

Here are a few landscaping goals that anyone can make their own.

Stay One Step Ahead & Be the First to Enjoy Spring

In landscaping, the name of the game is always to be planning for the upcoming season. Use winter to prep for spring. It's the best window to schedule any projects without being rushed. Life gets busy, and before you know it, your lawn desperately needs attention.

Make a Meaningful Upgrade

The great thing about New Year's resolutions is that they can be as modest or ambitious as you'd like. The same goes for your landscape upgrades. Whether your resolution for your landscape is as simple as adding a few plants or as large as a complete redesign, there's no wrong way to invest in your outdoor space.

Irrigation & Conservation

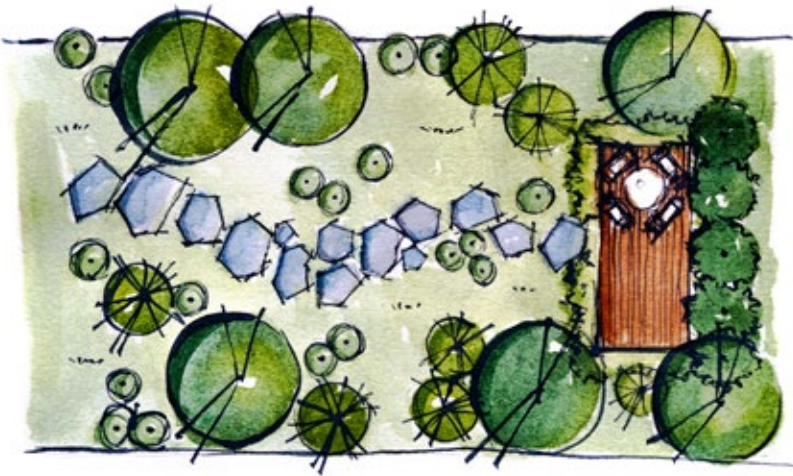
Ensuring your lawn has enough water throughout the year is one of the most straightforward resolutions.

But you could take it further and commit to learning to conserve water. We should always be mindful of water conservation and make sure we're never wasting water when we water our lawns.



**Resolve to make
2023
the year you
spend more time
appreciating
your landscape!**

Settle into Spring...Plan Now



It's January, the holidays are behind us, decorations are stowed away and your yard has fully settled into winter with an early freeze. But if you think this is the year for a landscape makeover, don't get too cozy in your winter hibernation—it's time to start planning! And here are the reasons why you shouldn't wait...

Makeovers take Time.

From the initial concept and design, through materials selection, permitting and installation of irrigation, hardscapes, and softscapes, landscape makeovers take time. Whether you are planning a completely new yard, only adding some special features, or just upgrading your irrigation system, you need to allow enough time to complete each of the steps. Those steps can take a few weeks to a few months

depending on the size and complexity of your project. If you wait until late spring or summer to get started, chances are, your yard will be a worksite just when you want to get outside again and won't be ready for play until mid to late summer, or even fall.

It is easier to See your Space in the Winter.

In spring and summer, when your yard is in full bloom and everything is lush and growing, it's harder to visualize what your space could be. An empty slate is always easier to work with and winter gives you just that. A dormant and more sparse winter landscape allows you to really see the space you have to work with. Winter also has a way of exposing problem areas and any design flaws that are more easily overlooked in the summer. Identifying issues, before you start designing, or digging, will save you headaches and money down the road.

Now is a Good Time.

It stands to reason that landscape designers and contractors are going to be busiest in spring and summer. So why not get a jump on things and beat the rush? Start working with our team on design now and get it on the schedule for spring. Taking advantage of the slower season will give you more flexibility in scheduling and also help ensure your project is completed by the time the weather warms up again.



What to do After the Freeze?



It Important to Know What NOT to do After a Freeze!

Do not prune plants or remove plants until you have determined the extent of injury.

An Exception

Plants that have gone to "mush" may be removed or trimmed back. These include succulents, Agaves, tropical plants, and herbaceous perennials. The longer you leave them, the smellier they will get. Any annuals that have collapsed should be removed. Perennials such as Society Garlic may be clipped off at the soil line, as they may come back from the roots.

A Broad Generalization

Plants that end up shedding their leaves have a greater chance of recovering from a freeze than those that hold onto dead leaves. Shedding leaves can indicate living stem tissue and, depending on the species, may offer a ray of hope. Plants that hold onto leaves have stems that are likely dead.

The Unstoppables! Pansies, Violas, & Panolas

As we head into the fall season, our outdoor gardens have to shift and transform with the weather. Summer blooms are beginning to fade, and the time has come to bring in some cool-weather flowers. Pansies & violas have been a fall staple for many reasons, including their ability to bloom in the cold and signature vibrant "faces," along with Panolas, which are newer variety. These are all some of the toughest cool season annuals. If they're planted in the early fall, they'll begin blooming that season, through the winter and into the spring.

Pansies are beautiful cool-season plants with vibrant big blooms in solid colors or a face in the middle of the bloom. Because pansies have much larger, more noticeable blooms than violas, they can create a bigger pop of color in your garden. They're a bit taller—6 to 12 inches—than violas.

Violas look like miniature pansies with brilliant solid color blooms or blooms with faces. Viola blooms are much smaller but much more prolific than regular pansies. While the blooms of violas are smaller than those of pansies, violas have more blooms per plant. This means they can create a thicker layer of coverage in your flowerbed. Violas also tend to trail a little bit and lie lower to the earth than pansies—typically at 3 to 8 inches. Violas are the hardiest of the four choices, so they're quicker to recover after a hard freeze. Because of this, violas will have more blooms in January and February than pansies.

Panola's are a cross between pansies and violas. The Panola seems to have gotten the best features of its parents. Panola's have the cold hardiness and high bloom count of violas and the larger bloom size of a pansy. Plants will grow 6 to 8 inches tall and are prolific bloomers that may have a dozen flowers open at one time. For this reason, they deserve a place in the landscape and containers. The sheer number of flowers produced makes them as showy, even from a distance, as the large-flowered Pansy.



No matter which flower you choose, give it a fighting chance by following a few basic care tips.

1. Plant them in a sunny area.
2. Be sure to water them during sunny, dry weather, even if it is cold outside.
3. Feed them at planting with Ferti-Lome Premium Bedding Plant Food. This is a slow-release fertilizer that encourages blooming. They are heavy feeders, so applying a light application of fertilizer each month will keep them happy. Those growing in containers feed every other week with a dilute, water-soluble fertilizer.
4. Periodic deadheading will keep the flowers coming.
5. Be sure to mulch them after you're done planting. This will help retain moisture and warmth in the soil and prevent them from being heaved up out of the soil during a warm spell.
6. If they look wilted and sad after a cold spell, they usually perk up once it warms up.
7. Remember that pansies, violas, and panolas are "critter candy," as deer, rabbits, and squirrels like to munch on them. Sprinkle some cayenne pepper (which contains capsaicin and typically lasts longer than a hot pepper wax liquid repellent) on the foliage and on top of the soil in containers to deter rabbits and squirrels.

LMP's Monthly Quality Inspections



Measuring employee and tenant happiness and productivity is subjective, but it's readily apparent to anyone paying attention. People need time and an appropriate environment to rejuvenate, and we take pride in helping businesses achieve that objective because we believe in its value.

As part of what we do, we provide our clients with two services that few (if any) area landscaping companies offer. And the good news is, both of these services are at no additional charge. If you are already a client, perhaps you can attest to how helpful they've been to you. But if you've never worked with us before, take a look and see if you wouldn't be interested in enjoying these complementary services as well.

Setting Standards and Meeting Client Expectations

1) Self-Audits | The MQI Report

We're always honest about it.

We pride ourselves on being transparent here at LMP. As part of this commitment, we conduct Monthly Quality Audits on all properties—and share the results with you.

Because of these audits, we can track your property history, develop timelines for improvements or enhancements, and provide a higher standard of care than you might receive elsewhere. As one of our clients put it: "Wow! I've never heard of a landscaping company that audits their own work and shares the results!"

We haven't either, but that is the LMP Advantage.

2) Client Care Program

We want to meet with you regularly to share the results of our self-audits, bring issues to your attention before they become problems, and make sure we are honoring your vision with our work.

MQI CATEGORIES

- [1] Details
- [2] Mowing Functions
- [3] Shrub Pruning
- [4] Shrub-Insect Disease
- [5] Bed Weeds
- [6] Turf & Plant Fertility
- [7] Palm Pruning
- [8] Tree Pruning
- [9] Mulching
- [10] Cleanliness
- [11] Turf-Insect Disease
- [12] Turf Weeds
- [13] Water Irrigation Mgmt.
- [14] Carryovers
- [15] Annuals



Best View of the Month



Proper Pruning Pays Off

Rows of thickly planted shrubs can be a handsome way to define borders and boundary lines and keep children and pets in (or out), but like all shrubs, hedges need regular watering and pruning to look their best.

Hand-Pruning in Conjunction with Shearing

Using shears—whether hand-held pruners with long scissor-like blades or a power trimmer—to take off branch tips, keeps hedges neat and tidy, and also stimulates bud production near the plants' edges.

But as buds multiply, a shrub can get so thick that sunlight can't penetrate it, preventing interior growth. The result: a hedge that gets larger each year and looks lifeless inside. Proper hedge trimming allows sunlight to get in and enables you to cut back shrubs so they don't get too big.

If a hedge is old and seriously overgrown, you'll need rejuvenation pruning and trimming using the three-year rule. Removing up to one-third of the thickest stems down at the base of the plant for three years will stimulate new growth and leave you with a healthier shrub that's reduced in size.



Prune in the Winter

Ideally, hedges should be pruned in late winter when plants are dormant and haven't produced buds—particularly if you're cutting back drastically. You don't want them to break bud before you prune because you want the plant's energy to go toward producing new growth where you want it. If you take off a plant's buds, you're cutting off spent energy, and it will take longer for the hedge to fill out. Keep this in mind when hedge trimming.

Evergreens, in particular, require pruning early in the season; because they're generally slower-growing, they're likely to be bare (where interior cuts have been made), and off-color at the tips (too yellow) as new growth starts to show, well into the summer.



With flowering shrubs, we believe that the 'golden rule of pruning' is to wait for hedge trimming until the day after blooms turn brown—that way, the plant will have time to set buds for next year, whether it blooms on the current season's wood or the next.

A Top Heavy Hedge

Left alone, most hedges will start to widen at the top, where they receive the most sunlight. This results in a V shape that shades out lower branches, so they produce less and less foliage. You want to turn that V upside down with your hedge trimming. A sheared hedge should always be wider at the bottom and narrower at the top, whether that top is flat, pointed, or rounded.

Let the Pruning Begin!

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