

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE FOR SPRUCING UP YOUR LANDSCAPE

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- 1) Improvements to Increase Functionality
- 2) Add Value and Impact to the Front Entry
- 3) Landscape Tasks that are a Waste of Time
- 4) See the Garden Through Fresh Eyes/ Baby Steps
- 5) Questions

Functionality

- Look at the big picture of your landscape before doing anything. Edit unnecessary items from the space to gain a fresh look at the environment.
- Consider water in the landscape. This includes drainage (perhaps a dry stream bed is needed to capture and divert water), and drip irrigation for watering planted materials
- Plan a rain garden to hold water on site to reduce water run-off or use a bioswale to slow down rainwater through a curving path.
- Hardscape: interlocking pavers are a fabulous way of leveling up any home's outdoor areas. These don't shift or buckle with cold/hot swings, making them a great stable material to use for driveways, main walkways, and secondary paths.
- For tertiary paths, recommend going with gravel, which is less formal but also stable.
- Front entry areas without turf grass: add value and impact to your landscape by creating a clean focus through consistent materials (plants and rocks).
 - Plant creeping thyme or a native low growing grass to replace your turf lawn. More interesting, super low maintenance, and a huge water saver

- Keep annual flowers in beds or large pots/containers, and pair perennials according to water needs to save water and make maintenance a breeze
 - Flower pots - the bigger the better and the more impact they will have. Lots of little flower pots distract the eye and are a lot of work and time to take care of.
- Add a simple water element to direct guests' attention on the front door area so they feel immediately welcomed
- Create a small greeting area or sitting patio near the front to instantly create an inviting atmosphere
- Plant a 'pocket garden' or vignette with layered plantings. This is an impressive little surprise garden area that greets visitors.
- Keep plantings consistent and repeat, repeat, repeat. The eye has a much easier time viewing a landscape and gathers a more pleasing aesthetic when it doesn't have to bounce around to lots of different colors, textures, and heights. Choose a couple two or three plants and shrubs, and use those to create a more 'en masse' effect.
 - A bonus with consistent plantings is that you can add 'hydrozone' your watering by adding drip irrigation to the plantings using the same

nozzles and rate of watering to save watering and time.

- Another bonus of repeat plantings is lowered maintenance. One pass of pruning or deadheading and you're done.

Waste of time in the landscape:

- Avoid messy plants and invasive plants.
- Choose plants appropriate to our area. When shopping, tell the nursery your altitude and presence of deer and rabbits so they can steer you towards the plants that will be most successful in your landscape.
- [Plant Select CSU](#) - includes all winning plants, including perennials, groundcovers, shrubs, trees, grasses, and vines. This is the country's leading brand of plants designed to thrive in the high plains and intermountain regions.
- Use drip irrigation to automate watering instead of spending a lot of time with a hose/sprinkler or other inefficient watering system. Avoid spray nozzles - they just don't work well and can cause the plants to develop disease.
- Get rid of bark mulch which tends to blow around and is a fire danger. Instead, use rock mulch a few

inches thick and sprinkle PREEN over it to keep weeds from germinating.

- Save a lot of time fertilizing by top dressing your perennials with compost that will slowly seep into the soil, enriching it and giving roots their nutrients at the same time.
- Don't overtill the soil. Dig only the holes needed for the plants you'll be putting in, add a handful of compost to the hole, and then plant. Tilling a swath of soil is bad for the millions of microorganisms that make for good soil and your plants just won't thrive.

Baby Steps - Seeing the Garden through Fresh Eyes

- Change old porch and garage light fixtures for something new and improved. Or give your old ones a good clean and perhaps even paint touch up so they look new and fresh.
- New furniture and pillows can make a huge difference in the outdoor environment. If your outdoor furniture is looking tired and worn, replace!
- Remove turf grass in a side or back yard and in its place create an informal seating area. This is a wonderful area to have a quick conversation with a friend, or a light summer lunch or dinner with family.
- Add low voltage lighting ([dark sky lighting fixtures](#) are best as they help to reduce light pollution) to

create atmosphere and direct the eye to the most attractive areas of your landscape.

- When planting, focus on creating serenity by choosing similar plantings that are easy on the eyes and easy to water and maintain.

Camelot Design is a 37-year landscape design company located in Colorado. Carole Kastler, Principal of Camelot Design, is a expert landscape designer and speaker, and is especially passionate about creating sustainable, water-saving outdoor environments that are beautiful and easy to maintain.

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