



# Imagining the beauty of fusion landscaping

The tranquil patch of green enveloping your home is more than just grass and trees, shrubs and flowers. It's an open-air sanctuary from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, an oasis where you can kick off your shoes, play with the kids or relax and catch up on reading.

Or, at least, it should be.

However, creating and tending a beautifully designed landscape in tune with its surroundings can be demanding and time-consuming.

Now there's something better. Fusion landscaping is an exciting, innovative trend in landscaping and garden design that brings together the lush splendor of traditional gardens with modern, eco-friendly plants, flowers, colours and textures. The result is an exciting and stylish landscape that reflects the way you're living today, one that's affordable, easy to maintain and conserves water.

Turn the page and we'll guide you through some simple steps that can help you create your own eco-chic garden escape.

dream

# Appreciating the *lay of the land*

When you begin decorating a room in your home, it's usually a good idea to survey the space and ask some basic questions: What's its size and height? How and from where is it lit? What landmarks – like a fireplace, bookshelf or beam – might impact how you position furniture or wall art?

A similar philosophy applies to your outdoor landscape: take a time out, tune out the noise, tune in to your garden and listen to what it's telling you.

You can start by grabbing a pad and pen, putting on your thinking cap and strolling around your garden as if it were your very first time.

## *Form meets function*

Like your home, your garden should offer you a healthy balance of pleasing aesthetics and functional space. Do you need more space for the kids to play? Or for your dog to run? Is it a good idea to have a spot for barbecuing? Entertaining? Storing gardening equipment? Knowing how to balance aesthetics with functionality is key to a successful fusion landscape.

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## *The importance of exposure*

Study your yard carefully at different hours of the day and even a variety of times during the year. Which areas are most affected by the sun, shade and wind? All three can stunt plant growth or cause damage and are important factors in designing your fusion landscape and choosing the types of plants and flowers you introduce.

# tune in

## *Water is life*

Water can be a garden's most precious, overused and misunderstood resource. Even a barely noticeable slope can have a huge impact on how your property drains and how much water is needlessly lost. Keep an eye out for low-lying areas. Are there places where water pools in wet weather? Do you notice a slope or hillside that gets very dry in the summer? These can be ideal areas for particular fusion landscaping techniques.

## *Your rich earth*

Kneel down and dig into the soil with your fingers or a small spade: Is the soil hard or soft? Along with your garden's exposure and drainage, the success of your plants and flowers may ultimately depend on the health of your soil. Adding compost each year can deliver rich nutrients to your plants and a variety of fusion landscaping techniques can help keep your soil healthy too.



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# Considering your *wants and needs*

Because fusion landscaping freely combines elements of traditional gardening with a modern and innovative approach to garden design, how your landscape looks when it's completed will depend not only on the lay of the land, but on what you want and need from your outdoor space.

After all, the design of your garden, like your home, depends on very personal choices. So let's consider some of those now.

## *Your landscape floor plan*

An important first step to pulling your ideas together and making the most of your property is determining its areas of use. Everyone's needs are different of course but you may want to consider:

- a space for outdoor entertaining
- a garden shed or storage area
- a place for your kids to play
- a secluded spot to relax
- a site for a barbecue
- a vegetable garden
- a composter, a rain barrel, or other items you'd love to see in your garden.

When mapping out your areas of use, keep in mind that an expansive lawn demands a lot of time, energy and labour to maintain. Fusion landscaping is a great way to keep things beautiful but simpler.

## *Patios, porches and pathways*

Once you can better visualize your areas of use, it'll be easier to decide where to locate decks, pathways, fences, patios and other so-called hardscape features. These provide structure to your landscape – the lines around which your fusion garden comes to life.

Whichever hardscape features you prefer, you'll also want to think of their style:

- if you dream of an English-style landscape, consider cobblestones or flagstones for your patio or pathways
- if you picture your space as modern and architectural, uniformly cut stone like slate may be up your alley
- if something more zen and natural is where you're leaning, a variety of types of wood and stone can help create a pleasing look.

## *Focal point features*

The next step is imagining the kinds of other features you'd like to see around your fusion landscape – elements that add a sense of class, character and your own personality.

Consider, for example, lattices, archways and pergolas to define an entrance and provide a dramatic transition from one area of your garden to another. Water features, sculptures, and gazebos create strong focal points and help move the eye effortlessly through the space.

And remember: these types of features needn't be costly: even a simple rustic bowl on a rock can provide just the right amount of visual interest.

As an added touch, consider adding bird feeders which can be wonderful ways to bring the soothing sounds of singing and chirping to your fusion oasis.

And of course, a sitting area is an ideal way to invite family and neighbours to sit, relax and take in the beauty of your fusion landscape and surroundings.

*An arbour provides an appealing focal point in the garden and is an invitation to stroll past the beautiful shrubbery and enter the oasis beyond. A fusion garden is above all else a balance, with beauty in tune with nature.*



## Sketching out your dream garden

Once you have an idea of the areas and features you'd like in your garden, take out that pad and pen again and start sketching out your ideas. Don't worry if you think you can't draw; even a simple sketch goes a long way to helping make your fusion landscape a reality.

Evergreens can add winter interest and shelter for birds.

Ensure the success of your new plants by spreading 2 to 3 inches of mulch over all exposed soil.

Use pathways in high traffic areas where grass won't grow.

Plant flowering shrubs at your door to add appealing sights and scents.

Planting shrubs along a fence can block an unwanted view and bring a property line to life.

Large trees provide shade, insulating your home and reducing the effect of climate change.

Use stone to edge the areas next to the sidewalk and driveway, reducing the risk of salt damage to plants in the winter

Choose driveway and pathway materials that let water drain through to the ground beneath. This will reduce runoff, protecting our rivers and lakes.

Limit grass areas to reduce maintenance and water and energy use.

Place rocks in focal points of your garden to add interest year round.

A rain garden traps water runoff from your property, filtering stormwater slowly through the soil of your garden bed.

## Selecting sensational *plants and flowers*

When planting, consider the eventual height of plants you introduce. Tuck smaller plants at the front of your garden and introduce larger ones at the back to create an inviting layered effect.

What defines a beautiful garden are the plants and flowers that satisfy our sense of sight, smell, sound and touch and can play many roles in the fusion landscape.

Plants should be placed where they'll achieve the most dramatic visual impact and where they make most efficient use of water resources. Be sure you can see them not just from your patio, but when you're looking out the kitchen or den window. Use large shrubs, hedges and trees as natural fences to block unwanted views and around your home to shield it from summer temperatures. Plant fragrant flowers and shrubs near entrance ways or sitting areas for full effect.

Remember that planting large groups of plants together creates a visual impact that can't be achieved from one plant alone.

If your deck or patio is exposed to full sun, consider strategically planting a tree to provide some comfortable shade.

Think about which colours work together to create a dramatic effect. See the colour wheel on the plant list in this brochure for some great ideas.

# Creating your very own *fusion garden*

We began by asking you to dream and imagine how you could bring together the best of traditional and modern landscaping.

Then we invited you to survey your space and tune in to how the space around your home functions and is affected by the elements.

Next, we asked you to put together a wish list of the kinds of hardscape features – like a deck or pathway or fence – that might be well suited for your space.

And finally, we showed you that a fusion landscape is about, above all else, the plants and flowers that help create the lush garden oasis you've always dreamed of.

Now it's time to blend these steps into one and create a fusion landscape that – *be it vibrant and dramatic, or comfortable and serene* – is above all else eco-chic, water-efficient, and uniquely you.



## The Colour Wheel



### Neighbouring Colours

To create a soft effect in your garden, use colours next to each other on the colour wheel. Use both light and dark shades of your chosen colours to add interest.

### Opposite Colours

To create a dramatic garden effect, use colours directly opposite each other on the colour wheel, such as violet and yellow, blue and orange, or red and green.

### Flexible Colours

Some colours are flexible, such as pink and white and can be paired with any number of colour selections.

### Creating a Mood

To create a garden that will energize you and invoke a feeling of excitement, choose colours on the right side of the colour wheel, such as red, orange and yellow. For a calm and soothing garden oasis, use colours on the left side of the colour wheel, such as green, blue and purple.

The colour wheel is a guide only. If you choose plant colours that you love, your garden will always bring you joy and be a unique reflection of you.



Your Fusion Garden  
Plant List

Below is a special list of plants and flowers to help you begin creating your very own fusion garden.

When planting is complete, water your plants regularly. After 3 weeks, natural rainfall will be enough to take care of them – provided you have followed the mulch directions below.

To prevent water loss due to evaporation and discourage weed growth, cover all exposed soil with 2 to 3 inches of mulch.

Perennials and bulbs grow and bloom every year after their winter dormancy. They are an affordable, eco-friendly alternative to annuals that have to be purchased and planted every spring.

**Perennials** ☀️

- ☀️ Aster, *Aster species*
- ☀️ Bee Balm, *Monarda species*
- ☀️ Big Bluestem, *Andropogon gerardii*
- ☀️ Black Eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia hirta*
- ☀️ Blanket Flower, *Gaillardia grandiflora*
- ☀️ Blazing Star, *Liatris species*
- ☀️ Clematis, *Clematis species*
- ☀️ Coneflower, *Echinacea species*
- ☀️ Coreopsis, *Coreopsis species*
- ☀️ Daylily, *Hemerocallis species*
- ☀️ Fountain Grass, *Pennisetum alopecuroides*
- ☀️ Iris, *Iris species*
- ☀️ Little Bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*
- ☀️ Mum, *Chrysanthemum species*
- ☀️ Obedient Plant, *Physostegia virginiana*
- ☀️ Phlox, *Phlox species*

- ☀️ Prairie Smoke, *Geum triflorum*
- ☀️ Silver Mound, *Artemisia schmidtiana*
- ☀️ Stonecrop, *Sedum species*
- ☀️ Wild Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*

**Perennials** ☀️☀️

- ☀️☀️ Astilbe, *Astilbe species*
- ☀️☀️ Bleeding Heart, *Dicentra species*
- ☀️☀️ Coral Bells, *Heuchera species*
- ☀️☀️ Goatsbeard, *Aruncus dioicus*
- ☀️☀️ Hosta, *Hosta species*
- ☀️☀️ Lungwort, *Pulmonaria species*
- ☀️☀️ Solomon's Seal, *Polygonatum species*
- ☀️☀️ Spiderwort, *Tradescantia species*
- ☀️☀️ White Wood Aster, *Eurybia divaricata*
- ☀️☀️ Wild Geranium, *Geranium maculatum*

**Bulbs** ☀️☀️

- ☀️☀️ Allium, *Allium species*
- ☀️☀️ Crocus, *Crocus species*
- ☀️☀️ Daffodil, *Narcissus species*
- ☀️☀️ Hyacinth, *Hyacinthus and Muscari species*
- ☀️☀️ Tulip, *Tulipa species*

**Shrubs** ☀️☀️

- ☀️☀️ Barberry, *Berberis species*
- ☀️☀️ Chokecherry, *Prunus virginiana*
- ☀️☀️ Cinquefoil, *Potentilla fruticosa*
- ☀️☀️ Deutzia, *Deutzia species*
- ☀️☀️ Forsythia, *Forsythia species*
- ☀️☀️ Hardy Rose, *Rosa rugosa*
- ☀️☀️ Mock-Orange, *Philadelphus species*
- ☀️☀️ Raspberry, *Rubus species*
- ☀️☀️ Smokebush, *Cotinus coggygria*
- ☀️☀️ Spirea, *Spirea species*

**Shrubs** ☀️☀️

- ☀️☀️ Alternate-leaved Dogwood, *Cornus alternifolia*
- ☀️☀️ Boxwood, *Boxwood species*
- ☀️☀️ Burning Bush, *Euonymus alatus*
- ☀️☀️ Elderberry, *Sambucus canadensis*
- ☀️☀️ Highbush Cranberry, *Viburnum trilobum*
- ☀️☀️ Juniper, *Juniperus species*

- ☀️☀️ Lilac, *Syringa species*
- ☀️☀️ Ninebark, *Physocarpus opulifolius*
- ☀️☀️ Serviceberry, *Amelanchier species*
- ☀️☀️ Snowberry, *Symphoricarpos albus*

**Trees** ☀️☀️

- ☀️☀️ American Beech, *Fagus grandifolia*
- ☀️☀️ Black Walnut, *Juglans nigra*
- ☀️☀️ Bur Oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*
- ☀️☀️ Honey Locust, *Gleditsia tricanthos*
- ☀️☀️ Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*
- ☀️☀️ Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*
- ☀️☀️ Silver Maple, *Acer saccharinum*
- ☀️☀️ Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum*
- ☀️☀️ White Pine, *Pinus strobus*
- ☀️☀️ White Spruce, *Picea glauca*

**LEGEND**

- ☀️☀️ This is the native variety of this plant or there is a native variety available.
- ☀️☀️ Full Sun
- ☀️☀️ Full Sun to Part Shade
- ☀️☀️ Part Shade to Full Shade



Blending traditional landscape design with modern, eco-friendly innovations in the form of fusion landscaping a way to make your home more relaxed and enjoyable. It's also a smart way to reduce water use, fight climate change and protect our environment.

For additional advice and assistance, we invite you to call the Region of Peel at 905-791-7800, ext. 4409.



Your fusion garden oasis awaits

Waterwise Tips for a Beautiful Garden