

Time to Rethink Your Landscaping?

DS-1-97, Reviewed April 2008
Ronald C. Smith, Horticulturist

The potential for drought should give North Dakota homeowners reason to stop and think about their present landscape and what the costs of maintaining that landscape are in terms of water requirements.

should be planted in its place. For example, adapted cultivars of hackberry, boxelder, white poplar and honeylocust are some of the more drought-hardy trees to consider.

In the shrub category, consider using natives like the Amur maple, a beauty of grace without equal. Yucca species will thrive no matter how dry it gets, and they produce an attractive white flower. Virburnums, the lentago species especially, are suited to dry conditions. The juniper family will cover the rest of the woody plant needs quite effectively.

To add some color, portulaca is an annual ground cover which re-seeds each year. Zinnias are a stubborn annual that can tough out the hot, dry summers once established, and in the herbaceous perennial group, artemisia, liatris, lupinus, sedum and coreopsis will give some height and variation in color and season of bloom.

It is not necessary to wait until next spring to begin this renovation. Many nurseries carry containerized stock and offer bargain prices at other times of the year. After the initial rooting-in period, most of these plants can get along with whatever precipitation nature provides. Deciduous trees should probably not be planted beyond the latter part of September, while evergreens can be planted until the soil freezes, as long as they can be adequately watered in.

To keep landscaping from becoming a hodgepodge collection of plants, make a planting plan. Visit the local nurseries and see what is available and how it would be used in redeveloping the landscape.

Planting from mid-June until mid-to-late September will allow plants to become established and enhance the home setting the following year.

NDSU
Extension Service
North Dakota State University

County Commissions, North Dakota State University and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. North Dakota State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, Vietnam Era Veterans status, sexual orientation, marital status, or public assistance status. Direct inquiries to the Vice President for Equity, Diversity and Global Outreach, 205 Old Main, (701) 231-7708. This publication will be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities upon request, 701 231-7881.