

Localscapes® Best Practices:

Best Practices:
Tips for creating your
Localscape!

Lawn

- Water lawn with rotary nozzles or rotor sprinklers.
- Mow to a length not less than 3 inches
- Fertilize three times per year: early spring (March-April), late spring (May-June), and fall (Sep-Oct).
- Aerate lawn areas once per year.
- Irrigation systems are run with a smart sprinkler clock.

Patios and Hardscape

- When space allows, follow the three patio system:
 - a) Front yard patio big enough for 2-3 people
 - b) Main backyard patio for social gathering and entertaining of larger groups
 - c) Secondary backyard patio located away from the house for smaller groups
- Patios should use flat, hardscape materials that provide a stable base for chairs and tables.

Paths

- Use paths to connect areas of your Localscape.
- Primary paths should use flat, uniform surface materials that are easily cleared of snow and provide safe access to your home (examples: concrete, stamped concrete, pavers).
- Secondary paths that are used only occasionally or seasonally may use less uniform surface materials (examples: gravel, flagstone, stepping stones, mulch).

Park Strips

- Park Strips should not be covered with lawn and should be mulched with heavy materials, such as gravel, to decrease the chance of mulch drifting into street drains.
- Add openings or pathways through your park strip to provide easy access for pedestrians from the street to your sidewalk.
- For visibility and safety, shrubs, perennials, and groundcover in park strips should never exceed 24 inches in height at maturity.
- Plants should cover at least 50 percent of your park strip at maturity, not including tree canopies.

Planting Beds & Plants

- Avoid tilling installed planter beds. Tilling will cause weeds to germinate.
- Cover planter beds with 2-4 inches of mulch.
- Do not use weed fabric—it will choke plants and does not prevent weeds for long.
- Annual flowers should be planted only in pots—not in the ground.
- Select plants based on the hardiness zone for your area.
- New plants should be planted during the fall or spring.
- Trees should always be planted with the top of the root ball at grade.
- Burlap and cages should be removed from trees before planting.
- Keep mulch clear from the base of all plants.
- Install vegetable gardens with raised beds and drip irrigation.
- Use only perennials and ground covers in planting beds narrower than 3 feet.