



Spring Tips to Enhance your Home Landscape

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1. Buy Native Plants.

Purchase plants that are native to our region or plants that are drought-tolerant; these require less water and maintenance, which means more savings to you and more green in your wallet.

2. Shape slightly or overgrown trees and shrubs- this will enhance your curb appeal.

3. Add a light layer of mulch around your shrubs and garden beds. Mulching plants is both functional and decorative. Mulch typically is an organic material spread on the soil surface to protect roots from heat, cold, and drought, and to provide nutrients to plants as it decomposes. Mulching will cut down on weed growth.

4. Plant some instant color in containers.

Add containers to your porch, entryway, deck, patio, or balcony. This is an easy way to add flexibility to the landscape. Large, colorful glazed or plastic containers filled with plants are a great landscape idea to add a bright splash of color. You can move them around to highlight different parts of your yard, plus it's easy to change out container gardens each season to get a different look.

5. Clean up the Lawn.

Overgrown or patchy lawns and outsized bushes will cause your home to stand out — in a bad way. Keep your grass evenly mowed and choose a grass type that will grow well in our area and requires less water and maintenance.

6. Buy the Right Tools for the work you are doing and keep them sharpened.

Match the tool to the job. Quality tools are better balanced. And the stronger they are, the more work they do for you. Whenever you can, use a small shovel, rake, spade or pitch fork. That way you're lifting less weight.

For more information on lawn care, planting trees and shrubs - contact **Cyndi Wyskiewicz**, Extension agent, VCE Portsmouth (757) 393-5314 or via email cyndiw@vt.edu or visit <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/portsmouth/>