



## ***PLANTING COSTS***

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Landscape plantings can not only add “curb appeal”, beauty and value to your property, but can also serve a number of other practical functions. Plantings can screen undesired views and muffle unwanted sounds, provide habitat and food to desirable wildlife, frame and frame and enhance a garden ornament or breathtaking view, and so much more. The varieties of available landscape plants and the manner in which they can be used today are endless. While the options in landscape plantings seem limitless, the success of these many options lies in proper design and installation.

We recommend that you hire a professional landscape architect or designer. A designer will call upon their training and experience to ensure that the selected plants will be hardy in your area, properly spaced, arranged for best appearance with considerations for their color-flowering time- foliage type and color, and that they are well suited to your taste and the architecture of your home.

While many homeowners go the do-it-yourself route for plant installation we suggest you hire a landscape contractor for your plantings. A qualified contractor will offer a warranty for their work that will protect your investment and ensure your plants’ success. Professionals have the manpower, experience, proper equipment and tools needed to get the job done right. These resources are essential as the typical preparations for new plantings include some heavy removals, transplantation of existing plants, and soil preparation with rotor-tilling, additions of topsoil/compost mixture, peat moss and plant fertilizer. Once the planting bed is ready the installer must plant everything at the right depth, employ proper backfilling techniques, straighten-stake-face plants as needed, and mulch to an adequate depth. In addition to performing these planting “basics” the installer should also be prepared to identify underlying irrigation, drainage, utilities and-or lighting and be prepared to repair them in the event that they are damaged during installation.

As described above, there are many reasons to hire a professional to design and install your landscape plantings, but you likely wonder what it will cost. There are many variables in installation cost, some of them include:

- overall size and scale of project
- need for removals and transplantation
- condition of existing soil
- number of specimen plants/trees used
- quantity of evergreen plants/trees used (as they are typically more expensive than their deciduous counterparts)
- number of trees used

- incorporation of additional elements or accents (stone or boulders, trellis or arbor, fountain, etc.)

While the many cost considerations make it difficult to say whether your specific project falls into the following ranges, we have generally found them to be a reasonable guide:

***Front Foundation Planting:***

- smaller home, against the foundation only \$2,000-\$4,000
- larger home with plantings extending to areas outside of sidewalk, possibly around a lamp post, mailbox, etc. \$5,000-\$7,000

***Rear Foundation/Patio Planting:***

- against foundation only \$2,000-\$4,000
- against foundation and around a patio or deck \$5,000-\$7,000

While these figures have been offered here for you to gauge the “ballpark” price of your project, please contact us for additional discussion at (513)821-9407. We offer a free design consultation in which we can better define a budget for the work you are considering and discuss some design ideas and considerations.

Most of the landscape plantings we install require a design by one of our well qualified and creative designers. Design fees for their work vary depending on size and scale of your project and are quoted during the free consultation. While these design fees will be charged up front, you have the opportunity to get a credit for that amount on the final invoice of a project completed by our installation crews. We feel these designs are necessary not only for the homeowner, but also for our Field Supervisors to ensure a proper layout of plant material and overall installation of the project. Give us a call today and get the process started.