

# Landscape Gardening

Landscape gardening is an aesthetic branch of Horticulture which deals with planting of ornamental plants in such a way that it creates a picturesque effect. It is a very fascinating and interesting subject. According to Chambers' dictionary, the definition of landscape is the appearance of that portion of land which the eye can view at once and landscape gardening is the art of laying grounds so as to produce the effect of a picturesque landscape. Landscape gardening can be defined as the decoration of a tract of land with plants and other garden materials so as to produce a picturesque and naturalistic effect in a limited space. So, landscape may or may not include plants. According to Bailey, Landscape gardening is the application of garden forms, methods and materials to the improvements of the landscape and the landscape in this connection is any area large or small on which it is desirable to develop a view or design.

Landscape gardening can also be defined as the beautification of a tract of land having a house or other object of interest on it. It is done with a view to create a natural scene by the planting of lawn, trees and shrubs. Landscape gardening is both an art and science of the establishment of a ground in such a way that it gives an effect of a natural landscape. It can be also defined as the imitation of nature in the garden. It can also be defined as improving of total living environment for the people. The expression of landscape may be gay, bold, retired, quiet, etc. This expression will conform to the place and the purpose. It should be a picture and not a collection of interesting objects.

Since the landscape gardening is the making pictures on the ground with plant and other material, landscape designer should be proficient in art, ornamental gardening, ecology and physiology. He should be an architect and engineer to appreciate the relationship between plant form, colours and buildings.

## **Importance of Landscaping / Floriculture**

- Flower growing enhances the beauty of the surroundings.
- Flowers symbolize purity, beauty, love and passion.
- No social function is complete without flowers. Flowers are used in various occasions of day to day life.
- Flowers play an important role in national economy by earning foreign exchange from export of floricultural products.
- Higher returns are obtained per unit area since flowers are comparatively short duration crops.
- Flowers can change the socio-economic condition of the society.
- Landscaping mitigates environmental pollution. Pollutant tolerant trees – *Ficus benghalensis*, *Polyalthia longifolia*
- Horticulture therapy is a plant related activity in order to improve physically, physiologically, psychologically and socially a person who has got some mental disorders and physical disability so that his body and mind gets improved.

## **Natural Elements of Landscape**

Different types of landscape depending upon prevailing geographical and agroclimatic conditions characterize Earth. There are mountains, hills, valleys, seas, rivers, forests, plains, deserts, lakes, swamps, streams, etc. which comprise major part of natural landscape. At certain points, there is harmony between natural elements like ground forms, vegetation and even animal life. The landscape of such place is beautiful and conveys the feeling or mood of the landscape character like exhilaration, sadness, awe. There are many qualities of natural landscape beauty like the picturesque; the ethereal, the serene, the delicate, the idyllic, the graceful, the majestic, the bold etc.

Man has copied the natural elements for improving landscape around him and converted certain areas in the form of garden for his pleasure.

## **Landscaping Principles**

General principles of landscaping are as follows:

1. The ideal landscape garden is like ideal landscape painting which expresses some single thought or feelings. Its expression may be gay, bold, retired, quiet, etc.
2. Beauty and utility should be harmoniously combined.
3. Area should be divided into different parts and plan should be conceived for each area. Overall plan should be such that the observer catches the entire effect and purpose of the plan without stopping to analyse its parts.
4. Simplicity of design should be aimed at in the execution of the plan.
5. An ideal landscape should have open space.
6. Let the garden and building merge into each other. There should not be stopping abruptly particularly in front of building. The view of garden from the windows and doors should be very attractive. Planting around the building, climbers against wall and on the porch, decoration of veranda and rooms with attractive foliage, flowering plants, hanging baskets serve to unique the building with garden. Every part of the compound should be planned in such a way that it gives surprising effect to visitor.
7. Overcrowding of plants and objects should be avoided.

## **Factors affecting the landscape design**

There are several factors which affect the making of suitable design for particular site. These factors are:

- ***Human choice:*** Man's ultimate desire is to make his living pleasurable and surroundings comfortable. His dominance in making designs and selection of plant material is very well evident. Therefore, different styles of gardening have come into existence.
- ***Site:*** This is an important factor and according to site, suitable design is made. In formal style gardening, the site is selected according to plan. Topography of the site also affects the design.
- ***Views:*** Distant views of mountains, hills, woods, valley, etc. are preferred from the place of garden.
- ***Heritage:*** One inherits the knowledge of botany and aesthetic sense and uses accordingly. Our rich heritage teaches us to use flowers and fragrant trees to improve the surroundings.
- ***Climate:*** The climate of particular place affects the selection of plant material accordingly. Ideally suited plant material according to climate should be selected..
- ***Soil:*** According to characteristics of soil types, suitable plants should be selected