



Gardening Tips for New Homeowners

SO YOU JUST BOUGHT A HOUSE, CONGRATULATIONS!

Whether you want to plant a garden or just improve curb appeal, getting to know the outside space at your new home is an important first step and can save you money, time and effort.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

Take the time to consider the purpose or use for your outdoor space.

- Area to sit and relax
- More privacy
- An edible garden
- Seasonal color
- Flowers
- Space for your pet(s) to play
- Shade or sun
- Low maintenance
- Increase animal habitat

Don't forget to think about the constraints of your space.

- Are there any special environmental conditions—soil, climate, rain
- Physical barriers/obstacles
- Public ordinances—water or planting restrictions
- Cost/affordability
- Physical needs of people using your outdoor space

GET TO KNOW YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE

- Make a sketch of your property including structures, current plantings and other landscape features
- Record sun exposure to each side of the house
- Note areas where water pools or is slow to drain.
- Notice areas not reached by irrigation
- What have your neighbors planted? Do they have pets?

This information will help guide you in making landscaping decisions.



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**FREE PLANT
IDENTIFICATION APPS**
Garden Answers Plant ID
Pl@ntNet
iNaturalist
Plantifier
Plantsnap

HOW IT WORKS

You simply take a picture of your plant and the app will match your photo to photos in its database



WHAT'S IN YOUR YARD?

To make an informed decision whether to keep existing plants, a good place to start is identifying what you have. You don't have to be a botanist or an experienced gardener to identify your outdoor plants. There are many resources available. To the left is a list of plant identification apps that can help you get started. If you find you need expert advice, there are resources for that, too. Some apps provide additional guidance, or you can check with your local County Extension office and/or website.

University of Idaho Extension, Latah County
208.883.2267 or latah@uidaho.edu
www.uidaho.edu/extension/county/latah/horticulture/plant-clinic

OUTDOOR SPACE AND PETS

When considering the uses for your outside space, don't forget about your pets. Observe how they use the space, where they dig, run, and lay in the sun. You can take these activities into account when planning.

This website has a helpful resource for "dog scaping"
www.canr.msu.edu/news/dogscaping-landscaping-for-you-and-your-dog

Identifying plants in and around your new home is also important for the safety of your pets since some plants are dangerous for furry friends. The ASPCA has information on poisonous plants.
www.aspcapro.org/resource/17-plants-poisonous-pets

WHAT'S IN YOUR YARD?

University of Idaho Extension on landscapes and gardens

www.uidaho.edu/extension/landscapes

Washington State University Extension with fact sheets for managing common landscape and garden problems

<https://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Home/HortsenseHome.aspx>

Things to consider when planning your landscaping

<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/design/tenplanning-tips-for-design.html>

Creating a Chicken-Friendly Garden

<https://planttagg.com/creating-a-chicken-friendlygarden-tips-and-benefits/>

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MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Master Gardeners...

- Attend weekly workshops January thru May
- Expand knowledge in botany, composting, organic gardening, weeds, plant diseases, pruning, entomology, and much more
- Learn to research and answer gardening questions
- Enjoy community service opportunities
- Share knowledge with others
- Meet new friends

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

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