

WHAT GOES INTO CREATING AN EASY CARE YARD?

- » No mowing or watering needed!
- » Use lots of rock and hardscape (non-living) architectural features
- » Plant native and drought-tolerant plants
- » Water from roof and downspouts directed to create a creek bed and water trees.
- » No additional water required once plants are established
- » Established evergreen trees will provide habitat for birds and other beneficial organisms.



Healthy Yards
Healthy Communities

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HEALTHY YARDS
EASY CARE

Healthy Yards can be beautiful and functional. They save water, reduce waste, reduce air pollution, and increase ecological resilience.



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MULCH



STONE MULCH

Use to create a creek bed. Mulch also controls weeds and reduces erosion. Unlike bark mulch, you should rarely need to replace the stone. In some locations, stones may raise the soil temperature, making it unsuitable for some plants.



ROUGH BARK MULCH

Use in flower beds to moderate soil temperature, retain moisture and suppress weeds. Bark breaks down slowly and requires little maintenance but will need to be replenished every few years.

WHAT TO PLANT IN AN EASY CARE YARD?

Plants used in an Easy Care landscape should be hardy varieties, and selected to match the existing soil and moisture conditions. Try planting some of these hardy varieties:

Choose plants that are native to the area and drought tolerant to get the best results.

KARL FOERSTER

(perennial reed grass)

4-5 feet high and 2 feet across, but there are also dwarf varieties available. It works well in full sun or partial shade and is tolerant of various soils and moistures. It will grow well here, but it is not native to North America. This grass is a great winter feature too!



SPRUCE

(evergreen tree)

Height 10 to 40 feet. This tree is tolerant of various soils but prefers acid and low salt. It prefers full sun and will survive short periods of low moisture but should be watered while establishing. It is native to North America.



To ensure your plants thrive, be sure to place them in a place where they get the right amount of sunshine or shade to meet their needs.



ADD A BIRD FEEDER

Bird feeders support biodiversity by attracting a variety of birds. They can provide ideal organic pest control for your yard, with little need for toxic insecticides or other chemicals which are harmful to pollinators.

DWARF EUROPEAN CRANBERRY

(deciduous shrub)

Height 3 feet and spread 2.5 feet. It prefers full sun to partial shade, requires average to moist conditions, and should not be allowed to dry out. It will grow well here, but it is not native to North America.



SILVER MOUND

(herbaceous perennial)

Height 1 foot and spread 1.5 feet. This shrub grows well in clay and alkaline soils. It prefers full sun and dry to average moisture levels. Ensure the area has good drainage, as it will die in standing water. It will grow well here, but it is not native to North America.



BERGENIA

(herbaceous evergreen perennial)

Height 1.25 feet and spread 1.5 feet. It tolerates various soil types and various sun/shade conditions. It is drought tolerant and is a good pollinator. It will grow well here, but it is not native to North America.

YOU CAN HAVE A HEALTHY YARD

Just keep these three things in mind when planning and planting your garden.

Water: Catch the rain and use it wisely (landscape design and appropriate plants, mulch, rain barrels).

Soil: Think of the ecosystem below your feet; feed and build the soil first (composting, mulch, soil testing).

Diversity: Using a variety of plants and natural elements will create a biologically diverse landscape can help prevent disease and create a sustainable and healthy ecosystem. Planting a diverse garden also provides habitat - food and shelter - for many birds and beneficial insects such as pollinators.