

The eco-wise/eco-savvy gardener

I. Whether a novice or experienced gardener, the challenge for a present-day gardener is to be a naturalist with a "waste not, want not" ecological commitment: a caretaker of the environmental community.

The ecowise gardener: location, location, location

- **Nature's hitch-hiker:** As a gardener, why should you be environmentally aware? Through developing a partnership with season, an ecowise gardener receives abundant reward with minimal effort.
- **The soil wise gardener:** For a novice gardener, gardening is all about plants but for an ecowise gardener, it's all about soil.
- **Topography, a gardener's micro-climate:** While it is essential to understand a garden's location in terms of its season and soil, it is the site's topography that creates micro-climates.

II. An ecowise gardener is a landscape gardener, a naturalist, that promotes an open vista into the surrounding environment.

The ecowise gardener, a caretaker of the environmental community

- **Landscaping gardening, more than gardening:** To an ecowise gardener, landscaping is the global perspective of a site's location and its surroundings; in other words, one or more gardens, lawns, patios, decks, trees, shrubs, fences/hedges, foundation plantings, driveways, and walkways.
- **Getting started:** Developing a landscape is more than an ecowise plan. It must consider the influence of personal preference and community restrictions.
- **Developing a master plan, tips and strategies:** Whether developing a formal or informal plan, there are tips and strategies that aide the mechanics of plan design.
- **The match game:** After identifying the effect of existing or proposed hardscape, the issue becomes choosing a style of design.
- **Trees and shrubs, the bones of a design:** While trees and shrubs are used to establishing focal points, delineated sections, and transition between the areas, strategically placed they equally provide energy efficiency.
- **A garden room, an element of the overall design:** Delineated sections of a design are presently referred to as garden rooms.
- **Limit texture and contrast:** Too many focal points distract from the natural pleasure of nature, itself.
- **Create transition:** Transition is the make or break design element. It enables a visual tour without interruption.

- **Setting a stage:** Continuity of design occurs through the use of color, shape, size, form, and the elements of composition.
- **Make a design personal, add folly:** It is OK to add fun, folly, personal touches within a design.
- **Re-engineering a design:** As a design matures or life-style changes occur, it is time to rethink a design.
- **Summary - The ecowise gardener, a naturalist:** An ecowise gardener is a landscape gardener, a naturalist, that promotes an open vista into the surrounding environment.