

9. Introduction to Landscaping

9.1 Definition, Concept and Importance

9.2 Plants used in Landscaping

9.3 Kitchen gardening

Do you know? : What is landscaping and kitchen garden?

Every human being is nature loving. When people are surrounded by greenery, beautiful trees, flowers, lawns they experience a different kind of joy and happiness. To experience this beautiful nature, many people go for vacations once or twice a year to a hill station or the places where they can enjoy the beauty of nature. Landscaping and gardening plays an important role to create the beauty of nature around the house or our workplace and to enjoy benefits of nature.

9.1 Definition, Concept and Importance :

Let's Discuss :

Landscaping makes a huge difference to the house and it tells the world a lot about the family. The plant structures that surround the home reflect the taste of the family. The word landscape was first used by a Dutch artist in the 16th century when painting beautiful outdoor scenery. A landscaper is the one who plans and designs a garden of any size and shape to create beauty and ambience.

Even a small landscape garden in front or in backyard of a house gives a fresh and vibrant look to the house. This space is loved by all the family members as well as the guests. This is the space where the family spends quality time together in early morning or evening.

Definitions :

1. Landscaping involves creating a plan or picture for an aesthetically pleasing outdoor

area with the use of grasses, plants, trees, flowers, water features, stones, fences, planting beds etc.

2. Landscaping is a place where trees, lawns and shrubs are planted. Specific arrangement of pathways, furniture, flower beds, water features and fences is known as landscape.

Importance of Landscape :

Landscaping is important in many ways. It creates a joyful environment around the home and buildings. Even a small garden can enhance the look and increase resale value of the home.

Eco-friendly landscaping can benefit the environment in many ways.

Do you know?

How important is gardening from health point of view?

- a) Working in the garden burns calories and helps a person to remain fit and fine.
- b) It helps the family members to connect with the nature.
- c) Few minutes of gardening in outdoor can improve the mood of a person and make the person joyful.
- d) Gardening supports the physical wellbeing and helps to improve muscle strength and co-ordination in movement.
- e) Connecting with nature makes the person stress-free.

Do you know?

It is important for environment too.

- A twenty five feet tall tree in garden can help to reduce overall environmental temperature by 10 percent.
- Kitchen wastes can be used to make compost and fertilizers.
- Water from kitchen can be effectively used in the garden.

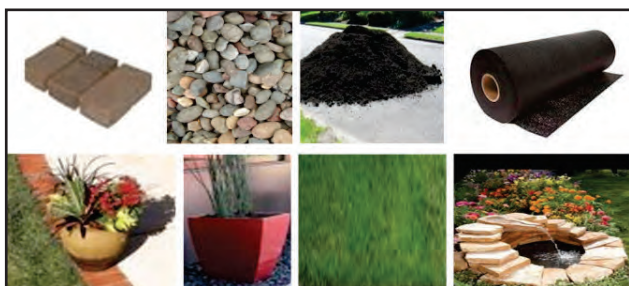


Fig. 9.1: Objects/articles used in creating a landscape

The objects/articles commonly used in landscaping are as follows :

- Grass, Plants, Flowers, Water, Stones, Compound etc.
- Old junk like bicycle, wooden benches, wooden drums,
- Old kettles can be used for planting flowering or ornamental plants

9.2 Plants used in Landscaping :

Let's discuss :

The types of plants used in Landscaping are basically classified into Indoor plants and outdoor plants.

Indoor Plants and Outdoor Plants are mainly differentiated by temperature tolerance.

- Indoor plants need less or no sun light for growth and sustainability. They can grow inside a house that means indoors.
- Outdoor plants require sun light and can tolerate harsh weather.

Outdoor Plants :

Outdoor Plants commonly used in landscaping and generally found in India are :

Rose plant, BoganVelia, all types of Lilies, Marigold, Hibiscus, Rubber tree, Different types of succulents, Gulmohar, Chrism tree, Champa/ Chafa, Lotus for water bodies, different types of grass for lawns, etc.

There are many types of plants which can be grown/ used in landscaping as outdoor plants. The type of plant which can be planted outdoor depends on availability of space, type of soil, and weather conditions.

Indoor Plants :

These plants need less or moderate sunlight and can be grown indoors. They can be kept occasionally in windows where moderate sunlight is available throughout the day.



Fig. 9.2 : Landscaping

Spider Plant : The plant got this unique name due to its uniquely-shaped leaves, which dangles like spiders on a web. This beautiful plant fights against benzene formaldehyde, carbon monoxide and xylene, a solvent used in leather, rubber and printing industries.

Lady's Slipper Orchid : This plant will bring the beautiful and positive atmosphere to the house. These orchids have unusual slipper-shape that bloom from between two leaves. It has dark green leaves which add to beauty of the plant. Special care should be taken while watering this plant. If the water has chemicals then, allow

it to stay for a few days in a container before using it. Water it once a week. Place the plant in shade in such a way that it has access to direct sunlight.

Tulsi : It can be grown easily and requires little-or-no maintenance. This plant has many medicinal properties. In addition, it helps to purify the air and improves the quality of air. It can be planted in a simple pot. It has got religious and traditional values.

Aloe Vera : This plant is very useful. It purifies air and it can cures cough and cold. It is good for hair growth. It also helps to improve complexion. This plant should be watered only when the soil in the pot is dry. Keep this plant in a sunny window. It will not grow if it is kept in shade. After planting it, wait for couple of days to settle the roots then water the plant.









Draceans : This plant usually grows twelve feet high and can grow without sunlight. This plant can be kept at a place where ample space is available. One can control its height by cutting. New leaves will sprout below the cut ones in a few weeks. It needs moist soil. Over-watering or poor drainage will lead to yellow leaves in the plant. It is advisable to place it near a window.

Weeping Fig : This belongs to the family of Ficus benjamina. It is a species of flowering plant. This plant helps to reduce gaseous discharge from curtains, carpets and furniture.

Snake Plants : This plant helps to purify air in bathrooms. It filters out formaldehydes, used in soaps, shampoo and other products. It is one of the air-purifying plants identified by NASA. This Plant can be grown easily without taking much care.

Palm Tree : Some varieties of palm tree can be used as indoor plants for example, Chinese fan palm, areca palm, parlour palm, ponytail etc. This plant can be kept anywhere in direct sunlight. It adds dense greenery to the interiors.

Indoor Plants

| Sr. No. | Diagram | Plant |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. |  | Spider Plant |
| 2. |  | Lady's Slipper Orchid |
| 3. |  | Tulsi |
| 4. |  | Aloe Vera |
| 5. |  | Draceans |
| 6. |  | Weeping Fig. |
| 7. |  | Snake plant |
| 8. |  | Palm tree |

9.3 Kitchen Gardening :

Now-a-days, families focus to plan lunch or dinner by considering nutritive value of ingredients used. A kitchen garden, which is also known as 'vegetable garden', is a simple way to improve quality of food prepared in homes.

Definition :

Kitchen garden is defined as : "The place where vegetables, fruits and herbs are grown at home which is used in kitchen."

Concept and Guidelines : A person can experience the joy of freshly picked and grown vegetables. Such organically fresh grown vegetables help to improve the health of family members. The importance of kitchen garden is valued in many ways. A kitchen garden ensures an inexpensive, regular and handy supply of fresh vegetables which is basic to nutrition. Green vegetables contain vitamins and minerals which protects us against diseases. Kitchen garden also saves the home from food shortage.

Think about it :

Importance of kitchen garden.

- It provides better quality and more nutritious food.
- All fruits and vegetables grown in the kitchen garden are easily grown by the family members themselves.
- Use of organic waste matter from kitchen as fertilizer can help to reduce the pollution and create environment friendly atmosphere.
- It gives space for both children and adults to spend time together.
- Kitchen garden can help to increase the vegetable consumption of kids in the family.
- It gives opportunity to work on the land and to learn about the local environment.
- A garden can teach the family members to love the nature, create an interest in conservation and respect life.

- Kitchen garden helps to save money. In less investment, family can plant vegetables, herbs and fruits of their choice which are otherwise expensive in the market.
- It also purifies the air around us. Plants take carbon dioxide and give out oxygen which is very good for people.
- Kitchen garden helps to lower the temperature and keep the house cool and breezy.
- It brings positivity to the house as the well maintained garden is pleasing to everybody. When flowers are added with vegetable the garden looks more beautiful.
- Vegetable and fruit peels coming from kitchen can be recycled for making compost.
- Fruits and vegetables grown in this garden are tastier than those available in the market.

Always remember :

Guidelines for Kitchen Garden :

- Choose an open sunny field to sow the seeds in the garden for doing the plantation because tall trees obstruct the sunlight.
- For sowing the seeds, the rows should be in north and south direction to allow maximum sunlight.
- There is a need to see that easy access to water hose is provided. Try to collect the rain water.
- Collect seeds instead of plants from store for developing the garden.
- It is better to survey the market for selection of plants to fulfil the family needs.
- Herbs grown in excess can be dried and processed for further use.

The plants commonly grown in Kitchen Gardens are : Tomatoes, Potatoes, Radish, Peas, Carrot, Spinach, Fenugreek leaves, Chillies, Lemon, Ginger, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Papaya etc.



Fig. 9.3 (a) : Vegetables Grown in Kitchen Garden

Let's remember : Tips for Kitchen Garden



Ample Sunlight



Use of Compost



Plantation in pots or ground



When to sow seeds



Look for seasonal flowers

Fig. 9.3 (b) : Tips for Kitchen Garden

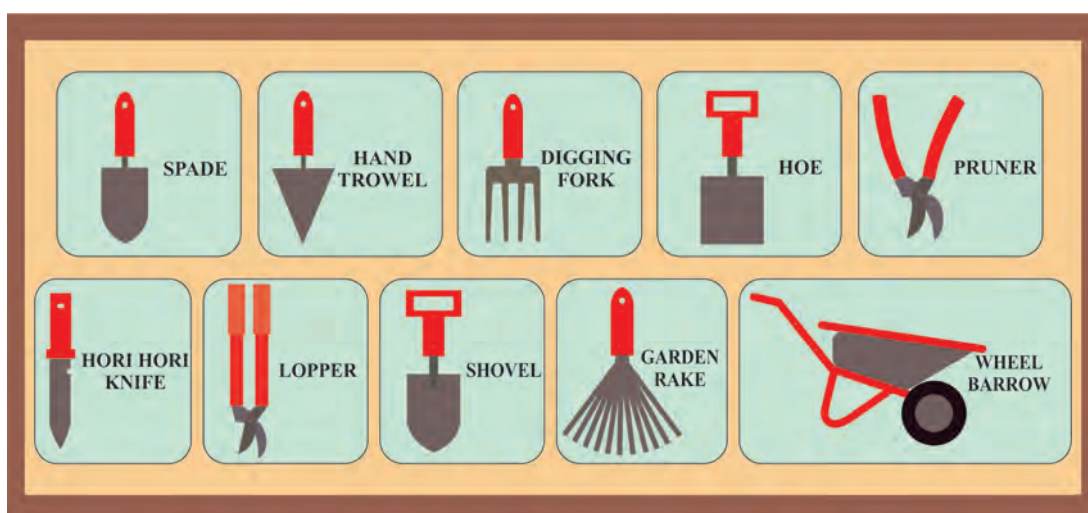


Fig. 9.3 (c) : Tools used for Kitchen Gardening

Internet is my friend.

Find out use of gardening tools from internet.

Can You Recall?

- Landscapes and gardens make the surroundings of a house beautiful.
- Landscape/garden is a place where the whole family can spend quality time together as it's a functional space.
- Working in a garden helps people to stay healthy and fit.
- Landscaped garden and kitchen garden helps to purify the air around the house.
- The difference between an indoor plant and outdoor plant mainly has to do with temperature tolerance of plant.
- Kitchen gardens provide good quality and more nutritious vegetables and fruits and saves money.

Exercise

• Objective questions :

1) Multiple choice questions.

- Gulmohar is an _____ Plant.
 - Outdoor
 - indoor
 - shrub
- Spade is a _____.
 - Plant
 - Tool
 - Type of soil
- The plant _____ has medicinal properties.
 - Palm tree
 - Orchids
 - Tulsi
- A twenty five feet tall tree can reduce overall temperature by _____ percent.
 - 100%
 - 70%
 - 10%

- **Short Answer Questions :**

- 1) Write short notes.**

- a. Landscape
- b. Kitchen garden
- c. Health benefits of working in kitchen garden.

- 2) Answer the following in brief.**

- a. List out the tools used in garden and state why they are helpful.
- b. Why is Aloe Vera considered an important plant? Why is it kept in a house?

- 3) Define the following terms.**

- a. Landscaping b. Kitchen garden
- c. Indoor plants d. Outdoor plants

- **Long answer questions :**

- a. Write in detail the guidelines for kitchen garden.

- b. Illustrate the indoor and outdoor plants.
- c. Which vegetables and fruits we can be grown in kitchen garden? How are they helpful?

Internet is my friend :

Project work - Make a scrap e-book of beautiful landscape gardens and kitchen gardens.

Find out pictures of landscapes and kitchen gardens and take prints.

- a) Make kitchen garden as group project in your college/ school.
- b) Visit a nearby plant nursery or kitchen garden, observe variety of plants for indoor and outdoor gardens and write a report.

