

Low Maintenance Gardens

CONSIDERATIONS

- “All work and no play?” – means it is time to hire help
- Will you be maintaining the gardens or will someone else?
- Curves in patios/concrete/pavers will cost more to install than straight lines
- Smaller plants will cost less to install but will take longer to fill-in
- Width of lawn mower = minimum width of grass paths
- Selecting drought-tolerant plants means less irrigation required
- Seed (higher maintenance but better for the environment) vs. Sod higher upfront cost but lower maintenance
- Dandelions = non-native but still beneficial to pollinators
- Lawn alternatives = less irrigation/water use
- Add clover to lawn to improve lawn & soil health AND help keep the grass greener longer
- Corners/ends of garden beds should meet up with concrete/hard surfaces at a 90 degree angle for easiest mowing
- Spreading plants (high maintenance) vs. Clumping plants (low maintenance)
- Quick Note about Vines: they are not low-maintenance.
- Ivy great to fill-in but will spread aggressively & requires regular maintenance
- River Rock/Potato Stones with fabric underneath WILL eventually capture enough leaf litter and dirt to support weeds living happily on top
- Pea Gravel = best for around stepping stones as they're not sharp
- White Marble & Lava Rock = sharp and difficult to weed
- Mulch types: Shredded Pine/Gro-bark (the best)
- Try “Grow Me Instead” Plants
- Water Features = high maintenance

GENERAL PRUNING RULES:

- Once leaves have started to appear in Spring, remove anything that is DEAD, DAMAGED or DISEASED from the plant
- Deadhead & prune back plants AFTER the flowers have finished blooming and have turned brown, turned to fruit or fallen off

DESIGN WITH NATURE:

- Boxwood hedge requires regular shaping. Consider planting other plants in a line to create a hedge (ie. Bobo Hydrangea). Keep the natural, form of a plant in mind when making your selection. [FYI: Boxwood Blight]



WEEDING & MAINTENANCE

- Avoid disturbing soil (ie. tilling)
- Deadhead before plants go to seed
- The less space between your plants = more space available for weeds
- Ensure you are installing good quality soil & mulch in bulk (not bags)
- “weed-barrier fabric” should not be used in gardens

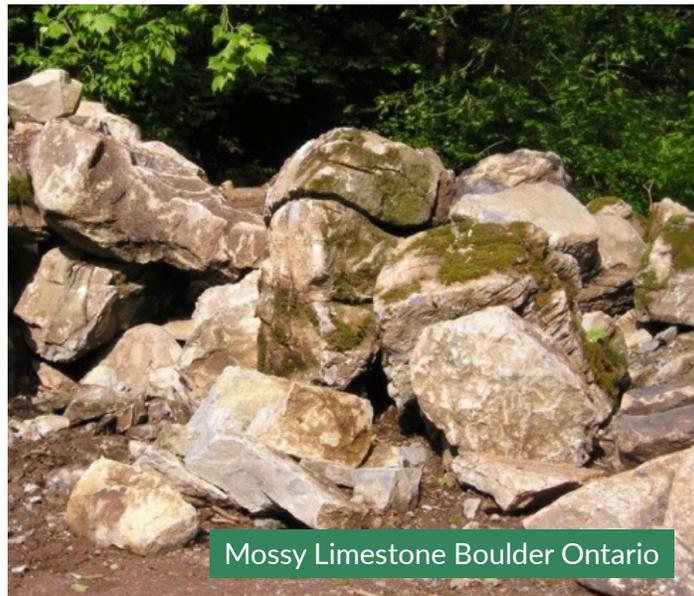
HEEMAN'S

GARDEN SEMINAR INFO

Low Maintenance Gardens

HARDSCAPE MATERIALS

- Keep winter maintenance in mind!
- Black Walnuts will stain concrete and pavers
- Grass/Mowers will stain concrete and pavers
- Stamped Concrete is susceptible to salt damage
- Pavers are easier to repair & replace than poured concrete
- Use polymeric sand between paver joints to prevent weeds
- If weeds are coming up through your pavers – it is likely a base material and joint sand problem (time to redo it BUT, a quick fix is power washing the joints out and replacing with new joint sand)



Mossy Limestone Boulder Ontario



TOOLS OF THE TRADE

- Mowers & Line Trimmers
- Hedge Clippers/Trimmers & Shears
- Edging Shears (photo on left)
- Pruners & Loppers
- Pole Pruners & Bypass Pruners
- Shrubbers
- *****IMPORTANT** to clean your mower blades after **each time** you mow!

- Mulch is SUPPOSED to break down. It is a sign of a healthy garden
- Power Tools will save you time and are worth the investment
- Plant clumping plants – not spreading plants
- Water Features = Maintenance
- Formal Hedges = Maintenance
- Pristine Lawns = Maintenance
- Landscape rockery = No Maintenance



Canyon Boulder, Arizona

HEEMAN'S

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TOP PICKS FOR LOW MAINTENANCE PLANTS

- Dwarf Ginkgo Biloba shrubs (sculptural, slow-growing, no benefit to pollinators/birds)
- Baptisia australis / False Indigo
- Bergenia
- Amsonia 'Blue Star'
- Pulmonaria / Lungwort
- Hostas & Brunnera
- Crocosmia
- Karl Forrester Grass
- Japanese Windflowers
- Globemaster Alliums
- Millenium Allium
- 'Rozanne' Geranium
- Redbuds
- Aquilegia / Columbine
- Hakonechloa / Japanese Forest Grass
- Hydrangea quercifolia / Oakleaf Hydrangeas
- Artemisia 'Silvermound' & 'Silver Brocade'
- Feverfew (self-seeding...but WHO CARES!?)
- Ajuga reptans / Groundcover (will spread!)
- Serviceberries (can make a mess on patio stones & concrete patios)
- Sevon-Son Flower (tree) – always buzzing with pollinators!
- Picea glauca 'Pendula' / Weeping White Spruce (tall & skinny evergreen!)
- Epimedium / Barrenwort – great for shady areas around large tree roots



Baptisia australis / False Indigo



Crocosmia



Rozanne Geranium



Hakonechloa / Japanese Forest Grass

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ADDITIONAL LINKS/SOURCES

- Heeman's: www.heeman.ca
- Heather Jerrard, My Landscape Artist: www.mylandscapeartist.ca
- My Landscape Artist, Garden Inspo on Pinterest: www.pinterest.ca/mylandscapeartist
- Perennial Website (advanced search to include light and soil conditions): www.perennials.com
- Landscape Ontario (peer reviewed and companies) local Landscaper Search: <https://landscapeontario.com/>
- Grow Me Instead: <https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/grow-me-instead/>
- Juglone (Black Walnut) tolerant plants: <https://extension.psu.edu/landscaping-and-gardening-around-walnuts-and-other-juglone-producing-plants>
- London Ontario Bylaws: <https://london.ca/by-laws>
- Upper Thames River Conservation Authority: <https://thamesriver.on.ca/>
- Royal Botanical Gardens, Mississauga: www.rbg.ca
- Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory: <https://www.cambridgebutterfly.com/>
- Niagara Butterfly Conservatory: <https://www.niagaraparks.com/visit/attractions/butterfly-conservatory/>
- Whistling Gardens (North America's Largest Peony Collection!): www.whistlinggardens.ca
- Landscape Design at Fanshawe College: Landscape Design, Fanshawe
- Better Homes & Gardens: <https://www.bhg.com/>
- Stone & Hardscaping Products in London, ON.: Grand River Natural Stone
- Pruning Hydrangeas: <https://www.almanac.com/when-prune-different-kinds-hydrangeas>