

LOW MAINTENANCE LANDSCAPE inc.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN QUESTIONNAIRE

Customer name. **Address & Zip code.** **Home Phone.** **Cell Phone.** **Date.**

Please take 5 or 10 minutes to answer the following questions. This will help us create a perfect landscape design for you. If a question does not apply or you have no opinion, please write "NA" We are one of the few landscape companies dedicated enough to offer a questionnaire and we appreciate your cooperation. Please understand that you are hiring us to design a professional landscape plan in which you will be billed an hourly rate for our time. If you in turn hire our company to install or construct the landscape, the fee will be discounted from the contract.

1. What will be the primary uses of your new landscape? Examples include: (entertainment, active recreation, passive recreation, attract visitors or customers, visual enjoyment only, increase re-sale value, curb appeal, children play areas, picnics, gardening, sports, swimming, outdoor cooking, reading places, romantic places) (Circle what applies.) Other uses: _____
2. What kind of atmosphere would you like to create in the landscape? Examples include: (cool, quiet, inviting, privacy, secluded, show case) (Circle what applies.) Other _____
3. What kind of garden themes are you interested in? Examples include: native plant garden, ornamental grass garden, low maintenance garden, Japanese garden, English formal garden, cottage garden, rock garden, butterfly garden, water garden, rock garden, hummingbird garden, xeroscape garden, perennial garden, edible garden, wildlife garden (Circle what applies.) Others _____
4. What characteristics would you use to describe your dream garden? Examples include: (busy, simple, lush, extravagant, plain, simplistic, medieval, curvilinear, formal, geometric shapes, symmetric, asymmetric, naturalistic, colorful, evergreen, self-sustainable, easy care) (Circle what applies.) Others _____
5. What are some functions or needs of your landscape? Screening/ create privacy, shading the house, blocking wind, solar reduction (brightness), physical barriers, noise control, climate control, erosion control.(Circle what applies.) Others _____
6. Do you presently have an irrigation system? _____ Are you interested in an irrigation system or an estimate? _____ Are you interested in selecting plants that will tolerate drought? _____ How often during hot summer months would you feel comfortable watering? (Circle one that best fits your desires.)
1-2 days 2-5 days 5-10 days 10-20 days Over 20 days monthly / none
7. How much time do you presently spend outside in your garden relaxing _____ and working _____? How much time would you like to spend outdoors in a landscape that fits your needs? (Circle one.)
0-1 hr/week 1-2 hrs/week 2-3 hrs/week 3-5 hrs/week 5-10 hrs/week over 10 hrs/week
8. Are there any wet areas in your landscape that need special attention? _____ Does water stand in this area after a rain for more than a couple days? _____ Does it stay moist during the summer? _____
9. Do you have dogs in your backyard? _____ What breed? _____ How many? _____
10. Do you know where the cable and phone utilities are buried in your yard? (front/back/side). _____ Do you have any privately owned buried lines that you need to mark for us. (dog fence _____, propane _____, front yard lamp _____, Landscape lighting _____ Outdoor outlet _____, irrigation lines _____, drainage _____, ect _____

11. What is your single favorite color in the landscape? _____ Are there any colors to avoid? _____

12. What are your favorite Flower color combinations? (Circle or write) _____
.red/purple, red/pink, purple/yellow, blue/pink, red/blue, yellow/blue, orange/blue, pink/yellow, pink/purple, orange/red, white/blue

13. What are your favorite Foliage color or combinations? (Circle or write) _____
.light green, med. green, dark green, olive, blue-gray, blue-green, maroon, purplish green, gold, chartreuse, variegated-white

14. Are there any particular plants or flowers that you would like to have in your landscape? (Please list)

15. Are there some plants you wish to avoid or use in small numbers? (Please list) _____

16. Some flowers require frequent dead heading or staking in order to look attractive. These include some of the most aesthetic flowers such as hydrangeas, roses, peonies, daylilies, & daisies. This does require extra time and commitment. Would you prefer flowers that require these techniques? (yes/no/some) _____

17. Do you have any small children? ____ If they play outside you may consider avoiding plants with thorns or plants that are poisonous if ingested. Familiar examples include barberry, yucca, rose, yew, and holly. Do you wish to avoid plants with these characteristics? (yes/no/some) _____

18. Are you interested in any of the following landscape amenities? (Circle any that apply)

Wood Arbor / Pergola	Stone Walkways	Storage Shed/Building	Outdoor Night Lighting
Wood Trellis with vines	Rock Garden	Dog run / Kid area	Water Garden / Water fall
Wood Deck / Fence	Flagstone Patio	Statuary / yard art	Contained Plants / Annuals
Benches / Seating area	Accent landscape rocks	Outdoor Storage Area	Compost / organic waste pile
Outdoor Furniture	Rock / stone edging	Playground Equipment	Others _____

19. What landscape maintenance level do you want? If you are not a novice gardener, it is strongly recommended that you hire a professional garden maintenance person to help you with general plant care, weed control, and monitoring of potential problems with insect, disease, and environmental stress. We offer a "First-Year Maintenance Program" for our new customers. Are you planning on doing the work yourself, or hiring a professional garden maintenance person? _____ (Check one the best fits your desires.)

____A. Very low maintenance: 1-3 checkups per year if professional is hired, seasonal clean-ups, and monthly deep watering during droughts, monthly weed control. Typical landscapes; native plant gardens, rock gardens, slow growing plants, compact shrubs, plants that tolerate drought, deep rooted plants, no dead-heading, little pruning (liriodendron, nandina, yucca, sedum, sumac, coralberry, plumbago, catmint, Russian sage, most grasses)

____B. Low maintenance: 3-6 checkups per year if professional is hired, minor dead heading, seasonal cleanups, monthly weed control and weekly to by-monthly watering during drought. Typical landscapes; low maintenance gardens, slow growing shrubs, and perennials that need yearly cutting to the ground, ornamental grasses, most groundcovers (boxwood, Virginia sweetspire, knock-out rose, false indigo, black-eye susan, crapemyrtle, Missouri primrose, daylily, sedum, wine cup flower, coralberry, maiden grass, most bamboo)

____C. Medium maintenance: monthly checkups if professional is hired, monthly cleanups 1-2 months; monthly weed control, weekly watering during drought. Typical landscapes; Japanese gardens, free flowering old-fashioned perennial gardens, most fast growing and flowering shrubs, most shade perennials, moderate moisture and rich soil plants (forsythia, hosta, fern, annuals, hydrangea, barberry, iris, phlox, juniper, & peony).

____D. High maintenance: 1-2 monthly checks or weekly cleanups if professional is hired, monthly pruning and fertilizing, weekly weed control, up to daily watering during drought and heat. Typical landscapes; water gardens, lush beautiful gardens, formal gardens, cut flower gardens, vegetable gardens, frequent flowering plants that need dead-heading, fast growing shrubs, plants sensitive to pH, high water and nutrient users, (most roses, mums, daisy-like plants, tulips, azaleas, rhododendrons, most annuals, all climbing vines)

20. Please indicate which of the following characteristics you prefer. (Check mark one or two in each set.)

Set A: PLANT SIZES:

- Smaller planting sizes (4" pots), great for lower budgets, greater spacing and longer maturity, higher maintenance, less resistance to pests, drought, and weed infestations
- Larger planting sizes, higher budget, closer spacing and fast mature time, lower maintenance
- Mix of both. (larger sizes in areas of importance, smaller on less visible areas)

Set B: PLANT VARIETIES:

- Over 50% common plant varieties (lower cost, easy to find, fast growth, reliable performance data, many have potential insect and disease problems, many are overused and monotonous,)
- Over 50% uncommon plant varieties (unique, interesting, different, improved resistance to insects & diseases, lower maintenance, higher cost, more difficult to find & estimate)
- Use native plants whenever possible (good for our environment & wildlife, self-sustainable)

Set C: PLANT FOLIAGE:

- Over 50% evergreen plants, more winter interest, less flowers, more consistent year-round appearance, lends a more formal appearance, many ornamental grasses look nice in winter too.
- Over 50% deciduous plants, less winter interest, more spring/summer/fall appeal, spectacular flowers, lends a softer, more naturalistic appearance, may seem barren in winter.

Set D: PLANT AESTHETICS:

- Plants mainly grown for their flowers (slightly higher maintenance, longer blooming seasons)
- Plants mainly grown for their foliage (lower maintenance, some flowers as well, colored foliage)

Set E: PLANT DENSITY OR SPACING:

- Detailed, lush appearance (higher initial cost, smaller barren / void areas, lower maintenance)
- Simplistic, modest appearance (lower initial cost, larger barren/ void areas, more weed problems)

Set F: PLANT TEXTURE:

- Do you like fine textured plants (small leaves or multiple small flowers in clusters, grasses)
- Do you like coarse textured plants (large leaves or single large flowers, not as compact)
- Do you like textural and color contrasts (mix of fine and coarse textured plants,) (recommended)

Set H: BLOOMING SEASON:

- Over 50% blooms in Spring/Early Summer (more appeal in spring, needs cutting back; summer)
- Over 50% blooms in Late Summer/Autumn (looks attractive & green in spring, flowers later)

Set I: LARGE AREAS BENEATH SHADE TREES:

- Groundcover areas (higher initial cost, lower long term maintenance, less water, no mowing)
- Lawn (lower initial cost, higher long term maintenance and cost, mowing, watering, fertilizing)

Set J: MULCH:

- Rock mulch (longer life, higher initial cost, higher replacement cost, wind and erosion proof, dirt will accumulate after many years, hard to clean, difficult to add plants, extra fertilization needed)
- Wood mulch (shorter life, lower cost, low replacement cost. Wind and erosion resistant, Adds nutrients to soil as mulch breaks down. Weed problems may occur. Add new layer every 1-2 yrs)

Set K: LANDSCAPE EDGING:

- Non-continuous Natural Rock edging; Outcropping style, natural hillside appearance, irregular, informal (long life, med materials cost, low labor cost)
- Continuous Natural Rock edging; natural, irregular (long life, high materials cost, med. labor cost)
- Continuous Rectilinear block-shape Rock edging; formal (high materials cost, med labor cost)
- Steel edging (long life, medium material and labor cost, attractive, simple, formal appearance)
- No edging (lowest initial cost, clean look, easiest to mow next to, must be redefined yearly)

Set L: ACCENT LANDSCAPE ROCKS / BOULDERS:

- Incorporate natural rock into the landscape (higher cost, most attractive, natural appearance)
- No accent rocks (lowest cost, may seem barren in winter, can always be added later)

Set L: DRAINAGE ISSUES:

- Estimate underground french drain pipe, attach to gutter downspouts (higher cost, prevents erosion and bed wash-out if heavy rain occurs before bed is established, solves drainage problems)
- Estimate splash blocks or flat stones under downspouts (low cost, reduces erosion & wash-out)
- No drainage structures (lowest cost, may have erosion and wash-out problems in the future)

21. Do you have a rough idea of your budget? (Y/N)_____ We provide two options for you to consider before hiring us to design a landscape. We do not want to under or over budget your landscape design. We want you to have an idea of what you will be investing in your landscape. We can work with any budget \$1500 and up. Most project budget range from \$3000-\$9000 on average. We normally will need to design a landscape based on your needs in order to determine an accurate budget. From that point, we can revise the design, separate the project into phases, add work to a project, or give you options. Answer "no" to the next question if you want us to propose a cost of what will be required to beautify your landscape.

22. Do you want to propose an overall estimated budget?_____ or estimated budget per phase?_____ If you choose this option, we will show you pictures of similar priced installed landscapes. We can tell you what options are possible for your budget. Question #20 covers many budget related items.

23. What areas of your landscape are the highest priority? (front, back, other)_____ Do you want us to divide project into phases? _____ Do you want to propose a maximum budget per phase?_____

24 Have you ever hired a professional landscape service to install a landscape in the past? _____ Were you satisfied with the results of their work? (yes/no)_____ If not satisfied, what were your complaints. _____ What did you like about their service? _____

25. Have you ever tried to design and install your own landscape? _____ Were you satisfied with the results of your own work? _____

26. Do you acknowledge that you are hiring Low Maintenance Landscape to design a landscape and/or hardscape plan at our current hourly rate? (Yes / No) _____ In addition to hiring us for professional design work, are you also interested in hiring our company to construct / install your landscape as well? _____ Or just parts of the project? _____ Or are you looking for a design that you can install yourself? _____ Do you have the time, energy, and knowledge to install a landscape yourself? _____

27. How did you discover our company? (Please circle one or write.) _____
.Friend Family member Neighbor Garden / home show Newspaper flier Yard sign T-shirt Our Employee. Truck sign
AT&T yellow pages Yellowbook yellow pages PDC yellow pages Radio station _____ Internet search engine Website

28. Do you have any other notes or comments you would like to add? _____

Please call us for questions or to discuss landscape design options. Please mail this form to the address below. You may fold questionnaire into thirds along dotted line, tape or staple together both corners, and mail with no envelope.

www.lowmaintenancelandscape.net 785-550-5610 or 785-749-9316

Place
Stamp
Here

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