

THE 2021 LANDSCAPE PLANNER

Tips, checklists and inspiring spaces to help you
create your very own outdoor oasis



Use our Outdoor Living Planner to outline your vision for a new dream getaway in your own yard and garden. We've broken it down into categories: Lawn/Garden, Hardscape, Kids/Pets, Outdoor Kitchens, Water Features and Fire Features. Consider these questions and get your creative juices flowing. Use this planner to partner with a professional for the bigger projects on your wish list. ►

Overview

What is the size of the proposed project's area in square feet?

- Front yard Backyard Side yards
 _____ sq. ft. _____ sq. ft. _____ sq. ft.

Do you plan to use the outdoor space for:

- Parties or gatherings
 Less than 10 guests: Seated Unseated
 10 to 30 guests: Seated Unseated
 More than 30 guests: # _____ Seated Unseated
 Outdoor kitchen/grill area
 Patio with seating (for how many people?) _____
 Quiet meditation Yard for pets
 Children's garden or play area Pool Spa
 Containers with plants
 Garden space to grow: Herbs Cut flowers Vegetables/fruit
 Other _____
 Outdoor games or sports (please list)

If you have a budget in mind, what is it? _____

Do any of your family members suffer from allergies? Yes No

Does anyone who will use the site have mobility issues (use a stroller or wheelchair)? Yes No

Will your yard need to be fenced for safety or privacy? Yes No

Any noise issues (loud neighbors, busy streets)? Yes No

Is there a need to block any undesirable views from your property?
 Yes No

Are your property lines agreed upon by your neighbors and the city?
 Yes No

Are there any buried utilities on the property (septic systems or utility lines)? Yes No

Do you want an outdoor sound system? Yes No

What is the sun exposure in your yard (full sun, partial shade, full shade)?
 Front yard Backyard Side yards

Does sun exposure cause problems inside the house (like too much heat from south-facing windows)? Yes No

Does sun exposure limit outdoor use (too hot to play outside, too shady to grow vegetables)? Yes No

Full-Sun Flowering Perennials for Your Garden

Name	Bloom Season
Achillea	Summer
Alyssum	Spring
Artemisia	Summer
Asclepias	Summer
Aster	Summer/Fall
Buddleia	Summer/Fall
Caryopteris	Summer
Ceratostigma	Summer
Chrysogonum	Spring/Summer
Coreopsis	Summer
Delphinium	Spring/Summer
Dianthus	Spring/Summer
Foxglove	Spring
Gaillardia	Summer/Fall
Gaura	Summer
Goldenrod	Summer/Fall
Gypsophila	Summer/Fall
Hemerocallis	Summer
Hollyhock	Spring/Summer
Lantana	All year
Liatris	Summer/Fall
Peony	Spring
Salvia	Summer/Fall
Sedum	Spring/Fall
Shasta Daisy	Summer
Swamp Sunflower	Fall
Verbena	Spring/Fall

SOURCE: UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA EXTENSION





Before deciding what to plant, the experts at **Pike Nurseries** recommend homeowners get acquainted with their landscape to determine their sun exposure. **Pictured are plant varieties that require full (six to eight hours) to partial sun (three to six hours).** Foreground: Hosta "August Moon," caladium "Classic Pink," vinca, crossandra, celosia and coleus "Kong Jr." Background: Rudbeckia, coneflowers and verbena. www.pikenursery.com
Photo courtesy of Pike Nursery.

What time of day will the site be used most? _____

What are the primary materials used in the existing landscape and/or exterior of your home?

- Natural stone Brick Fiber cement siding
 Stucco Vinyl siding Cedar shingle siding
 Wood clapboard siding Aluminum or steel

What elements would most help improve the curb appeal of your home?

- Improved lawn Groundcover Flowers
 Trees Hardscape repair New hardscape
 New landscape design Other _____

Lawn/Garden

What do you like about your existing landscape? _____

Are there existing plants that you want to stay in the yard? Yes No

What plants do you want removed? _____

What don't you like about your existing landscape? Overgrown plants

Dated architectural elements Other _____

Are there other features you want addressed? Unusable steep space

Erosion Drainage issues Other _____

What are your favorite flower colors? _____

Is there wildlife you want to keep out of your yard? Coyotes Snakes

Raccoons Possums Moles/voles Deer Other _____

Is there wildlife you want to encourage coming to your yard?

Birds Hummingbirds Butterflies Bees Squirrels Deer

Other _____

Are there pests you want to discourage? Ants Bees Cockroaches

Spiders Mosquitoes Flies Other _____

How much gardening work will you likely do yourself?

- I won't do anything myself
 I will hire someone to do some tasks, like mowing
 I will do it all myself

Best Time to Plant Spring Veggie Seeds

Beans

March 27–April 4

Cantaloupe

March 13–27

Carrots

Feb. 14–March 13

Corn

March 27–April 10

Cucumbers

March 27–April 10

Eggplant (seedlings)

March 27–April 10

Lettuce

Feb. 14–March 13

Mustard (seedlings)

Feb. 28–March 13

Okra

March 27–April 10

Peas (Southern)

March 27–April 24

Peppers (seedlings)

March 27–April 10

Pumpkins

March 27–April 10

Radishes

Feb. 11–April 10

Spinach

Feb. 11–March 13

Squash

March 27–April 10

Sweet Potatoes (seedlings)

March 27–April 17

Tomatoes (seedlings)

March 27–April 10

Watermelon

March 27–April 10

SOURCE: THE NATIONAL GARDENER'S ASSOCIATION





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Which, if any, of the following edible garden options do you want?

- Vegetable garden Herb garden Fruit trees

How much turfgrass (if any) do you want in your yard?

Front yard _____ % of the yard Backyard _____ % of the yard

Do you want an evergreen lawn, or is a lawn that goes dormant (turns brown) in winter OK? _____

Do you have an irrigation system? Yes No

Is it working correctly? Yes No

Do you need a new irrigation system installed? Yes No

Prioritize the following landscape items as

(1) very important (2) important (3) not important:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ____ Turfgrass | ____ Drought-tolerant plants |
| ____ Native plants | ____ Low-maintenance plants |
| ____ Fruit-bearing plants | ____ Organic and/or vegetable/fruit |
| ____ Garden | ____ Food and habitat for pollinators and birds |
| ____ Eco-friendly landscape (i.e., reducing water, fertilizers, pesticides and mowing) | |

What water-saving features most interest you?

- Planting groundcover to reduce water needs
 Installing a rainwater-catch system
 Installing a greywater-capture system
 Other _____

Hardscape

(Man-made parts of the landscape)

Are there existing hardscape features in your yard that must stay in the design? Yes No

Do you prefer a type of paving material?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Concrete | <input type="radio"/> Brick |
| <input type="radio"/> Stamped with patterns | <input type="radio"/> Tile |
| <input type="radio"/> Colored | <input type="radio"/> Natural |
| <input type="radio"/> Glossy finish | <input type="radio"/> Man-made |
| <input type="radio"/> Matte finish | <input type="radio"/> Gravel |
| <input type="radio"/> Flagstone | <input type="radio"/> Decomposed granite (ground gravel) |
| <input type="radio"/> Natural shapes | Other _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Cut stone (squares or rectangles) | _____ |
| | _____ |

Describe the colors, texture and style of the furniture you want to use in the space (either existing or new): _____

Which Type of Turfgrass is For You?

Bermuda

- Requires less water
- Does best in full sun
- Fine, bright green color
- Recovers fast from traffic
- Easy to maintain

Zoysia

- Requires regular water
- Great for sun or shade
- Fine bright-green blades are soft underfoot
- Stays green over a long season

Centipede

- Requires regular water
- More shade tolerant than other varieties
- Slow growing (hence the name), so needs less mowing
- Chokes out competing weeds

Fescue

- Very drought and heat tolerant
- Can take moderate shade
- Good traffic tolerance
- Green throughout the year

SOURCE: NG TURF





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Kids/Pets

How many children will use the space and what are their ages?

What activities do your kids enjoy? _____

If any, what sports will be played in the yard? _____

Do you have playground equipment already? Yes No

Do you want new play equipment? Yes No

Do any of these options for play areas interest you?

- Natural boulders to climb Swingset Slide
- Tree swing or rope to climb Sandbox (with a lid if you have pets)
- Sidewalk or path for tricycle/bicycle use
- In-ground wading pool or free-standing pool
- Basketball hoop Batting cages/goal nets

Other _____

Will pets use the area? Yes No

Describe the breed, age and size of your pets:

Dog _____ Cat _____

Other _____

Describe your pet's habits (i.e., the dog digs or the cat gets stuck in trees):

Are there any pet habits that you want to discourage?

Outdoor Kitchens

How often do you cook outdoors?

- Rarely—I just want a gathering place for entertainment
- Occasionally, in nice weather
- Often, in nice weather
- Several times a week no matter what the weather
- As often as possible

Do you want the outdoor kitchen to be adjacent to your house or out in the yard? _____

Is the area where you envision the outdoor kitchen already plumbed for:

- Water Electrical Gas

Outdoor Living Trends

Home is where the hearth is

Modern outdoor living combines these two traditions into one with **outdoor fireplaces and firepits.**

This trend will continue to be one of the fastest growing phenomena in outdoor living for 2021.

Mimicking the indoor environment

Outdoor living room designs continue to mimic the look of their indoor counterparts, including furniture design, lighting fixtures, decorative accessories and flooring. **Expect to see an increase in the popularity of larger format pavers** with natural textures and design elements.

Rise of the outdoor chef

Expect to see an **increase in brick ovens** as more homeowners learn that these attractive fixtures can be used for more than just cooking pizza and can actually function as a full-use outdoor oven.

Turns out, it is easy being "green"

As homeowners learn about the benefits of **permeable pavers**, the trend is beginning to make its way into the residential arena, particularly for driveways, and is expected to continue to grow.

COURTESY OF BELGARD





Choose turfgrasses that withstand active playing, possibly to the point of wearing down. **TifTuf Bermuda grass or Zenith and Zeon (pictured) zoysia can handle high traffic** and quickly grow back to fix any damage that occurs. Learn more by searching “pools” at www.supersod.com
Photo courtesy of Super-Sod.

A photograph of two women sitting on large, light-colored beanbag chairs on a stone patio. The woman on the left is wearing a yellow shirt and white pants, and the woman on the right is wearing a red shirt and shorts. They are both smiling and looking at each other. In the background, there is a swimming pool with a waterfall, surrounded by lush greenery and a stone wall. A pair of sandals is on the ground near the woman in red.

Make the most of Mother Nature with a **modern outdoor bean bag furniture line featuring sunshine-safe Sumbrella® fabric.** This covetable collection provides a seating experience that matches the beauty of the outdoors. Turn your patio into the go-to spot for outdoor entertaining that you'll be eager to show off to friends and family. www.jaxxbeanbags.com

Photo courtesy of Jaxx Bean Bags.



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Will you need storage for:

- Dishes or linens
- Trash
- Cooking ingredients and supplies
- Wood for oven or fireplace

What countertop material do you prefer?

- Natural stone
- Concrete
- Tile
- Quartz
- Stainless steel
- Eco-friendly materials
- Wood

What wall material do you prefer?

- Natural stone
 - Brick
 - Tile
 - Stucco
 - Wood
- Other _____

Will you need cold and hot running water at a sink? Yes No

What type of cooking unit would you like?

- Pizza oven
 - Griddle
 - Barbecue grill
 - Traditional oven
 - Traditional stove with _____ burners
- Other _____

Do you want an outdoor refrigerator/freezer? Yes No

If so, how many cubic feet of capacity do you need? _____

Do you want beverage storage or service in the outdoor kitchen?

- Wine/beer storage or service
 - Undercounter fridge for snacks/drinks
- Other _____

Will you serve food or drinks at a: Patio table Bar counter

What heating elements appeal to you?

- Permanent overhead heaters
- Wood-burning fireplace in the outdoor kitchen
- Free-standing (portable) heaters

Will your outdoor kitchen need sun/rain protection? Yes No

- Partially open roof
- Solid roof

Would you want a misting system for cooling? Yes No

Will you want an integrated TV/sound system in the outdoor kitchen?

- Yes
- No

Water Features

Pools/Spas

Will you use a new pool or spa for:

- Exercise
 - Relaxation
 - Entertaining
- Other _____

Are you interested in these optional extras?

- Waterfall
- Grotto
- TV/sound system
- Saltwater pool
- Fountain
- Safety fence
- Cabana/bathroom
- Vanishing-edge pool
- Diving board or slide
- Integrated fire feature

Outdoor Grill Guide

Gas

- Propane cylinder is cost-effective, but pay attention It can run out just when you need it the most.
- Cost: \$140 to \$3,000
- Easy to adjust grill temps
- Little wait time for grill to be ready

Charcoal

- Considered to offer the best flavor for food
- Cost: \$100 to \$400
- Briquettes provide consistent heat
- Lighting fluid can be dangerous to use
- Longest heat time of any type of grill

Wood Pellet

- Pellets are eco-friendly and energy efficient
- Smoke from wood infuses food with flavor
- Cost: \$600 to \$2,500
- Even temperature distribution

Electric

- Never run out of fuel—heat source is home's electricity
- Cost: \$170 to \$250
- Safe for use in small spaces or balcony
- Not as easy to adjust heat temp quickly

Hybrid

- Cook with gas or charcoal—offers more food flavor options
- Cost: \$300 to \$3,000
- Gas option allows fast startup
- Doesn't get as hot as gas grills



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Gutters channel roof water away from your home. Unfortunately, most standard gutter systems get clogged with leaves and other debris and fail to properly collect roof water. When this happens, water sheets over your gutters and pours directly onto the ground, saturating it with water and causing problems for your home's foundation.


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How many people will use the pool or spa at one time? _____

Where in the yard will the new water feature be placed?

Will messy trees or plants impact the area near the pool?

- Yes
- No

Firepits/Fireplaces

Do you want a: Firepit Fireplace

How many people will be seated nearby to enjoy the fire's warmth or ambiance? _____

Will you use furniture for seating or do you want built-in seating?

- Furniture
- Built-in seating

What fuel source do you prefer for the fire feature?

- Real wood logs
- Natural gas
- Hidden propane tank

Do you have kids or pets that need to be protected from the fire element (say, by a hearth)? Yes No

Would you like a firepit that is:

- Flush with the ground
- Raised
- Portable

Do you want a fire feature that:

- Connects with the patio or other hardscape?
- Stands alone and is placed out in the yard?
- Is covered by a patio cover or pergola?

What optional extras would you consider for your fire feature?

- Fire/water combination (fire feature with an integrated fountain, for instance)
- Hearth for seating

NOTES:

What's Hot in Pools and Spas in 2021

"Spools"

These water features are much smaller than traditional swimming pools, but are longer than the usual spa. Strong jets of water allow the user to swim "upstream" to get a workout in a relatively small area. **The temperature can be kept cooler than a spa** so that the swimmer isn't uncomfortable but, post-workout, you can raise the water temperature and relax those tired muscles.

Lounge Ledge

This simple feature lets you stay cool and soak up the sun. It's **perfect for reading a book while dipping your toes** or giving your little ones a spot to splash in. You can also purchase specially made lounge chairs that sit partially below the water's edge, while keeping the rest of you nice and dry.

Fire/Water Feature Combo

A fire feature incorporated into a pool design makes perfect sense. What's better than a nighttime dip lit by the glow of a firepit or fireplace? **When the temps plummet, you can still enjoy the water's edge with a fire feature** that has seating for everyone, whether you're roasting s'mores or warming your feet by the fire.

Tile Inlay

Give your pool some pop by installing a tile inlay. Available in fun colors and plenty of beautiful patterns, this is **a simple way to bring some of your own style to your pool**. Darker shades and hues of blue and green are predicted to make a big comeback.

Is It Time to Break Up with Your Tree?

“Sick trees can often be saved,” says Chris Heim, district manager and certified arborist for the Davey Tree Expert Company in Atlanta, “but a damaged or dead tree on your property that goes unaddressed is a serious safety risk. Homeowners may be surprised to know that with a few easy steps each spring, you can play an important role in keeping your trees healthy.”

So how to determine whether you and your tree are going through a rough patch, or whether your tree has a serious issue and it's time to “break up?” In as little as 15 minutes, homeowners can do an easy four-step inspection to spot some of the major signs of tree health problems.

The key is being able to tell the difference between a dead and declining tree by using your eyes and hands to spot common issues.

FOUR STEPS TO TREE INSPECTION

Step 1: Scratch beneath the surface.

Using a knife or your fingernail, scratch a twig of the tree. If it's moist and green underneath, your tree's alive. If it's brown and brittle, try scraping a few more twigs to see if any are with fresh, moist green underneath. If there's no green to be found, your tree is likely sick or dying.

Step 2: Find the root. Start low and take a look at the base of your tree. Examine the tree's roots, seeking out any soft spots, decay, mushrooms or other fungi as these are signs of rot.

Step 3: Check the support. The next step is to examine the tree's collar, the area where the trunk and roots meet at the soil surface. Pull back the grass to scan for any signs of decay. If the bark is missing, falling off or broken, that's an indicator that your tree needs attention.

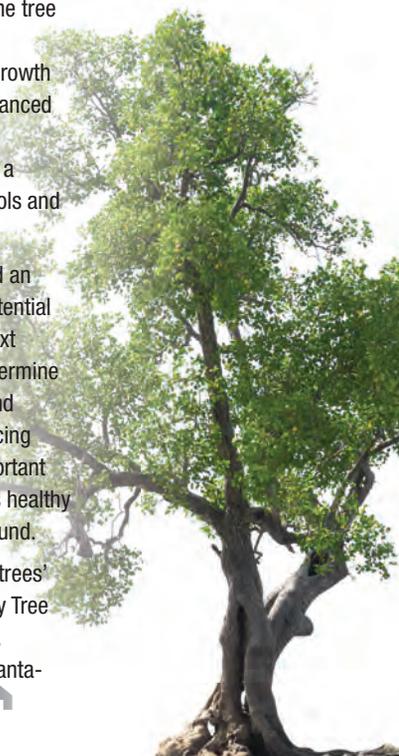
Step 4: Take a good look. Scan for any

large cracks or splits in the trunk, these indicate structural weakness in the tree and require careful evaluation.

Trunk swelling, which is an overgrowth area of bark, is also a sign of advanced decay. Determining the extent of deterioration is a task best left to a certified arborist, who can use tools and expert knowledge to assess.

If any of the above steps revealed an issue, you'll need to know the potential hazard and figure out the best next steps. A certified arborist can determine whether the tree can be saved and support you in removing or replacing dead or decaying trees. This important work will ensure that your yard is healthy and vibrant when spring rolls around.

Have more questions about your trees' health? Chris Heim and the Davey Tree Expert Company are here to help. www.davey.com/local-offices/atlanta-tree-service-and-lawn-service 🏠



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