

Much like a living room is for public entertaining and a bedroom is your quiet and private domain, your front yard and backyard will often serve different purposes with outdoor landscaping. The front of your house is more public. You want passers-by to stop, roll down their windows, and say to themselves, "That's the house I want." Your backyard is your personal outdoor oasis.

Chris Tisi, owner of TC Nursery in Burlington, ND believes that the outside of your house reflects the inside of your house. The more time you spend in maintaining a beautiful yard it will show others that you maintain that same standard on the inside as well. It is the first impression that you send to people that view your house. But landscaping is not only just important on the visual aspect but it also helps with maintaining energy efficient homes. The shade that is given from the trees creates an environment and is helpful in heat retention with insulation and wind. In the past owners planted shrubs and trees next to their houses because it would help block the weather from penetrating into the siding. Now days we have insulation that is made to prevent the somewhat brutal winters here in North Dakota. How well insulation works is expressed by its R-value, which measures resistance to the flow of heat. The higher the R-value, the better it insulates per inch of thickness.

General landscaping care and maintenance can be more about getting the most for your money. Planting or removing trees or other plants can provide many options and several of them can save you money and still achieve similar effects. And for homeowners who are interested in landscaping but don't know where to get started, Chris has given several helpful answers to those questions.

What is the best time of the year to get started on landscaping?

"It's a hard call, but usually by the end of April, first part of May we could start planting what we call bare root trees. They do not have leaves so the chilly evenings do not bother those types of tree. He recommends May 10th as the best day to start because before that date usually in ND you run the chance of cold snaps and snow storms that can do a lot of damage. But the homeowner has to be vigilant and keep an eye on the weather as well and clean up your yard as the weather permits."

Does TC Nursery provide design and layout advice for homeowners interested in landscaping?

They will provide a concept design and best layout arrangement using current design programs such as PRO Landscape®. The program uses a photo of the homeowners property and Chris will arrange shrubs and trees that will work the best with the houses design, the proper foliage for that area, as well as keeping the ideas of the homeowners in mind.

After planting a new tree, is there a noticeable timeframe whether the tree will be successful or not?

"Usually the odds of a new tree dying is a very slim chance under 1%, unless it's not watered. If it's gets too much water the plant will slowly decline and will be noticeable by the foliage and the way the growth is on the tree. The winter is always a hit or miss and in early spring the tree will show what damage it has taken over the winter. About a year or two for most trees is about average."

How do you recommend caring for a new tree?

"A very slow trickle from the garden hose is usually the most recommended. Trees drink best not with just dumping 5 gallons of water but a slow watering that will allow more absorption of nutrients. Trees hydrate themselves by the water dripping off their leaves and slowly absorbing by their drip line. Five gallons per week is usually recommended the best to start with." And for owners to measure that, they can take a five gallon bucket and time out how long for the hose on a slow trickle to fill that bucket. So if it takes 20 minutes to fill, you should be able to judge that every 20 minutes you should move the garden hose to another tree.

How many different types of trees & shrubs does TC Nursery offer?

TC Nursery offers 30 to 40 varieties of trees and carries almost 200 varieties of shrubs & bushes on location. They are also available to order in any special request that a homeowner would be interested in.

Chris Tisi, is a Burlington,ND resident, who started TC Nursery in 2008. He bought it from the previous owners of Des Lac Nursery who managed for 30 to 40 years. Chris started in landscaping at the age of 14 from a local landscaping business and fell in love with the career. He has over 22 years of experience in landscaping design and installation and loves what he does. He offers more than just a few helpful tips, but carries with him an overflowing knowledge of landscape design and ideas. TC Nursery is located at 9050 Project Road South in Burlington, ND, 15 minutes west of Minot. Chris and his staff can be reached by phone at (701)839-5217 or at their website at www.tcnurseryinc.com for more information.