

HOME GROUNDS FACT SHEET



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Nassau County



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Landscaping Woodland Areas

Homes built in wooded areas or where mature trees have been carefully left by the developer offer the home gardener a wonderful opportunity for naturescaping or naturalistic landscaping. Ideally, bulldozers and other heavy equipment are contained in the area where the house was or will be constructed and do not veer into treed areas. When machinery runs rampant in adjacent wooded areas (where you wish to keep trees alive), history has shown that between the resultant grade changes and soil compaction, these valued trees have but a few years left to live. Decline will not be apparent immediately, but will be over a period of years. Once this decline is visible, it's too late. On any newly developed property, examine for grade changes, especially where soil abuts tree trunks. If you suspect filling-in of soil or compaction of soil by any heavy equipment in the vicinity of large trees, act quickly or the opportunity for a woodland garden may never be possible.

If the home already exists on a wooded plot, spend some time considering how you want to make use of the property. Lawns require constant maintenance and are not always in harmony with a naturalistic setting. It is practical to plant grass only where required for play areas or where a uniform carpet of turf will give the landscape effect you desire. Plus, establishing turf in shade is not always easy.

If the plot is heavily wooded, select those trees that will be kept and get rid of those that are unnecessary or unhealthy. A consulting arborist can help you choose the trees to save and give you pointers on the care they will require. Remember that trees in a woodland are constantly subject to the law of survival of the fittest. Many on your property are or will soon be losers in the battle. Cull out the weaker trees and give the more desirable ones a better chance. Limiting competition, fertili-

zation, insect control and careful pruning will help the remaining trees acquire their own natural beauty.

After you have cut down the unnecessary trees, you will most likely be faced with the problem of getting rid of unwanted brush and vines such as bittersweet, catbrier (Smilax), poison ivy and honeysuckle. Much of this growth can be removed mechanically by grub hoe and brush hook, but unless every last root is dug up, you will be dealing with unwanted vines for years. Before removing any of the underbrush, apply one of the currently available chemical brush killers. These growth-regulating herbicides can be used as diluted sprays on a full complement of actively-growing foliage or brushed undiluted onto the freshly cut stumps of trees and vines. Since all these herbicides are non-selective, great care must be taken to avoid off-target drift. Allow 1-3 weeks for the herbicide to move down into the roots before cutting back leaves and stems. Be sure to read the label carefully prior to application of any herbicide.

During the period of brush control, paths through the wooded portion can be planned and constructed. They may be just compressed earth or you might want to use wood or bark chips, log rounds, blue-stone slabs, slate or other paving that will blend into the surroundings. These paths will be the avenues from which you view future plantings. The paths and plantings should give the illusion of wandering through quiet, secluded woodlands. To maintain this illusion, it will probably be necessary to keep the paths some distance within the property lines or to use an unobtrusive live or constructed screening.

Your woodland area will be an excellent place to use shade-loving shrubs, ground covers, bulbs, ferns and wildflowers. Many of the plants, once properly planted in this ideal natural environment, will be nearly maintenance-free.

D-1-28 RW:In reviewed RT 1/03

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Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

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A Few Plants for Woodland Gardens

* CAN GET INVASIVE

Perennials/Ground Covers

* <i>Ajuga</i> sp.	Bugleweed
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-pulpit
<i>Asarum europaeum</i>	European Ginger
<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i>	Black Snakeroot
<i>Claytonia virginica</i>	Springbeauty
* <i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily-of-the-Valley
<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	Bunchberry Dogwood
<i>Dicentra eximia</i>	Wild bleedingheart
<i>Epimedium</i> sp.	Barrenwort
<i>Erythronium</i> sp.	Trout lily
Ferns	Ferns
<i>Galax aphylla</i>	Galax
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Sweet Woodruff
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	Wintergreen
<i>Gaylussacia brachycera</i>	Box Huckleberry
<i>Hepatica</i> sp.	Liverleaf
<i>Hosta</i> sp.	Plaintain Lily
<i>Houstonia caerulea (Hedyotis)</i>	Bluets
<i>Iris cristata</i>	Dwarf Crested Iris
<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia bluebells
<i>Mitchella repens</i>	Partridgeberry
* <i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	Pachysandra
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Blue phlox
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	Mayapple
<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	Jacob's Ladder
<i>Polygonatum</i> sp.	Solomon's-Seal
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	Bloodroot
<i>Sarcococca hookeriana</i> <i>var. humilis</i>	Sarcococca (Sweetbox)
<i>Shortia galacifolia</i>	Oconee-Bells
<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>	False Solomon's-Seal
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Foamflower
<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>	Trillium/Wake-Robin

Shrubs

<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i>	Glossy Abelia
<i>Amelanchier</i> sp.	Shadbush
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Chokeberry
<i>Aucuba japonica</i>	Aucuba
<i>Berberis julianae</i>	Wintergreen Barberry
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Summer Sweet
<i>Cornus alba</i>	Redtwig dogwood
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Cornelian Cherry
<i>Corylopsis</i> sp.	Winter Hazel
<i>Enkianthus companulatus</i>	Red Vein Enkianthus
<i>Fothergilla</i> sp.	Fothergilla
<i>Halesia</i>	Silver-Bell
<i>Hamamelis</i> sp.	Witch Hazel
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oak Leaf Hydrangea
<i>Ilex</i> sp.	Holly
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain Laurel
<i>Leucothoe</i> sp.	Drooping Leucothoe
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Oregon Grape Holly
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Hardy bamboo
<i>Osmanthus heterophyllus</i>	Holly osmanthus
<i>Photinia villosa</i>	Oriental photinia
<i>Pieris</i> sp.	Andromeda
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry Laurel
<i>Rhododendron</i> sp.	Rhododendron
<i>Sambucus</i> sp.	Elderberry
<i>Skimmia japonica</i>	Japanese Skimmia
<i>Taxus</i> sp.	Yew
<i>Vaccinium</i> sp.	Blueberries
<i>Viburnum</i> sp.	Viburnum
<i>Zenobia pulverulenta</i>	Dusty Zenobia

For more information, consult the following publications.

- Home Grounds Fact Sheets:
 - ✓ A-2-25 Ferns for the Garden
 - ✓ D-1-3 Forty Better Ground Covers
 - ✓ D-1-8 Woody Plants for Shady Places
 - ✓ D-1-29 Tips on Choosing a Landscape Gardener