



# **The Homeowner's Key To A Beautiful, Luxurious Landscape**



## Introduction

If you're one of the many people who feel underwhelmed by their landscape, you're continually trying new things to make it look better, but somehow they always fall short. No matter what you do, it never quite accomplishes what you'd hoped. Maybe you look around and feel uninspired by the boring green shrubs that seem to make up the majority of your landscape. Do you get frustrated with the beds that are sadly lacking color? You look around your yard and think "I really wish my yard could look like the ones they show in the garden magazines. They're always so full of color and so pretty!"

Well, take heart because you can! It just means a shift in the way you think about things. It means changing your approach from the typical, ho-hum, every day boring landscape - to something Beyond Sameness and a bit more dynamic such as Fine Gardening.



***Fine Gardening entails a delicate balance of working with nature to care for your individual plants according to their needs, while keeping balance in your landscape. Everything is harmoniously working together to create a beautiful, dynamic space.***





## Fine Gardening

Fine Gardening is more than landscaping. It's a balance between nature and nurture. Fine Gardening is that extra touch that brings your landscape from average to "wow". Fine Gardening is a specialized set of skills that entails custom hand pruning, delicate flower care, specialized plantings, water management, and caring for the overall health of your landscape. It's attention to fine details that, if overlooked, leave a landscape lacking. There's a lot to keep track of in a landscape. Regular attention from our Professional Fine Gardeners allows us to catch any potential issues before they become big, costly problems. Fine Gardening is about creating a balance in your landscape between what nature wants to do and what you want to achieve in your landscape.



***Fine Gardening is not just the snip of the occasional flower and the pulling of the occasional weed. It's about creating a fine-tuned balance between what nature would like to do and how you envision your personal outdoor oasis.***



## Fine Gardening vs. Conventional Landscaping

Conventional landscaping is reactive rather than proactive. A handful of common shrubs getting cared for out of necessity rather than pleasure. Same boring thing year after year. The landscape remains status quo - still uninspiring. Many homeowners don't know what to plant, or how to care for things beyond the basic landscape. No thought is given to the changing seasons, so landscaping is performed almost robotically.

Trim the shrubs mechanically, mow the lawn, mulch the beds, remove the leaves - the same thing that can be done on just any property by someone with minimal experience, almost on auto-pilot. Tasks designed to keep nature at bay and keep our properties maintained, but it's boring. They just remain the same uninspiring, boring landscape year after year.



### ***Fine Gardening Breaks Away From The Robotic-Like Conventional Landscaping***

Fine Gardening is proactive, evolving with the seasons. It is comprised of dynamic, changing environments in which the existing elements create an Artscape. A blending together of natural and man-made elements that respond to the environment and the natural process of growing, evolving, and maturing. This is the foundation of Fine Gardening.





## Fine Gardening Care Elements

A Fine Gardener is in tune to nature and works *with* nature to create health and harmony in the landscape. This creates rich, dynamic beauty. Careful, focused work looks at individual plants and addresses those needs as the seasons change and the garden matures. It's a focused partnership with nature that works with the landscape to nurture it, rather than try to control it. A Fine Gardener works with precise actions to create a thriving ecosystem.

Paying attention to the landscape as an ecosystem ensures maximum health and beauty. The uniqueness of a Fine Gardener is that they are exceptionally interested in the beauty and balance of a landscape, helping it reach it's maximum potential. They know how a garden looks aesthetically is tied directly to how it makes us feel. Health, aesthetics, and balance are intrinsically linked to create a healthy, beautiful and deeply satisfying space.



***How A Garden Looks  
Aesthetically Directly Influences  
How It Makes Us Feel.***





## How To Create A Fine Gardening Experience You'll Love

In order to create a Fine Gardening experience you'll love, you'll need to consider the three aspects of Fine Gardening Care that you might want to do in any year. Much of the care will depend on plant age, health, the environmental conditions, the time of year, and even the specific year. Nature is always evolving. There are the change of seasons, life cycles of each unique plant, and the current state of the environment. The state of each garden area and how they evolve is an important consideration.



***When you Fine Garden, You Employ A  
Critical, Detailed Thinking To Garden Care In  
Order To Get The Most From Your  
Investment Of Time And Money.***







## The Three Aspects Of Fine Gardening Care

### 1. Minimal Threshold of Care

This is the minimum threshold of care that your landscape needs to thrive. After years of Fine Gardening, we know these steps are critical and cannot be skipped if you want to maintain the beauty of your landscape and protect your investment. Just like any other areas of your home, your landscape needs regular care. It is a living, evolving ecosystem. Keep in mind that Minimal Threshold Care is in addition to your Basic Landscape Management, such as turf fertilization and leaf removal. The combination of both ensure a truly thriving landscape.

#### ***Baseline Care Items:***

 **Spring Wake-up:** Helps the landscape transition from a dormant state to a growing state. Edge and define beds, cut back and removal of any plant material left from winter, tend to any winter damage, unwrap any protected plants, and mulching of beds. Ensure the entire landscape is ready for the growing season.

 **Herbaceous Plant & Bed Management:** Tending to all of the soft plants (perennials, annuals, tropcals, bulbs, and groundcover) as needed throughout the growing season using best Horticulture (Plant Care) Practice. Tending to the ecosystem as a whole and keeping purposefully open spaces free from unwanted weeds, volunteers and invasives.




## The Three Aspects Of Fine Gardening Care


### 2. Enhanced Care

Enhancing your landscape with added efforts and additional care can greatly increase the beauty of your landscape along with your personal satisfaction with it. These are choices you may want to make annually, specifically when you want certain enrichments, or added in as necessary for the plants or ecosystem.

Planting seasonal annuals on a yearly basis can enhance the color in your landscape, and keep it fresh and exciting from year to year. They help us celebrate the seasons and add to a landscape in a way that shrubs and perennials don't have the ability to. They add an enhanced "wow" factor not seen in conventional landscapes.

#### ***Enhanced Care Items***

 **Garden Modifications :** Small and incremental alterations that will enhance your landscape's overall health and performance.


 **Seasonal Color:** Seasonal plantings of annuals, temperennials, tropicals, or bulbs (spring/summer/fall, and even winter) to give a blast of added interest, color, texture, and fragrance. They really ramp up that "WOW" factor. This is a great way to keep your garden interesting and purposefully refreshing season after season, year after year.







## The Three Aspects Of Fine Gardening Care

### ***Enhanced Care Items Continued***

 **Winter & Holiday Décor :** Dressing up your home with greens and holiday décor to brighten up the long winter months. Greens, lights, garlands, and other accessories add vibrance and cheer that brighten your home and garden during the bleak winter season.

 **Rejuvenative Pruning:** From time to time, ornamental trees and shrubs need what's referred to as a rejuvenative pruning. This is a vigorous pruning of old branches that allows new, vigorous branches to grow in their place. This can often breathe new life and performance into an under-performing shrub.

 **Dividing/Transplanting/Removing:** Some plants can become larger than their space allows, especially if they're thriving. When that happens, overcrowding becomes a problem. Division, transplanting (or in some cases removing) an herbaceous plant (perennial) or woody ornamental becomes necessary. That allows proper sizing of all plants in their respective places. It promotes health, eliminates overcrowding, and allows you to enhance another area of your property.



## **The Three Aspects Of Fine Gardening Care**

### **3. Special Projects**

There are always opportunities to enhance your landscape. Nature is always evolving. There are frequently existing elements that can be enhanced or expanded on, just as there are times when creating a new element is the key. Looking at your landscape through a Fine Gardening eye keeps the potential for refinement as a way to help further enhance your enjoyment of your landscape. Sometimes there is a change of conditions, an opening to create a new area, or an opportunity to change an existing one. It's a guaranteed way to keep your landscape fresh, exciting and alive. Refinements can be something as simple as expanding an existing bed to accomodate exciting new plants, or the removal of a plant to adapt to changing environmental conditions. Refinements can be as complex as adding an outdoor living area or creating a new landscape somewhere else in your yard.



**Partnering With A Fine Gardener  
For An Annual Assessment Is A  
Critical Step In Managing Your  
Landscape's Evolving Needs.**





### 3. Special Projects Continued

A Fine Gardener will make changes and subtle shifts in the landscape to achieve peak performance, all while keeping the original design in mind. While doing so, they will keep a keen eye out on the evolution of plants, how that affects the space over time, and the overall objective of the landscape as a whole.



### **A Fine Gardener Will Make Subtle Changes In The Landscape To Achieve Peak Performance.**

Fine Gardening requires careful care of six critical areas of management. Ensuring all these areas are cared for ensures the overall aesthetics and well-being of your landscape as a whole. Skipping any of these areas can lead to deterioration of the landscape over time, as well as lead to a deep overall dissatisfaction and chaos within your landscape. Partnering with a Fine Gardener ensures a watchful eye is protecting your investment and it's beauty. M&M Garden Designs is here to help you augment your Fine Gardening so that you can still enjoy time in your garden if you choose to, but have that peace of mind knowing a Professional Fine Gardener is working with you to protect the health and aesthetics of your landscape.





## Essential Elements Of A Fine Gardening Program.

### Edging Beds

Edging beds involves cutting turf to create a distinct delineation between lawn and flower beds. This prevents turf roots from creeping into your flower beds and prevents any flowers (or especially ground cover) from creeping into the lawn. This keeps your beds neat and distinct. It draws your eye through the bed in a pleasing manner.

### Pruning Woody Ornamentals

Not all shrubs can, or should be, pruned at the same time. It's important that each shrub get pruned in the proper stage of their growth cycle. Likewise, not all shrubs can be pruned in the same manner. Spring, Summer and Fall pruning needs are different. On occasion, we may recommend pruning in winter due to the exact circumstances of a plant. It's critical to know these horticultural differences in order to keep a beautiful, thriving landscape. Pruning woody ornamentals entails selecting specific branches and making precise cuts to ensure the overall shape, health, and beauty of a shrub.





## **Herbaceous Plant Management**

Herbaceous plants are perennials, annuals, tropicals and bulbs. Gardens mature and age over time, and as that process continues, the needs of a garden change. A Fine Gardener must anticipate those needs and take appropriate measures to ensure the health, beauty, and longevity of your garden. There are seasonal fluctuations as well as fluctuations from year to year. Light trimming is necessary as these plants cycle through their season. From time to time a plant may need additional support so inconspicuous staking or tying is necessary. Flowers that are 50% or more past peak bloom should be removed (deadheading) to ensure beauty and prolong flowering. Sometimes if a plant is truly thriving, it can outgrow it's spot. It becomes too large for the area it's planted in, and overcrowding nearby plants. When this happens, it becomes necessary to divide, or even remove the plant to preserve the ecosystem as a whole.

## **Insect and Disease Management**

From Aphids to Powdery Mildew, there are a lot of things to be wary of in the Landscape. An insect population or a disease can wipe out a landscape seemingly overnight. Fine Gardeners must be stewards of the environment. Not all bugs are bad, and an approach to careful management must be taken in order to preserve both the landscape as well as the environment.





## General Weed Management

Mother Nature is an opportunist. If we're creating an area where plants can thrive, so also can weeds thrive. Weed barrier fabric does not work. Weeding is a necessary "evil" that cannot, and should not be overlooked. Pre-emergent helps, but weeds will still break through. Just like herbaceous plants, weeds have a growing and blooming cycle. It takes only one weed to produce hundreds of seeds that will create weeds for several years to come. Not only is Mother Nature an opportunist, she's also a master of camouflage. Weeds will most often grow amongst plants that have similar leaves. Keeping a sharp eye out is critical to weed management. Seeds are small and can take hold almost anywhere, including under leaves of desirable plants.

## Watering Strategies

Proper hydration is a critical element in the health of any landscape. It allows the plant to absorb nutrients from the soil, derive support of their cells, and allows for proper respiration. A Fine Gardener monitors the water in a landscape. Automatic irrigation systems may not be enough to promote proper hydration in a landscape. Obstacles such as trees, fences, gates, and walls may block certain areas of the landscape from receiving the proper amount of water. During periods of excess heat or drought, supplemental water may be necessary. Likewise, an automatic irrigation system may provide too much water, leading to rot and decay. It's important to check your landscape regularly for proper hydration. If you do not have an automatic irrigation system, alternative watering strategies may be implemented to help support plant hydration.





## **The Benefits Of A Fine Gardening Program.**

Partnered care is always the best way to care for a complex system that is comprised of many different elements and moving parts. No one individual can be an expert in every aspect of our landscapes, so partnership is the best way to achieve the best possible results for your investment of time and money.

Anyone endeavoring to develop a landscape at this level is keenly aware of it's value and the need to protect it's health and value. Improving an asset while creating a deep sense of enjoyment and pleasure requires careful attention. An investment at this level can truly feed one's soul and create a sense of restorative energy, enjoyment, and deeply improve the overall quality of one's life. A well appointed home with carefully selected amenities, furnishings, and décor reflects the individual who lives there and brings a deep seated sense of peace and contentment. A landscape also is a reflection of an individual and can be a source of great satisfaction and relaxation.



***Your Landscape Should Be Equally As Important As The Inside Of Your Home.***





## Partnering With M&M Garden Designs

M&M Garden Designs specializes in partnered Fine Gardening landscape care with homeowners. By partnering with you, we are able to provide the best support and care for your landscape that works for you and your lifestyle. It also enables us to comfortably partner with other landscape professionals with whom you may already be working.

As each landscape is unique, so are the needs of individuals. In our family of clients, we have some gardeners who happily spend hours caring for their garden. We have other clients who would love nothing more than to spend time caring for their garden, but their obligations don't allow them the time to do so. We also have clients who appreciate the value of their landscape for all it has to offer, but their only interest lies in enjoying its beauty. They have no desire to take on the gardening tasks themselves. There is no right or wrong answer, only personal preference and lifestyle. A landscape is a deeply personal experience, so we custom tailor each experience to what our clients need. By using the information we have shared here, we hope you can get a feel for what your landscape management needs are and how partnering with a Fine Gardener can help you manage those needs.



### Next Steps

For each person that desires a landscape filled with beauty that enhances the very quality of their life, the trick is to determine what you can or cannot personally do. This assessment is based on your skills, time, and desire to care for your landscape.



This is the first step to understanding your landscape care needs. This will help you determine what level of outside help you'd need to experience the landscape you've always wanted. Developing strategic partnerships with industry professionals that complement one another's expertise such as Fine Gardening, Lawn Mowing, and Irrigation specialists is the best way to achieve the most from your landscape.

If you've never worked with a Fine Gardener, it's a much different experience than with a generalized landscape service. We encourage you to give it a try. Scheduling just one day of professional Fine Gardening care can make a big impact in your landscape. It's a significant difference we are certain will surprise and delight you. Once you see what a team of Fine Gardening professionals can do for your landscape in just one day, we can talk about developing a Fine Gardening care program that will transform your experience with your landscape. We'll create an Artscape perfectly tailored to provide you with rich beauty and a deep sense of satisfaction.

## **Free Fine Gardening Discovery Session**



**Schedule Now**

