

Brighten Up Your Community

Raising awareness on how your yard contributes to the beauty and image of the community and how to make your neighbourhood a more beautiful place.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1 THINK



Do I value my surroundings? Do I have a sense of pride and respect for my house, my garden, and my street? Does it matter to me if they are untidy and neglected? Do I make the things worse in any way by what I do? A little thought along these lines will help you to clarify your own attitudes and may help you to identify some aspects of your own behaviour which could do with change.

2 LOOK



How does my house look? Does it contain eyesores that I no longer notice because I see them every day? Does my area convey a message of care and pride or neglect and dereliction? Look for litter black spots, derelict sites, abandoned cars, unsightly rubbish collections. Look for potential for improvements.

3 ACT



Improve your house and garden with these easy ideas! Tending to small jobs as they arise keeps everything looking good and only requires small amounts of time.

Maximizing your home's curb appeal doesn't require spending a fortune or committing to endless labour. Create a yard that stays attractive longer and with less effort. Keep existing elements that already work and make changes that are suited to your lifestyle.

Make Your Property Shine!

- ◆ Keep your yard and house tidy and maintained.
- ◆ Deep cleaning hard surfaces makes everything appear fresh. Clean windows, outdoor furniture and the front door.
- ◆ Mowing your lawn weekly will reduce visible weeds.
- ◆ Grass, weeds, bushes, plants and trees should be cared for and dead vegetation removed.
- ◆ Remove accumulation of garbage or discarded materials outside your home.
- ◆ Fences should be maintained in good condition.

Front yards should make a good impression!

Tip #1 – At least half of your front yard should be landscaped.

Landscaping can be lawns, plants, trees, or some kind of material that cannot be used for parking/storing vehicles.

Tip #2 – Apply Some Simple Landscaping Basics. Remove unhealthy plants. Choose new plants that are suited to your area to reduce maintenance. **Evergreen shrubs** provide year-round greenery and create a foundation for your garden. **Low-maintenance perennials** return every spring and are easier to care for. **Annuals**, which die in cold weather, are best as colorful accents. Balance is the key to a beautiful garden, so keep larger plants behind smaller ones to give each their chance to shine. Repair brown spots in the grass by raking the dirt and scattering grass seed in Spring and Autumn.

Tip #3 – Use Mulch. Mulch insulates the soil to hold moisture, protects against freezing, inhibits weeds and makes the whole yard look tidier in an instant!

Tip #4 – Stage Your Front Entryway. Flank both sides of the doorway with twin potted plants or trees and add a new doormat. If space allows, rearrange outdoor furniture to encourage socializing. Hide recycling containers out of view with some well placed screening.

Tip #5 – Keep the Boulevard Tidy. The area between your property line and the edge of the street is a critical one. You're responsible for keeping it neat, picking up litter, mowing the grass, watering trees. When it's cared for, it makes your property - and the whole street – LOOK BETTER!

Tip #6 – Regular Maintenance is the Key to Keeping Yard Work Easy.

Pull weeds as they surface, and don't let grass get too high. Use a weed trimmer along the sidewalk and driveway to keep edges neat.

*Yardwork is a Great Form of Exercise! **Calories Burned Per Hour/Average Person:** Mowing- 306; Raking- 292; General Gardening- 272; Watering- 102; Laying Crushed Rock- 340; Digging- 340; Laying Sod- 340; Trimming-238.*



No TIME or ENERGY to cut your lawn? HIRE A STUDENT! It is inexpensive and promotes positive habits in young people! **Need help?** Contact your local Community Association, who can connect you with neighbours willing and able to lend a hand!