

COMPONENTS OF LANDSCAPES AND GARDENS

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COMPONENTS OF LANDSCAPES AND GARDENS

Thoughtful planning of garden features and ornaments make a garden beautiful. Garden has not only living components (plants) but also many nonliving components /enrichment items.

1. Lawn a. Lawn is a natural green carpet of a garden. It is a ground cover made of perennial fine grass which is maintained by continuous and close mowing.

b. Eg: Bermuda grass/Dhoob grass/Haryali grass – *Cynodon dactylon*

c. Korean grass – *Zoysia japonica*

d. Blue grass – *Poa annua*



2. Trees

a. Tree is a woody perennial with a distinct trunk and is grown mostly for shade, for flowers, foliage and for other economic uses. Moreover, trees serve as wind breaks and shelter belts and help to reduce air pollution and noise pollution.

b. Eg: *Delonix regia* (Gulmohar)

Peltophorum ferrugineum (Copper pod tree)

3. Shrubs

a. Shrubs are perennial plants having many woody branches arising from the base of the plant. Flowering as well as foliage shrubs are available.

b. Flowering shrub Eg: Bougainvillea, *Hibiscus rosasinensis*

c. Foliage shrubs Eg: *Murraya exotica*

d. Fragrant flowered shrub: Eg: Jasmine, *Gardenia jasminoides*

4. Herbs

Herbs are plants having non-woody stems and are smaller than shrubs. They provide contrast that makes a landscape lively. There are annuals as well as perennials

Annual herbs Eg: Cosmos, *Celosia*

Perennial herbs Eg: Chrysanthemum, Gerbera

5. Climbers, creepers, trailers and ramblers



Climbers are plants which possess special structures to climb over a support.

Eg: *Antigonon leptopus* (tendrils),

Ficus repens (rootlets)

Creepers are unable to climb vertically due to their weak stem and hence creep along the ground.

Eg: *Wedelia trilobata*

Trailers are similar to creepers but do not form roots at nodes.

Eg: *Tradescantia sp.*

Ramblers are plants which fail to climb over but somehow support themselves over the trunk or stem of other plants.

Eg: *Quisqualis indica*

6. Bulbous plants

These are plants with underground perennating structures which help them to tide over unfavorable situations. Eg: Gladiolus, Heliconia

7. Palms and Cycads

Palms are used in any one of the following ways in gardening

a. As a single specimen in lawn Eg: *Areca triandra*

b. For avenue planting Eg: *Roystonea regia*

c. As indoor and pot plants Eg: *Chrysalidocarpus lutescens* (Areca palm) Cycads are seed plants characterized by stout, woody trunk with crown having large, stiff, pinnate evergreen leaves. They are dioecious and very slow in growth.

8 Flower beds and borders

1. Flower beds usually consist of a single species while flower border is continuous with more length than width and containing plants of heterogeneous nature.
2. Flower beds are important components of a formal garden. Borders act as boundary for lawns, merge building with the garden, improves visual quality of the gardens
3. Flower beds Eg. of plants used – Portulaca Herbaceous border Eg: Canna, Chrysanthemum



Hedges

Serve the purpose of fencing or screening. Give shelter from strong wind.

Help to separate garden components. Shrubs or trees planted at regular intervals to form continuous screen is called hedge. Characteristics of species selected for hedging

- It should have thick texture and quick growth
- It should withstand frequent trimming
- Should be easy to propagate
- Should be drought hardy

Tall protective hedge Eg: Bougainvillea

Tall ornamental Eg: Hibiscus

Dwarf protective Eg: Opuntia

Dwarf ornamental Eg: Lantana, Acalypha



Edges

Mainly used to demarcate the places allotted for a specific purpose. Lining the borders of beds, lawn, paths etc. with low growing perennials or brick work or stones.

Foliage plants Eg: Alternanthera

Flowering plants Eg: Gerbera, Amaryllis

Rockery

To bring in a limited space the idea of a mountain or alpine garden with plants growing in crevices of rocks. A rockery should simulate the natural rock formation with plants growing on them.

Eg: Opuntia, Agave, Aloe, ferns etc.



Topiary

The art of clipping and shaping (shearing) shrubs and small trees or training the plants into different forms or shapes like animals, birds, arches etc.

Eg: *Casuarina*, *Murraya exotica*, *Duranta repens*



Trophy

Arranging potted colourful foliage or flowering shrubs and annuals or herbaceous perennials around a tree or any central object (statue or flag post). They are often arranged in tiers.

Ground covers



Refer to any plant which forms a low canopy of foliage or with spreading nature and cover the ground very densely so that weeds cannot grow under them. Used to provide protection from erosion and drought and to improve aesthetic appearance of the landscape.

Upright and spreading habit: Eg: *Alternanthera versicolour*

Trailing type: Eg: *Zebrina pendula*

Drives, roads, walks, paths, steps and stepping stones



1. The drives should be made on as strong foundation preferably of concrete which is long lasting and which allows passage of vehicle.
2. Width of road or drive should be 3-5m. Gravel drive and concrete drive are mainly used in the garden. Walks and paths should be at least 60 cm wide. Preferably between 90 and 120cm.
3. Generally used types of paths are gravel paths, brick path, stone paving and grass paths.
4. Steps are the means by which different levels of the garden can be connected. Stepping stones should be easy to walk on and their tops should be reasonably flat. Steps may be of brick, stone, tile, wood, concrete, grass or combinations of two or three of these.