

Landscaping

Definition

1. **Landscape** may be defined as **any area either big or small area** which is able to **mould or create a view or design.**
2. **Landscape gardening** is an **aesthetic branch** of horticulture which deals with **planting of ornamental plants in such a way that it creates picturesque or natural effect.**
3. **Beautification of tract of land** in a view **to create natural scene by planting shrubs, trees, lawns.**
4. It is both **science and art of establishment of ground** in such a way that it **gives scene of natural effect.**
5. **Making of pictures on ground with plants or other materials** or making of **gardens to create naturalistic effects.**

Landscaping may be defined as **decoration of tract of land with plants or garden material** so as to produce **natural/picturesque effect.**

Important considerations of Landscape gardening

1. A garden has to be **one's own creation and not an imitation**, giving due consideration to the local environment.
2. **Overcrowding** of the plants should be avoided.
3. Take advantage of **natural topography** while designing garden
4. **Perfect harmony of different components** is the **essence in landscape gardening.**
5. Before planning a design one must be sure for **what purpose the garden is – utility or beauty or both.**

Importance of Landscaping in India

Besides food and nutritional security, the aesthetic value is also equally important for our daily lively hood as well as for environmental purity. Growing ornamental crops is important from the following point of view;

1. Economic point of view

2. Aesthetic point of view

3. Social point of view

Economic point of view:

Landscape Gardening is a fast emerging major venture in the world, especially as a potential money-spinner for many countries in world. Many flowers and ornamental plants used for landscaping are being grown for domestic as well as for export market will provide more return/unit area than any other agricultural/horticultural crops. For example in markets such as Delhi and Mumbai and other metros a single spike of gladiolus and gerbera cutflower may sell upto Rs. 3-5 in *Kharif* and Rs.5-10/spike in Rabi/Summer. Gestation period of flower crop is very less compared to other crops.

Modern-day floriculture relies on production of high-value cut flowers such as rose, gladiolus, carnation, mums, orchids, tuberose, anthurium, liliun, gerbera etc.,. Now days, growing of these cutflower crops, suited for flower arrangements/decorations for bouquets preparation and for floral boskets, have increased substantially and its share of the total trade has also improved. The sale of loose flowers of Jasmine, Crossandra, Marigold, China Aster, Chrysanthemums, Berlaria and Gaillardia etc., are a roaring business in south India . There is immense scope of Landscaping as these form important component of Landscape gardening

The present trend in floriculture is for making dry flowers, extraction of natural colours and essential oils. There is lot of demand for good quality flower seeds and ornamental planting materials. At present the global ornamental crop industry is worth about US\$ 70 billion. The global consumption of the flowers is about US\$ 35 billion. More than three lakhs hectare area is under flower production in different countries of the world. Floriculture/ Landscaping generates *self employment opportunities* round the year. The employment opportunities in the field are varied such as.

- i. One can join the floriculture field as Landsacper farm/estate managers, plantation experts, supervisors and project coordinators and so on.
 - ii. Teaching, Research and Extension scientists/ teachers are some other avenues of employment in all SAUs and NARS.
 - iii. Marketing of Floriculture products for different ventures is emerging as a potential segment of this field.
 - iv. Besides, one can also work as consultant, landscape architect etc with proper training.
 - v. One can also work as entrepreneur and offer employment to others.
 - vi. In addition to these careers which involve research and actual growing of crops.
 - vii. Floriculture also provides service career opportunities which include such jobs like floral designers, grounds keepers, landscape designers, architects and horticultural therapists.
 - viii. Professional qualification combined with an inclination towards gardening and such other activities produces efficient floriculturists and landscaping professionals all over the globe.
- Presently more than 145 countries are involved in flower production on commercial scale.

Aesthetic point of view:

Lot of scope for landscaping and is considered as billion dollar earning industry in states which ultimately adds the monetary value of any building/property. To a Japanese flower arranger each flower expresses one or more meaning (eg. Ikebana). The wealth of any nation is linked with the health of its people. Unless we can ensure the healthy development of our citizens, especially for the younger generation, by providing them for open breathing places through bio-aesthetic planning like in Chandigarh city and landscape gardening, we cannot expect to build up a healthy society and prosperous nation.

Horticultural therapy - is the new dimension of horticultural sciences to heal the psychic debility and the science is to use garden, landscape plants, parts of plants, growing activity as tools to work. The bio-force of plants offer a permanent solution to the problems of bio force of human thus, bio aesthetic horticulture is emerging as a new occupational therapeutic tool to restore the lost rhythm and harmony back to human self or inner environment. It is being utilized in psychiatric hospitals, general hospitals and physical rehabilitation centres, homes for elderly, prisons and schools. The patients can achieve higher level of personal development and satisfaction.

Social point of view:

Flowers symbolize the purity, beauty, peace, love, adoration, innocence and passion etc. Hence, many flowers are used to express the most sensitive, delicate and loving feelings eloquently what our words fail to express. In our society no social function is complete without the use of flowers, floral ornaments, bouquets or flower arrangements they are invariably used in all social functions. Used in social gatherings, birthday parties, welcoming friends or relatives and honouring dignitaries. The concept of Valentine's Day is fast catching up in India also. The arrival of new born is rejoiced with flowers, To an Indian, especially for Hindu's, flowers have a much greater significance in religions offerings. It has estimated that more than 30-40 % of the total flower productions are being consumed in Kolkata city alone used for worshipping purpose. Floral garlands, gajras and venis are required in marriage ceremonies for adornment of hairs by women of all ages, especially in the south India. In the present modern era sick are wished for speedy recovery by offering beautiful cutflowers, while the deads are bidden farewell with flowers along with tear of sorrow. Flowers are very closely associated with mankind from the dawn of human civilization. There is increasing habit of „saying with flowers.“ Any Indians born with flowers live with flowers and finally dies with flowers.