

## Principles of Landscape Gardening

### Principles:

1. **Ideal landscape** expresses **thoughts, ideas or feelings** .
2. **Beauty , utility** should be **harmonically combined**.
3. **Overall plan of garden** should be made in such a way that it **catches attention of viewers** at first sight.
4. There should be **simplicity in design**.
5. **Overcrowding should be avoided** in the garden
6. It should have **enough open place**.

### Art & Principles of Landscaping:

1. **Rhythm: Repetition of same object at equidistant** is called Rhythm.
2. **Balance:** It refers to **equilibrium or equality** of usual attraction. It is used to **maintain optimum symmetry in garden**.
3. **Accent or Emphasis:** It is created in the garden **to avoid the monotonous view**. This also serves as the **centre of attraction (Focal Point)**
4. **Contrast:** It is most **useful in emphasizing the best features of an object**.
5. **Proportion:-** It is the **relation or ratio of one thing to another in magnitude**.
6. **Harmony:-**It is an **overall effect** of various features, styles, and colour schemes of the total scenes.
7. **Axis:-** In **formal gardens, axis is central** whereas in **informal style of garden**, it is **oblique**. It is an **unifying element, encircling type of axis** has **maximum point of attraction**.
8. **Vista:-**It is **3D / confined view of terminal building or dominant element /feature** of the garden.

The principle of landscaping have been discussed in detail as below:

**Initial Approach:** A good designer should design the landscape in the available space. The natural topography should be retained. Fencing, should be such that it looks **natural** as far as practicable and it **should not obstruct any natural view**. For example, if there is natural forest scenery or a hillock just outside the boundary, it should be incorporated in the garden design in a thoughtful manner so that it appears to be a part of the garden.

**Axis:** This is an **imaginary line in any garden around which the garden is created striking a balance**. Formal garden, the central line is axis. At **the end of an axis, generally there will be a centre of attraction**, although other architectural features such as bird-bath or sundial can also be erected at about the midpoint.

**Focal Point:** A focal point in every garden is a **centre of attraction or architectural feature** focused as a point of interest such as statue, fountain, rockery etc.

**Mass effect:** The **use of single plant species in large numbers in one place** is done to have mass effect. It should be such that it never appears to be monotonous; the sizes of masses should be varied.

**Unity:** Unity in a garden is very important feature and it improves artistic look of the garden. Unity is achieved from various angles. **Firstly**, the unity of style, feeling, and function between the building and the garden has to be achieved. **Secondly**, the different components of the gardens should merge harmoniously with each other. The aim is to create an overall impression of the garden rather than blowing up special features. **Lastly**, it is of prime importance to achieve harmony between the landscape inside and outside garden. A garden laid out in complete defiance of the local conditions may look exotic, but is not a successful garden. As for example, cacti planted in a seashore garden is completely out of place as these are inhabitants of dry localities.

**Space:** The aim of every garden design should be **such that the garden should appear larger than its actual size**. One way of achieving this is to keep vast open spaces, preferably under lawn and restrict plantings in periphery, normally avoiding any planting in the centre.

**Divisional Lines:** In a landscape garden, there should not be any hard and fast divisional lines. In fact areas under lawn, gravel, stone or cement path, and shrubbery border have their **natural divisional lines** from immediate neighbour. The divisional lines should be artistic with gentle curves are also useful. Above **all lines should harmonize with one another**.

**Proportion and Scale:** Proportion in a garden is defined as a **definite relationship/ratio between different elements**. For example, a rectangle having a ratio of 5:8 is considered to be of pleasing proportion. As this ratio comes down the form looks neither a square nor a rectangle and the design becomes undesirable.

**Mobility:** In a temperate zones, **the garden changes colour very sharply and contrastingly from one season to the other thus symbolizing mobility or movement**. For example, to create some symbol of movement trees such as Bengal or Indian Almond (*Terminalia catappa*) which changes its leaf colour into striking red twice annually before falling or *Lagerstroemia flos-reginae* which also changes the colour of the leaves to coppery shade in the autumn before shedding, or *Madhuca indica* and *Ficus religiosa*, the new foliage of these appearing as coppery red in the spring, should be planted in some parts of the garden. This, in addition, improves the landscape. The **mobility can also be achieved by raising flowering annuals of**

**different colours** in form of flower beds. Changing the position of potted plants may also bring mobility in the garden.

**Style:** Lastly, one has to decide about the style to be adopted for a particular garden. Every garden designer has to invent his **own style of gardening** commensurate with his **budget, taste and the nature** of the site, ease of maintenance.