



Yard Layout

Desert Home Gardening Class
presented by Ralph Thompson

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Topics...

- ❖ 6 Factors influencing yard layout and landscape design
- ❖ 8 Design Principles to consider
- ❖ 1 Simple planning process

Plus a couple of side trips to cover key points

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Use / Planning Areas

- ❖ Public:
 - typically, the area seen by passers-by from the street, i.e. the front yard area
 - creates the first impression of the home
- ❖ Private:
 - outdoor living area/space for family or personal use
- ❖ Service / Storage / Work:
 - generally not visible from street or outdoor living area



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Factors Influencing Landscape Design

- ❖ Desires and needs of the people who will use the space
 - Analyze family activities and routines
 - Consider outdoor living, relaxing, entertaining, playing, gardening, and household servicing
 - Design for the current situation but make allowances for future changes in the family and the landscape
 - Singles and young couples – entertaining, low maintenance
 - Children – little ones-preteen-teen
 - Gardeners – vegetable and flower space
 - Pets – play area, restroom area
 - Seniors – entertaining, low maintenance

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Uses...



- Young Children •
- Play Areas •
- Pets •
- of all kinds •
- Relaxing spaces •
- Conversation area •
- Entertaining •
- Grilling •
- Movie Night •
- Flower Garden •
- Vegetable Garden •
- Getting Older •
- Accessible •

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Factors Influencing Landscape Design (cont)

- ❖ Desires and needs of the people who will use the space
- ❖ Climate
 - Seasonal and time-of-day variations
 - Sun at sunrise and sunset
 - Sunlight and shade patterns
 - Temperatures
 - Water availability

More on this in a moment . . .

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Factors Influencing Landscape Design (cont)

- ❖ Desires and needs of the people who will use the space
- ❖ Climate
- ❖ Site
 - Natural and human-made objects, existing or planned
 - Property lines
 - Views – desirable and undesirable
 - Topography, elevation, and grades
 - Soil and Drainage
 - Micro-environments
 - Traffic Patterns and Walkways

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Site...

- Undesirable Views •
- Desirable View •
- Walkways •
- Drainage •
- Elevation Changes •
- Slopes •
- Microclimate Areas •

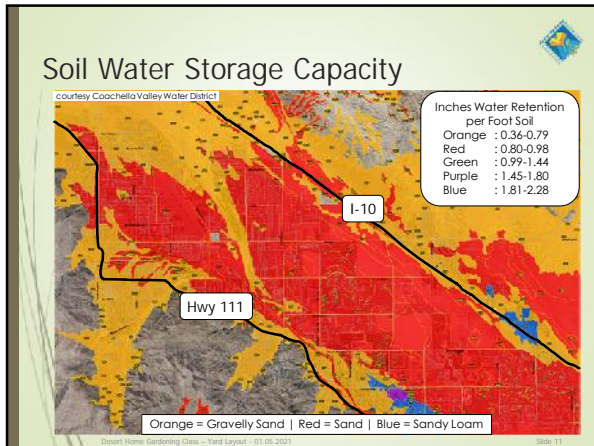
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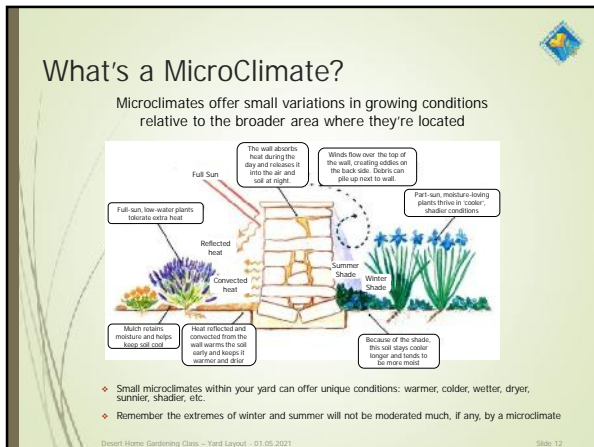
What about Dirt?

The next session will give you all the 'Dirt' on Dirt you ever wanted ... and more

SOIL TYPE	SOIL TEXTURE	SOIL COMPONENTS	INTAKE RATE	WATER RETENTION	DRAINAGE EROSION
Sandy soil	Coarse texture	Small	Very high	Very low	Low erosion Good drainage
		Loamy sand	High	Low	
Loamy soil	Moderately coarse	Sandy loam	Moderately high	Moderately low	Low erosion Good drainage
		Fine loam	Moderately high	Moderately low	
	Medium texture	Very fine loam	Medium	Moderately high	Moderate drainage
		Loam	Medium	Moderately high	Moderate drainage
Moderately fine	Clay loam	Sandy clay loam	Moderately low	High	Moderate drainage
		Silty clay loam	Moderately low	High	Moderate drainage
		Silty clay loam	Moderately low	High	Moderate drainage
Clay soil	Fine texture	Sandy clay	Low	High	Drainage Severe erosion
		Silty clay Clay	Low	High	

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- ### Factors Influencing Landscape Design (cont)
- ❖ Desires and needs of the people who will use the space
 - ❖ Climate
 - ❖ Site
 - ❖ Natural Disaster Potential
 - Wildfire
 - Flooding
 - Wind
 - Earthquake
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Factors Influencing Landscape Design (cont)

- ❖ Desires and needs of the people who will use the space
- ❖ Climate
- ❖ Site
- ❖ Natural Disaster Potential
- ❖ Ordinances – HOA, city, or county regulations
 - Easements
 - Height restrictions
 - Trees – types or sex
 - Visibility – corner lots, view protection

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Factors Influencing Landscape Design (cont)

- ❖ Desires and needs of the people who will use the space
- ❖ Climate
- ❖ Site
- ❖ Natural Disaster Potential
- ❖ Ordinances – HOA, city, or county regulations
- ❖ Budget
 - Not just about money – also time, knowledge, and skill
 - Don't forget on-going maintenance and up-keep

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Topics...

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Design Principles

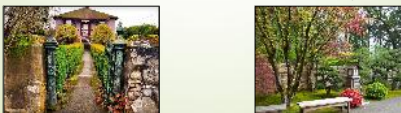
- ❖ Scale - refers to the proportion between things
 - Plants that grow too large will overwhelm a building
 - Small plantings may get lost in larger arrangements



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Design Principles

- ❖ Scale
- ❖ Balance - refers to the visual weight on either side of a focal point
 - Symmetrical: a formal balance with one side duplicated or mirrored on the other side
 - Asymmetrical: an equilibrium or balance achieved by using different objects
 - Consider color and texture as well - not just size



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Design Principles

- ❖ Scale
- ❖ Balance
- ❖ Perspective - techniques can make spaces seem larger or smaller



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Design Principles


- ❖ Scale
- ❖ Balance
- ❖ Perspective
- ❖ Unity - group or arrange different parts of the design to appear as a single cohesive unit



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Design Principles

- ❖ Scale
- ❖ Balance
- ❖ Perspective
- ❖ Unity
- ❖ Simplicity – this “less is more” principle gives force and impact
 - > A landscape with too many ideas in a small space lacks unity
 - > Too many plant varieties, accent plants, contrasting forms, textures, or colors distract from a coherent visual theme



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Design Principles


- ❖ Scale
- ❖ Balance
- ❖ Perspective
- ❖ Unity
- ❖ Simplicity
- ❖ Rhythm & Repetition - helps draw one's eye through the design
 - > Rhythm results when elements appear in a definite direction and in regular measures
 - > Repeating elements can achieve a continuity or flow to the entire landscape
 - > Can be expressed in color as well as form



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Design Principles

- ❖ Scale
- ❖ Balance
- ❖ Perspective
- ❖ Unity
- ❖ Simplicity
- ❖ Rhythm & Repetition
- ❖ Accent - inclusion of an element that stands out in an orderly design
 - A focal point is important in the total landscape picture
 - A design may be dull or static without accent



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Design Principles



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Topics...

- ❖ 6 Factors influencing yard layout and landscape design
- ❖ 8 Design Principles to consider
- ❖ 1 Simple planning process
 - Map Existing Layout
 - Map your Shade
 - Map the End State

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Step 1 – Map Existing Layout, Part 1


- ❖ You will need:
 - Graph / Grid Paper
 - Pencil
 - Measuring Tape
 - Photos can be helpful (Smartphone)
- ❖ Roughly sketch a layout of your property including buildings, driveways/walkways/paths, fences/walls, patios, pools, gardens, planters, shrubbery, lawn areas, etc
 - Don't worry about being totally exact, but be mindful with spacing and relative sizes
 - Make sure to include large trees
 - Include irrigation valves and controllers



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Step 1 – Map Existing Layout, Part 2

- ❖ Measure your site
 - Note dimensions on map
- ❖ Review your rough drawing and, if needed or desired:
 - Re-draw to clarify lines
 - Re-draw to scale using grid lines (1 box = 1 foot)
 - Repeat as necessary...
- ❖ Once you're satisfied...
 - Make several copies
 - On one copy note anything you are planning on changing, i.e. removing a tree, adding a storage building, an outdoor kitchen, or a raised bed, etc.

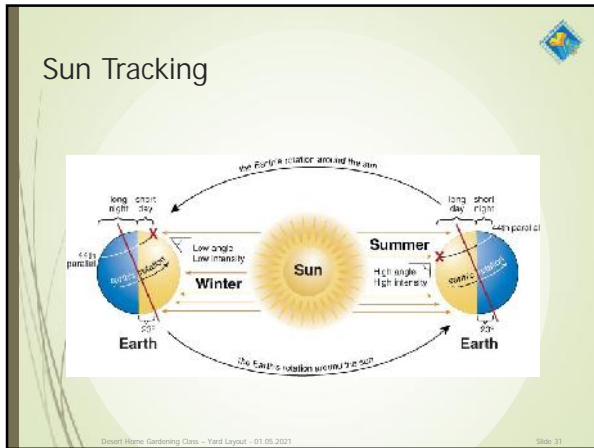


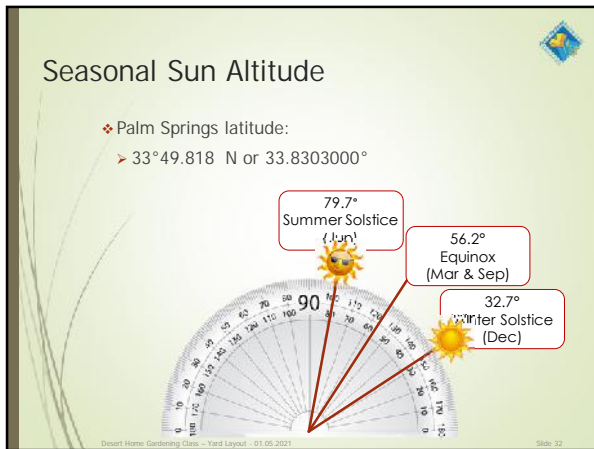
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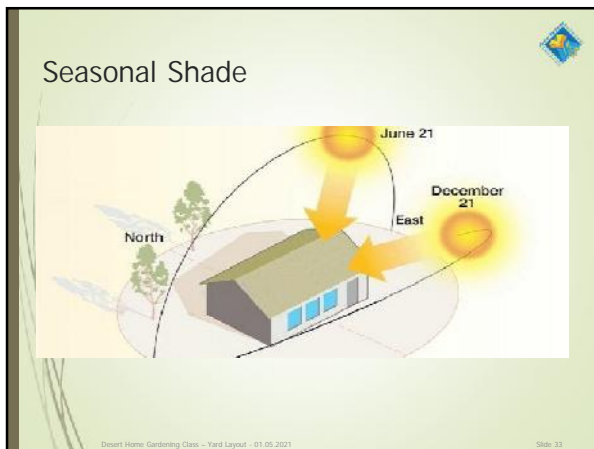
Step 2 – Map your Shade

- ❖ Mistake Number ONE: Seeing sun and believing that that space is sunny
- ❖ Mistake Number TWO: Seeing shade and believing that that space is shady
- ❖ FACT ONE: The sun moves throughout the day from sunrise (east) to sunset (west)
- ❖ FACT TWO: The angle of the sun changes throughout the year creating the seasons

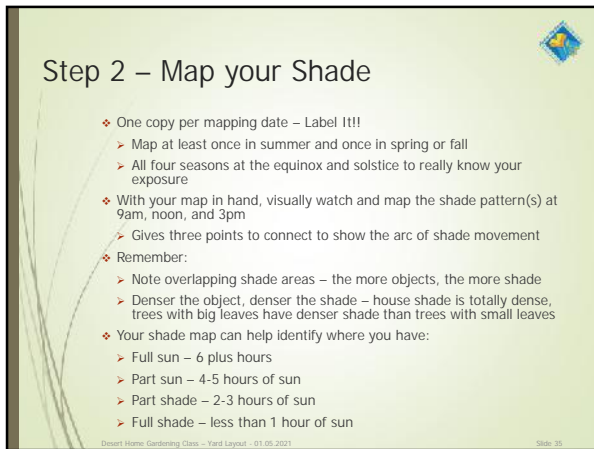
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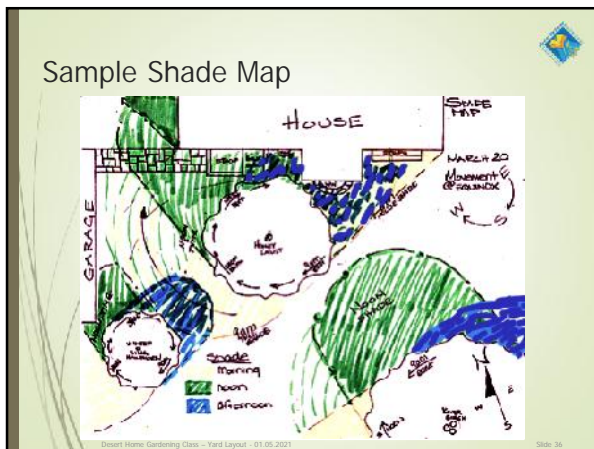






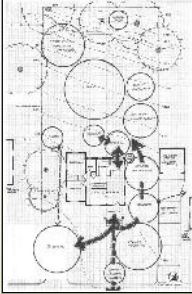






Step 3 – Map the End State

- ❖ Using your layout map and your Shade Map(s)
- ❖ Map Usage Areas
- ❖ Map Planting zones
 - Grass areas
 - Garden plots
 - Raised Beds
 - Trees
- ❖ Map Irrigation zones and layout



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Psst!
Want in on one of the key
secrets to a gorgeous,
productive garden?
It's consistent watering.

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Water Needs

- ❖ Plants water needs vary widely
 - Depends on a number of factors, including the type of plant, its stage of growth, type of soil, weather, and time of year
 - Young seedlings and new transplants with limited root systems need a consistent supply of moisture
 - Established trees and shrubs with more extensive root systems need less supplemental water
- ❖ Water plants when they need it
- ❖ Apply enough to moisten the plant's entire root system
 - then let the soil dry slightly before watering again
- ❖ Apply water slowly so it's absorbed by the soil rather than running off
- ❖ Avoid daily light sprinklings which encourage shallow root growth

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