



**Virginia Green Industry Council**

For Immediate Use

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Electronic Version:

[www.viriniagreen.org](http://www.viriniagreen.org)

## **Pleasure in Your Outdoor Rooms**

The Virginia Green Industry Council recommends that homeowners consider five major factors when planning a landscape: sight screening; comfort; beauty; convenience and safety; and ease of maintenance. A house with a nice looking yard is an investment that grows and makes it sell more quickly and more nearly at the seller's asking price. If homeowners follow a policy of keeping a well landscaped yard with each home that is bought, financial benefits will be reaped with each sale. In addition to the financial rewards, a well-kept yard can provide other benefits to the homeowner.

Our yards can provide privacy from the tensions of the outside world. A hedge of trees and shrubs can screen out unsightly views. The battle against visual pollution begins at the doorstep of your home. Whatever you see outside your house is your landscape, whether you own it or not. Good planning can include a neighbor's beautiful tree while screen out his garage.

A screen of living plants can reduce the sound level of a busy street or highway. Thick foliage can muffle street noises and cleanse a polluted atmosphere. Coniferous (evergreen) trees are better sound barriers than deciduous varieties because the greater number of needles work as sound screen all year.

A smart landscape design will help direct traffic. Walks and paths should be determined by logical patterns. Shrubs should be planted so as not to overhand walks and snag clothing. Steps should be lighted for safety.

With proper designing, the yard can provide outdoor rooms for comfort and relaxation. The temperature in a tree's shade is 15 to 20 degrees cooler than in the sun. A row of trees and shrubs can protect against annoying winds.

Maintenance can be a pleasure and wise planning will help make it so. Design flat borders of brick or stone between flower beds and lawn to eliminate tedious edging. Raised planting beds and plant containers can make gardening easier. The use of mulches and groundcovers can reduce watering and weeding chores.

Go to our consumer website for additional gardening information at [www.VirginiaGardening.com](http://www.VirginiaGardening.com)

The Virginia Green Industry Council is the voice of the horticulture industry in the Commonwealth and is dedicated to enhancing the beauty of the state's environment, the well-being of our citizens, improving our state's economy, and improving the health and wellness for everyone in Virginia. The Council is made up of providers and consumers of horticultural products and services. The Council works to provide public and industry education, environmental guidelines and other information that will keep Virginia green and growing. For more information, visit [www.viriniagreen.org](http://www.viriniagreen.org). 540-382-0943 FAX: 540-382-2716

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