

The Four-Season Yard

Plan a landscape with something to enjoy all year.

FOR HOMEOWNERS, DESIGNERS & CONTRACTORS



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30+ YEARS OF FIELD EXPERIENCE

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Give every season a job

In Western Pennsylvania, the landscape can go from wet spring soil to summer heat, brilliant fall color, and a long gray winter. A solid planting plan should be able to handle those changes without looking like four unrelated gardens.

SPRING | ENERGY

Spring should feel like the landscape is waking up. Use early bulbs, flowering trees, fresh foliage, and a few fragrant shrubs near entries or patios. Good options can include serviceberry, redbud, flowering cherry, Koreanspice viburnum, allium, daffodils, and iris. Place spring color where you will see it from inside the house, because the weather may not have you outdoors every day yet.

SUMMER | USE

Summer is when the yard works hardest. Shade, circulation, seating, privacy, and outdoor living become just as important as flowers. Long-performing perennials and shrubs help carry the display: catmint, coneflower, hydrangea, spirea, daylily, lavender in the right conditions, and ornamental grasses. Group plants in repeated masses instead of scattering one of everything.

FALL | DEPTH

Fall deserves more than mums by the front door. Plan for foliage color, berries, grasses, and late flowers. Serviceberry, viburnum, oakleaf hydrangea, red maple, sedum, asters, and ornamental grasses can bring warmth and texture. Leave healthy grass plumes and sturdy seed heads standing where they add winter character.

WINTER | FORM

Winter exposes the plan. This is when evergreens, branching patterns, bark, stone, walls, walks, and lighting earn their place. Boxwood, inkberry holly, spruce, pine, compact conifers, river birch, and red-twig dogwood can help, depending on the site. Use evergreens as anchors, not as a solid row around the foundation.

Plant names are examples, not a shopping list. Soil, moisture, deer pressure, mature size, sun, and maintenance all matter. A plant that performs beautifully in one yard can struggle a few streets away if the conditions are different.

See the layers working together

