



Planting Lakeside Landscapes

Stop Mowing:

The easiest way to establish a lakeside landscape is to simply stop mowing. Given enough time the surrounding forest will re-colonize the part of your lakefront that you allow it to. However the process is slow, taking even decades, and you have no control over species and placement. If, instead, you choose to plant your own lakeside landscape you should stop mowing next to the shoreline while planning and preparing to plant. This will offer the lake more protection than a lawn until you are ready to install a lakeside landscape.

Permits!

Before you begin any landscaping check with your Town Code Enforcement Officer to see if you need any NRPA or Shoreland Zoning permits.

Spot Planting vs. Turf Removal:

There are two methods of planting used for lakeside landscapes; spot planting and turf removal. Spot planting is simply digging a hole where you wish to plant your shrub, tree or perennial instead of preparing entire beds. Turf removal is exactly that, you prepare the entire planned area for planting with a rototiller or by hand.

Spot Planting

- Good for areas with pre-existing vegetation
- Also used in open areas
- Little mulch necessary
- Permit *may be* required (possibly Shoreland Zoning permit)

Turf Removal

- Makes planting easier by preparing the soil ahead of time
- Only used in open areas
- Mulch needed in large quantity
- NRPA permit required (possibly Shoreland Zoning permit)

Planting container grown plants:

Most of the vegetation you purchase for a lakeside landscape will be container grown be they trees and shrubs in pots or perennials in flats. The follow procedure is a general guideline for planting container grown vegetation:

1. The hole you dig for the plant should be twice the width of the container and no more than the same depth, in clayey soil it can be slightly more shallow. The added width allows the root system to infiltrate loosened soil when first establishing itself.
2. Remove the plant from the container and loosen the root system with your fingers possibly even scoring it with a knife. Place the plant in the center of the hole.



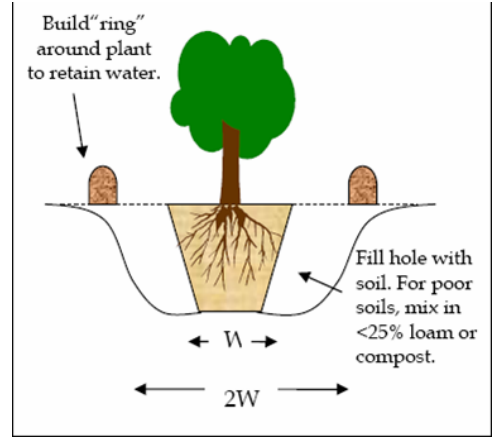
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3. Backfill around the root system by $\frac{2}{3}$ and water thoroughly to remove air pockets.
4. Backfill remaining $\frac{1}{3}$ of hole, pat the soil down and build a soil “ring” or berm around the plant. The berm will help contain water so it sinks into the plant’s root system.
5. Water the plant again thoroughly to remove all leftover air pockets.
6. Mulch bare soil to within 2 inches of the stem, mulching to the stem can cause the plant to die. Mulch will retain the soil, its moisture and discourage weed growth.



Maintenance:

For the first year you should water your lakeside landscape deeply once a week throughout the growing season. After the first year you should only need to water the landscape during dry periods until it has established itself (approximately 5 years). Since lakeside landscapes are grown on the waterfront we recommend that you refrain from using pesticides and fertilizers. By installing native species in your landscape rather than exotics you significantly reduce the need for both products.

Special Notes:

Root Bound Plants: Container grown plants will often come to your property root bound. It is very important that you tease the roots out of their circular pattern and/or score them with a knife to stimulate new growth. If you do not, the root system could continue growing in the same pattern where it will quickly run out of nutrients and water leading to stunted and even dead plants.

Glazing: Glazing occurs in clayey soil. If, when digging the hole, the walls become smoothed down (or glazed) through shovel action they will act as barriers to water movement. The plant may drown by the weekly watering. To avoid this score the sides of the hole with a garden fork.

Soil Amendments: When amending poorer soils prepare the mix at about 25% loam or compost. However, by choosing your plants carefully, no amendment is necessary. There are many native species for every soil type.

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