

THE GREEN SHEET



Sustainable Landscape Management in Southeastern Wisconsin | Summer 2018

Summer Sustainability

Tips for Summer Floral Arrangements

Looking to bring the outdoors in with some of the lovely flowers growing in your landscape? Here are some essential techniques and tips to achieve some of the best looking blooms for your floral arrangements. Thanks to Ariella Chezar, author of the book, *The Flower Workshop*.

1. Condition and hydrate- since the key ingredient for good floral maintenance is water, supply lots of it and be sure your flowers are prepped to absorb as much as they can.

2. Trim, then trim again- cut flower stems when you bring them in, and cut them again immediately before you add them to a vase. Special tip- cut the stems at an angle which exposes more of the stem to water.

3. Remove all excess foliage- this step is especially important to keep in mind if the leaves fall at or within the water line as they will decay quickly and muck up the water significantly reducing the life of the arrangement.

4. Prep your vessel- sanitize your vase to be sure you're not introducing anything that will aide in decay. Fresh, cold water is best, however, if you want to force tightly closed flower heads so they open fully and faster, use warm water instead.



Arranged using homegrown flowers



Floral arrangements by Lynda Lowry, owner of *Arranged: Flowers with Friends & Green Team* crew lead. The flowers used are from her backyard.

5. Cut to fit- as a design rule, your tallest branch or flower should be about one and a half times the height of the vase you are using. But breaking the rules is always fun, so don't hesitate to tweak this step to fit your vision.

Take your time- arranging is the fun part, enjoy the time spent playing around with all of the beauty your landscape has offered you and relish in seeing flowers in a new light. Happy floral arrang-



Lynda Lowry
Bed Maintenance Crew Leader
The Green Team of WI, Inc.

Looking to stop fighting your outdoor living space and start ENJOYING it?

Maintenance | Design | Installation

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Summer Services

Sustainable Landscape Management

Why use a professional landscaper? There are plenty of simple reasons: to get your weekends back, to tap into years of horticultural expertise, or maybe your project is complex, and demands an expert in the technical aspects of landscape design and construction.

These are all great reasons, but there are other reasons to engage the services of a professional landscaper, reasons that are less simple, farther-reaching and much more important. In a nutshell, a knowledgeable, mindful landscaper can do more than produce and maintain a beautiful space—they can help to minimize your impact on the environment and maximize your contribution to the health of your ecosystem.

Professional landscapers that plant, design and build with an eye toward sustainability are working to change the nature of the landscaping industry. Landscaping is more than just the relatively tiny plot of land around a suburban home or commercial building. It is an interconnected piece of our ecosystem and has far-reaching effects when one considers a thousand suburban yards, or ten-thousand yards. When taken in sum, the choices made with regard to landscaping have a significant impact



Sustainably managed landscapes

on our waterways, our green spaces, the air we breathe, and the health of our families, friends, neighbors and pets.

Sustainability Mission:

With the value we place on sustainability, we would love to have all clients avoid chemical applications and our primary focus is to serve customers who share that value. However, we also work with customers who wish to use limited, selected chemicals. We can discuss what options are best for your needs, with clarity about the methods and strategies we employ.

Here are a few questions to ask when deciding on a professional landscaper for your project:

- Do you have or use a designer that has been successful using native species and edibles?
- Can you design a landscape that will minimize water runoff and use storm water effectively?
- What do you do with your organic waste? Is it composted or mixed with rubbish in a dumpster?
- Do you offer an all-natural turf care program?
- Can you use all-natural fertilizer on my turf and beds?
- Do you offer natural, non-chemical weed control options?

A professionally designed and installed landscape will add beauty and value to your home while providing a space that is both calming and energizing. Landscaping mindfully provides benefits that range far beyond your yard.



Bradley Blaeser
President
The Green Team of WI, Inc.

Favorite Green Team Workplace Perk

There are so many great perks about working for The Green Team. This is my 5th season and the perks just keep getting better. Every person here has something different to offer and even though we are a team, there is still a great sense of individuality. It is really important to stay healthy to avoid injuries and The Green Team gives each employee 10 free visits to the chiropractor as well as an additional \$20/month to join another activity such as the gym. Every month, there is a company outing and just recently the employees were asked to pick a month and an activity or place to go for that month. These outings have ranged from rock climbing to pedal taverns to canoeing to mini golf, etc. There are so many other perks, but these are some of the ones that I enjoy. The Green Team is a big family and I am glad to have found them and continuing growing every year!



Kathryn Gunderson
Bed Maintenance Crew Leader
The Green Team of WI, Inc.

Spotlight on Summer and Fall Services

Did you know The Green Team of WI offers design and installation services?

- Seasonal Colorscaping
- Green Roofs
- Playgrounds
- Patios
- Dry River Beds
- Rain Gardens
- Raised Beds
- Retaining Walls
- Walkways