

BIG Yards



By Arthur Navarrette
Executive Care Landscaping



Greetings, I hope that this article finds everyone well. I definitely think we met our water quota for the year. It has been a very good year in that regard. We have had the normal spring phone calls and jobs for landscapes, and I am very thankful for those, so thank you.

I have the privilege to meet many different types of people. Our client base is far and wide because we have been in business since 1989. By nature, I am a people person and enjoy most people. I really enjoy helping my clients with their landscapes. When I meet people, there are those that want land. I personally do not prefer that because I know the work it entails, but I understand the peacefulness of having a large yard. Space is nice, provided you have the means to pay for its care, as well as the time and energy to care for it. My clients wanted space. They purchased a couple acres of land, and we have landscaped about a 1/2 acre. The builder did a 1/2 acre (the front yard), and the rest remains natural.

Here are some concerns for those of you contemplating that freedom. The first is the obvious. Deep lots require deep pockets of finances. It is expensive. If the average landscape is between \$28k (medium to small lot) to \$42K (medium to large), these larger lots are a minimum of \$65K - \$85K. We are currently working with a client that when finished will exceed the high number. This is because there is a lot of old landscape that needs to be removed, and the lawns are heavily impacted by tree roots that need to be removed. So, what happens if you love land but have a tight budget? The larger of the two jobs shown is an example of what can be done.

I am very happy with the way my client, Tami's landscape has matured after install 5 years ago. This landscape was a bit tight, but I do not feel it is lacking anything. If the client is happy with it, which she is, then it is lacking nothing. I remember when we added the water feature. We did the plumbing, installed the rock spires, laid the flagstone around it and finally did the benches. Those were very nice features, which I was glad could fit into the budget. However, as a designer, and with unlimited resources what more could I have done? It is a large yard, so we could have introduced some boulder large boulders artfully arranged. This would have reduced the plant counts and reduced the pruning. Also, we could have added more night lights, highlighting more of the Oak trees. Another pathway would make caring for the plants easier. All of these ideas are nice, but are not required to enjoy the landscape.

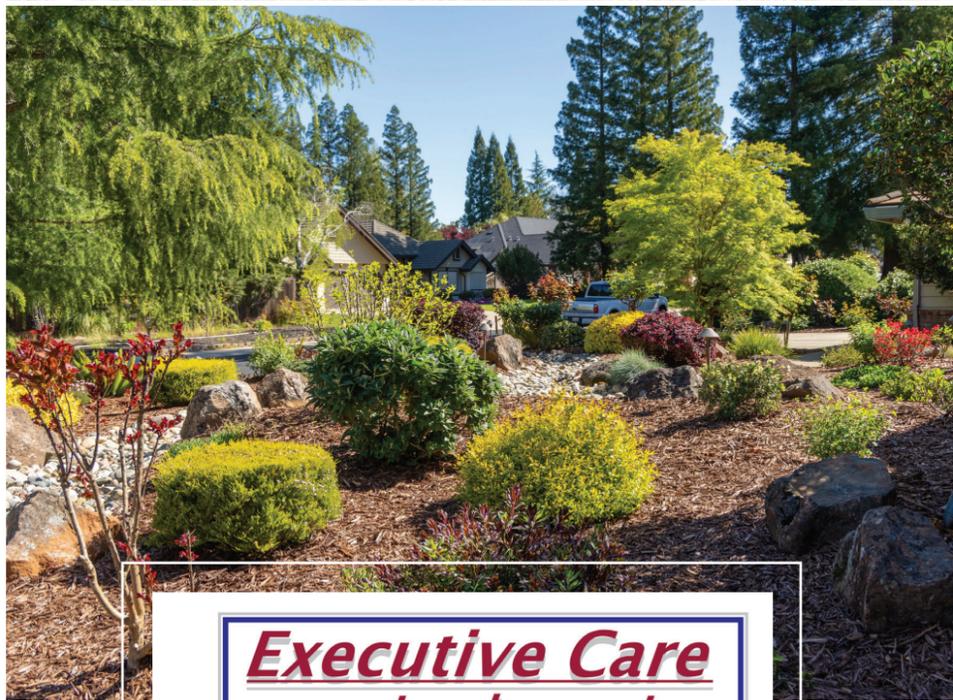
The good news is we can always work in phases. It does not all have to be done at the same time. We can plumb for a water feature and install it later, or we can prewire for night lights and install them at another time. There are ways to work within the budget. Normally, within five years it can all be completed.

If you look at the picture, you will see that the mulch is thin and discolored, yet the landscape still looks nice because of all the contrasting colors of the plants. As I write this article, I hope I am not discouraging those of you that come from land or want to have land around you. I am simply making you aware of some of the challenges that go with large lots. Nothing is more depressing than land that is not kept up, and filled with weeds.

The next landscape is a corner front yard and is lawn less. When lawn is not wanted, you really need to know your plants. You never want to create a high maintenance yard for your customers. As with Tami's landscape and this one, which belongs to Rita, what you do not see is overgrown plants. That is because there are a lot of plants that mature at 3 feet, and those are what we used. Along the fence, I like them to be around 4-5 feet. By knowing the plants heights and water and sun requirements, you can match them in an artful way and still have a low maintenance yard. Rita's landscape is also about 5 years old, and we come out about twice a year to help them by using our Spring Ready program. Rita's landscape is one of the few yards that we did with two dry stream beds, which created two exits. Because it is a corner house, we can take advantage of two viewings. We just added bark, which always makes the plants show better because of the contrast.

Gardeners – hopefully you have your garden planted by now. If not, you need to start soon. When picking vegetables, such as tomatoes, be sure to read the maturing times. Some take longer to mature than others, and the later in the season you are, the more important it is for you to know this.

Until next time, good Gardening - Arthur



Executive Care
Landscape Inc.
PROMISED QUALITY & COMMITMENT
916-765-9040
LANDSCAPES OF DESIGN
www.ExecutiveCareInc.com
License #804681

See what our clients are saying about us

PAVERS | PATIOS & WALKWAYS | STAIRS & RETAINING WALLS
DRY RIVER BEDS WITH BOULDERS | WATERFALLS & FOUNTAINS

Call for a FREE CONSULTATION*

*Free consultation given within local area only. Nominal charge may apply for travel outside of local work area. Call for details. CL#804681

