

WHAT GOES INTO CREATING AN URBAN PATIO YARD?

- › Layers of softscape (plants and living things) and hardscape (non-living architectural features) combine to provide diversity.
- › Flowering plants to create a rich, colourful environment for pollinator habitat
- › Mulch to conserve water, suppress weeds and build the soil
- › Water from runoff and rain barrels to support diverse plants



Healthy Yards
Healthy Communities

THE CITY OF
Red Deer

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HEALTHY YARDS

URBAN PATIO

Healthy Yards can be beautiful and functional. They save water, reduce waste, reduce air pollution, and increase ecological resilience.



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WATER

Downspout feeds beds: captures and uses rain onsite, diverting it away from storm drains. Rain barrel stores rain water for future use.

MULCH

WOOD MULCH

Reduces water loss, suppresses weeds, moderates soil temperature, and amends soil. Wood mulch can be used around trees and shrubs, flower gardens, and as pathways.



SOIL

Grass cycling is an easy way of making use of grass clippings: simply leave them on your lawn! This returns valuable nutrients like nitrogen to the soil, reducing your need to apply fertilizer and helps retain moisture in your lawn, which reduces the need for watering.



WHAT TO PLANT IN AN URBAN PATIO YARD?

JAPANESE LILAC

(deciduous tree)

Height 20 feet and spread 20 feet. Requires full sun; prefers average to moist conditions and should not be allowed to dry out. Its flowers bloom from late spring to early summer and attract pollinators. It will grow well here, but it is not native to North America.

Choose plants that are native to the area and drought tolerant to get the best results.



CREEPING THYME

(flowering herbaceous perennial groundcover)

Height 8 inches and spreads 16 inches. It requires full sun; is drought-tolerant and does not tolerate excess moisture. Its flowers bloom from early to mid-summer. It will grow well here, but it is not native to North America.



To ensure your plants thrive, be sure to place them where they get the right amount of sunshine or shade to meet their needs.

NINEBARK

(deciduous shrub)

Height 6 feet and spread 6 feet. This plant prefers full sun to partial shade and tolerates dry or moist conditions. It has white flowers and blooms from late spring to early summer. It is native to North America.



BLANKET FLOWER

(flowering herbaceous perennial)

Height 8 inches and spread 1 foot. It requires full sun and well-drained soil. It does not require a lot of watering. It tolerates urban pollution and environmental salt. The flowers bloom from early summer to late fall and attract pollinators. It is native to North America.



DAYLILY

(herbaceous flowering perennial)

Comes in a wide variety of shapes, sizes and colours. It does best in full sun to partial shade and is adaptable to both dry and moist locations. It blooms in early summer and attracts pollinators. It will grow well here, but it is not native to North America.



YOU CAN HAVE A HEALTHY YARD

Just keep these three things in mind when planning and planting your garden.

Water: Catch the rain and use it wisely (landscape design and appropriate plants, mulch, rain barrels).

Soil: Think of the ecosystem below your feet; feed and build the soil first (composting, mulch, soil testing).

Diversity: Using a variety of plants and natural elements will create a biologically diverse landscape can help prevent disease and create a sustainable and healthy ecosystem. Planting a diverse garden also provides habitat - food and shelter - for many birds and beneficial insects such as pollinators.