

Landscaping: A division in Horticulture

A. Horticulture- science that deals with cultivation of garden crops

Horticulture is derived from two greek words "Hortus: and "colere". Hortus means garden, colere means to cultivate.

Horticulture deals with two major divisions:

1. **Food crops** **Pomology**- science that deals with study about fruit crops

Olericulture- science that deals with study about vegetable crops

2. **Ornamental plants** **Floriculture**- science that deals with study about ornamental plants

Landscape designs- science that deals with planning, design and beautification of the environment for human habitation.

B. Introduction:

Landscaping: The art and science of developing the outdoor environment using soft landscaping (ornamental plants) and hard-scapes (non-plant objects) components to serve the needs and desires of people. It serves both the aesthetic and functional purposes. The outdoor surroundings could be designed with natural or man-made components / materials / objects.

Landscape design / Garden design: Science and art of organizing and enriching outdoor space through the placement of plants and structures in agreeable and useful relationship with natural environment.

Design essentially entails manner in which objects are artificially arranged in order to attain a particular objective, usually may be not always, a functional and a visibly pleasing arrangement.

Landscape design is more than just a cosmetic treatment to be applied to indifferent or insensitive architectural or engineering in order to soften the harsh edges or disguise an awkward layout.

Landscape: Layout / arrangement of ground or land in scenery. It could be natural or artificial (man-made)

C. Natural versus man-made (artificial) landscaping

Natural landscape: A landscape that is unaffected by human activities. It may contain components that are living or non-living or both. Thus landscape tends to vary in their degree of naturalness. Therefore, classifications have been made into four types:

- a **natural** landscape is one that is unaffected by human activity
- a **sub-natural** landscape is one where if human activity was removed it would go back to a normal state

- a **semi-natural** landscape is one that has been drastically modified by human activity but has some natural elements left intact
- an **agricultural** landscape is one that has been totally altered and arranged by human activity - very little if any naturalness is left

Examples of natural landscape in Nigeria are; natural surrounding such as forest or desert, rocks (Olumo rock, Zuma rock), Erin Ijesa water falls, Ikogusi warm / cold spring, plateau in Jos, Mambila etc.

Artificial Landscape: The use of artificially made plants (synthetic or otherwise) for landscaping of outdoor environment. Though, it will not and cannot replace the natural plants in their effects and functions on the landscape, but could also add to the beauty of the environment. It has the advantage of low maintenance in terms of watering, fertilizer application, mowing incase of lawns and turfs, trimming/pruning and so on. Other items in artificial designs include the use of art works, e.g. sculpture (UNAAB Olumo model), concrete benches and tables, water bodies such as water fountains, artificial springs, etc.

D. Scope and historical sketches of landscaping

Scope: Landscape by its very nature encompasses all other specialist sections of Amenity horticulture in one form or the other. It includes the design, construction, maintenance and management of landscape features. Knowledge of floriculture, landscape architecture, and engineering are usually important.

History: Landscaping is an important sector which has expanded and still expanding in recent years in Nigeria. Despite this development, it is by no means comparable to what is obtainable in the developed countries in terms of development, quality, patronage and boom experienced in the landscape horticulture industry.

In Nigeria, from the time immemorial, people consciously or unconsciously add physiographic and environmental characteristics to the land around them either for aesthetic gratification and or environmental enrichment and protection.

Traditionally, people keep garden and trees around their buildings. Though, the experience of the colonial era did little to influence creation and preservation of beauty in the surroundings as it was in Francophone countries.

Nevertheless, the inception of colonialism changed the trends of events as concerted effort were made to formally landscape some public buildings, government reservation areas (GRAs), institutions of higher learning, and sport fields which marked the beginning of organized/formal landscaping in Nigeria. Missionaries (Christian) also established plants in churches and schools. Some individual copied this idea and planted some ornamental plants in their surroundings.

E. Reasons for landscaping:

Some of the reasons why landscaping is important are;

1. Aesthetic/ Beautification of environment
2. Engineering purpose
3. Architectural purpose
4. Biological purpose
5. Ecological purpose

6. Economic purpose
7. Social purpose
8. Nutritional / Medicinal purpose
9. Environmental control in prevention of hazards
10. Urban forestry

F. Types of landscaping:

1. Private

2. Industrial

3. Institutional

4. Parks and Garden

1. Private property/residential landscaping: Landscaping of personal residential properties like a flat, bungalow, duplex, estate etc. Usually, plants of different good qualities are used as much as possible for the enjoyment of owner(s). It is important to landscape to the taste of the clients even if expensive materials will be used.

2. Industrial landscaping: It involves the establishment of plants and hardscapes within the industrial estate/area e.g Agbara industrial estate, Nigeria Breweries Ltd, Portland/Lafage cement company, etc. When landscaping for factories/industrial centre, study kind of activities in each section e.g manufacturing area with many peoples, vehicles and materials-grassing the whole area dotted with spot planting will be appropriate.

Though, hotels can also be regarded as industrial landscaping because it is not meant for a single family, but for the general public and for commercial purpose. However, in actual execution of the project it treated like private property because of requirement for high taste.

3. Institutional landscaping: Landscaping that involves all sorts of institutions- universities, colleges, polytechnics, hospitals, research institutes, barracks etc. Usually it is meant for all categories of users, i.e. general public of all age category- children, adolescents, adults, women, men, students, lecturers, non-academic staff, scientist etc. Institutional landscaping must be different from others because it is not only for recreation, picnic but also for instructional purpose (educational)

4. Recreational landscaping: It involves landscaping recreational arenas (polo ground, parks and gardens, football pitches, game villages etc) for adults and children. It has special inclusions such as restaurant, water fountains, focal plants, green lawns and other areas for social like picnic, marriages, honey moon, film shooting. Nowadays, ICT and photocopy centre have been added.