



Nature's Notes

August 2026



Late Summer Is the Sweet Spot

August has brought the heat, but it has also brought the payoff. Late summer is when perennial beds hit their peak, hydrangeas start to shift color, and the garden finally looks the way it did on paper back in spring.

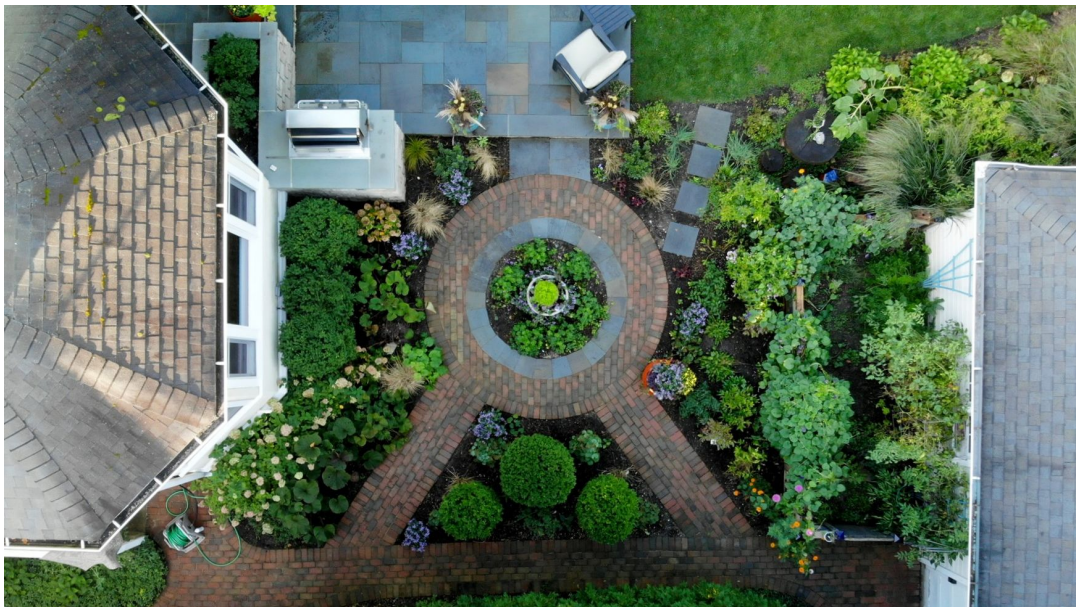
Thinking through a project of your own? This edition of Nature's Notes brings you part two of our series on how landscape projects are priced. Part one covered plants and hardscape materials. Part two covers the property itself and the goals of the project, which are usually the factors people don't see coming. This month's project spotlight is a front yard rebuild on a 1920s Dutch colonial, where plants and hardscape work together to create curb appeal and cut down on maintenance.

Need a helping hand with landscaping services?
Call us at [847-475-7917](tel:847-475-7917) or submit an inquiry through our online [contact form](#) to get started.

Happy with your project? We'd love to hear about it!

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Behind the Scenes: How Does Your Property Affect Pricing?

Last month we looked at how plants and hardscape materials affect the cost of a landscape project; materials are the part most people expect to pay for. This month we're covering the two factors that surprise people more often: the property itself and the scope of the work.

Site Factors

Like snowflakes, every yard is slightly different. Each property comes with its own set of challenges and advantages, and those show up in the estimate before a single plant goes in the ground.

Environmental

Soil Qualities: Soil is quite literally the foundation of a landscape. Most plants struggle in soil that is heavy, compacted, dry, or sapped of nutrients. These soils need to be amended with compost, fertilizers, and other compounds to give plants the best opportunity for growth.

Weeds: They grow everywhere, but if left unchecked, weeds can quickly become a major problem that requires herbicide treatment and removal.

Unwanted Plants: How much you want to change your yard affects the price. The more plants you want removed, the more time and money it takes, especially when it comes to trees and large shrubs.



Construction

Grading: For hardscape installations and drainage work, grading is required to create a level surface or to shape the land to get the desired result. This usually calls for heavy equipment and extra topsoil.

Hardscape Removal: Similar to unwanted plants, the more existing hardscape you remove, the more it costs. This one can be hard to predict. A crew removing a paver patio might find a concrete slab underneath that also has to come out.

Accessibility: Sites that are harder to reach, like an apartment terrace or a busy street with parking restrictions, cost more because of the time lost moving materials in and out.

Permits: When you make significant hardscape changes to your yard, the city usually requires permits to confirm the design meets local building codes. The permitting process takes both time and fees to complete.



Scope

The scope and goals of a project will ultimately determine the price.

Scale: Regardless of property size, the scale of a project can have a huge impact. A quarter-acre lot with a big open lawn, tall trees, and a few shrubs is going to be a very different price than an elaborate winding cottage garden in that same space.

Focus: A hardscape-focused yard typically costs more than a plant-focused yard. Hardscape installations require more preparation, more accuracy, and more expensive materials than planting installations, especially with complex structures like outdoor kitchens or water features.

A note on phasing: Larger projects can be divided into stages and completed over the course of multiple years. Keep in mind that prices rise year over year due to inflation and other industry impacts, so the overall project cost will be higher than if done all at once.

There are many factors that influence landscape pricing, but they all come down to two basic components: labor and materials. The more time, expertise, and effort a project requires, the more it costs. The higher the quality of the materials, the higher the price.

Here at Nature's Perspective Landscaping, we value quality and expertise, the principles that determine the appearance and longevity of a landscape.

Some plant varieties are used more commonly than others, making them less expensive. Requesting specific and uncommon varieties can sometimes increase the price.

That wraps our two-part look at landscape pricing. If you missed part one on plants and hardscape materials, you can find it on our blog.

Ready to talk through the numbers on your project?

Give us a call!

847-475-7917



Project Spotlight: A Front Yard Made for Lingering

Our clients bought a charming 1920s Dutch colonial with plans to make it their own. The front yard was a traditional lawn with overgrown shrubs and perennials scattered throughout. They wanted three things: simpler maintenance, better curb appeal, and a garden that everyone could enjoy, including the people walking by.



The original front yard: a traditional lawn ringed with overgrown shrubs.

Once the façade remodel was finished, the front yard was ready for its turn. We removed the lawn and existing plantings, saving some of the perennials to transplant back in. Clearing out the overgrown material uncovered something worth keeping: a stacked limestone retaining wall that had been buried behind decades of growth.

From there, we added a new paver sidewalk and a sitting area, giving the homeowners a place to enjoy the garden and talk with neighbors. Stepping stones connect the spaces and let you wander through the plantings instead of walking around them.



Stepping stones and a paver sitting area turn the front yard into a place to stop, not just pass through.

The planting plan mixes evergreens, hydrangeas, roses, ornamental grasses, and perennials so there is something to look at in every season, and so birds, bees, and butterflies have a reason to stop. Containers of colorful annuals, landscape lighting, and drip irrigation finished the project.

The result is a front yard that earns its curb appeal without demanding a full weekend of upkeep.



The finished cottage garden, layered for year-round interest.

Looking for Inspiration?

Check out our **Work Portfolio** and take a look at our transformations **here**.



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