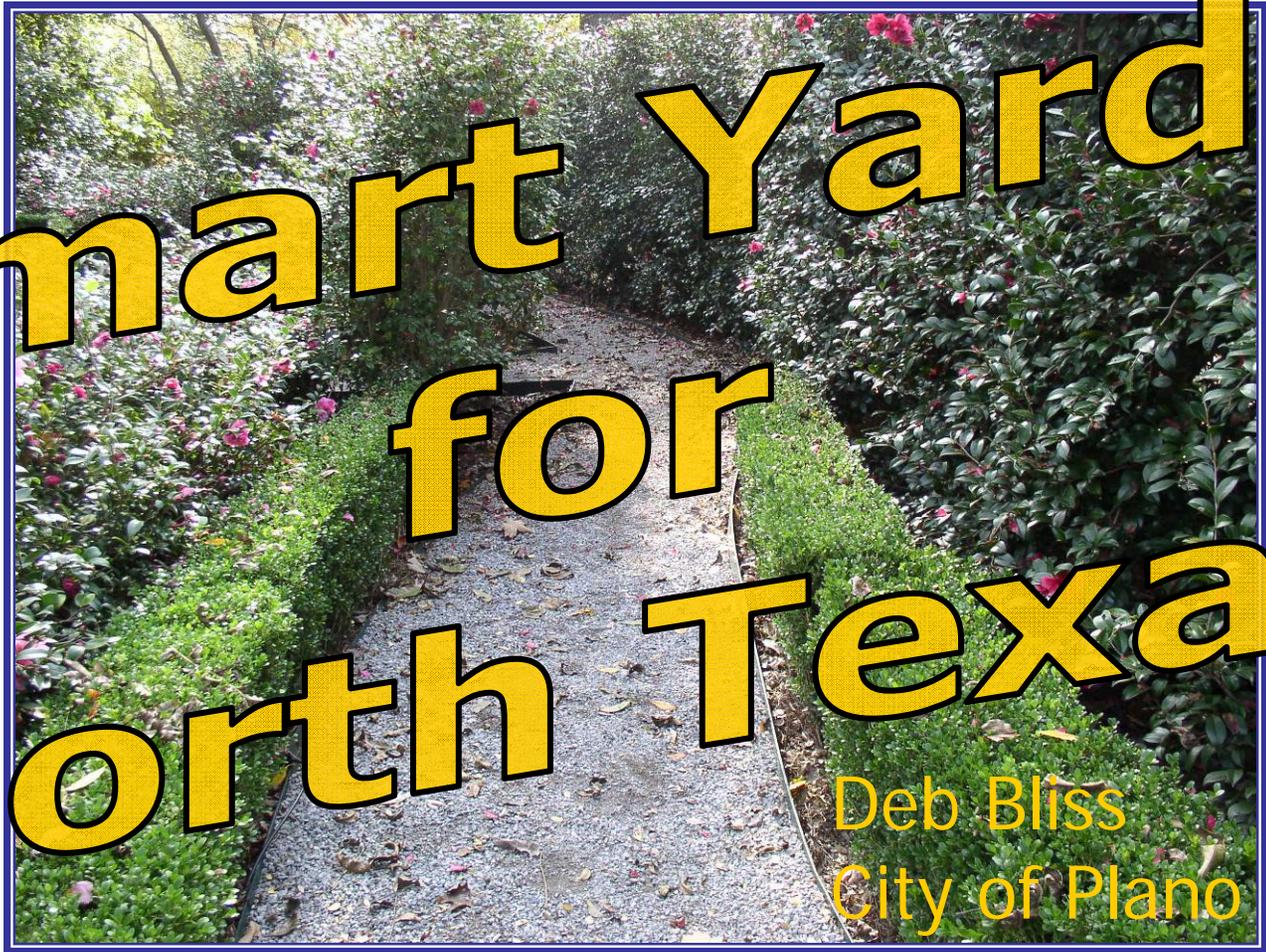


Smart Yards for North Texas



Deb Bliss
City of Plano

Step 1: Plan and design

Start with the end in mind

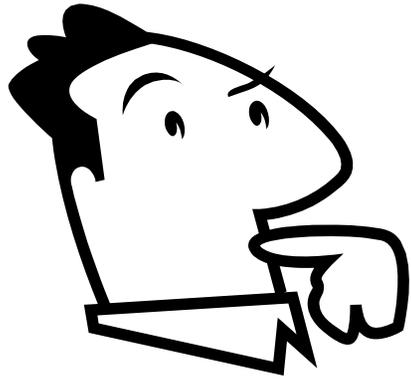
Whether you are starting here. . .



here. . .

or here:





IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

- **Add ease, comfort and enjoyment.**
- **Look critically at what you've got.**
- **Consider your family's needs and desires.**
- **Prioritize your needs.**

Step 2: Soil

The right foundation

Organic Matter is the Key

Compost conditions soil:

- Holds moisture until it is needed
- Prevents run-off
- Prevents erosion
- Increases porosity
- Unlocks nutrients





ADD RAISED BEDS

- Improves water absorption
- Improves drainage
- Reduces soil compaction
- Reduces weeds

Raised-Bed Edging Choices



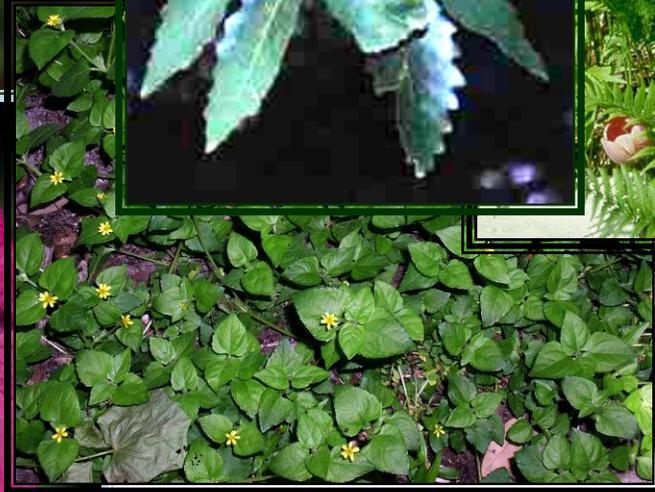
Step 3: Planting

The right plant in the right place

Choose plants which are:

- ✓ Well-adapted
- ✓ Drought tolerant
- ✓ Diverse
- ✓ Pest and disease-free





Know the plant's mature size

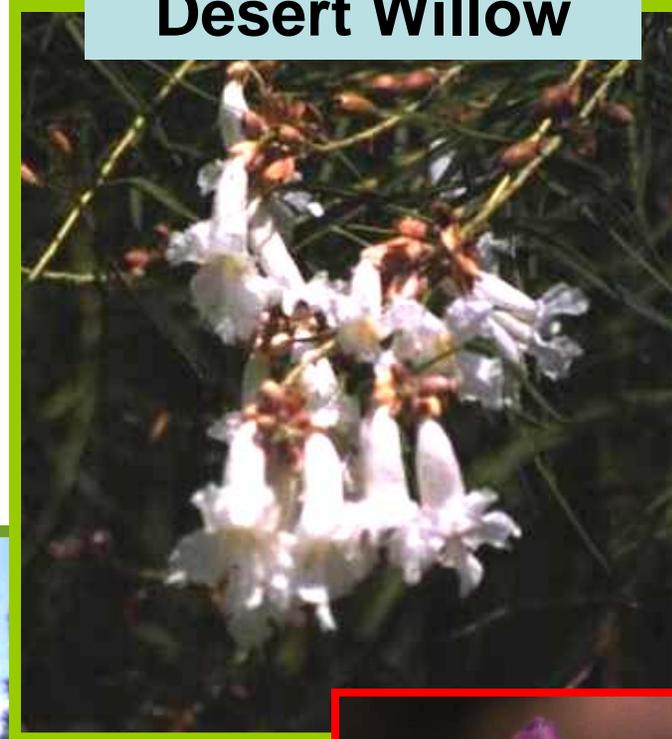
Red-tipped Photinia (not a well-adapted plant!)



Chaste Tree



Desert Willow





Texas A&M Agriculture recommends Texas Superstars™ and EarthKind Roses™

"Always look for the Texas Superstar Tag!"

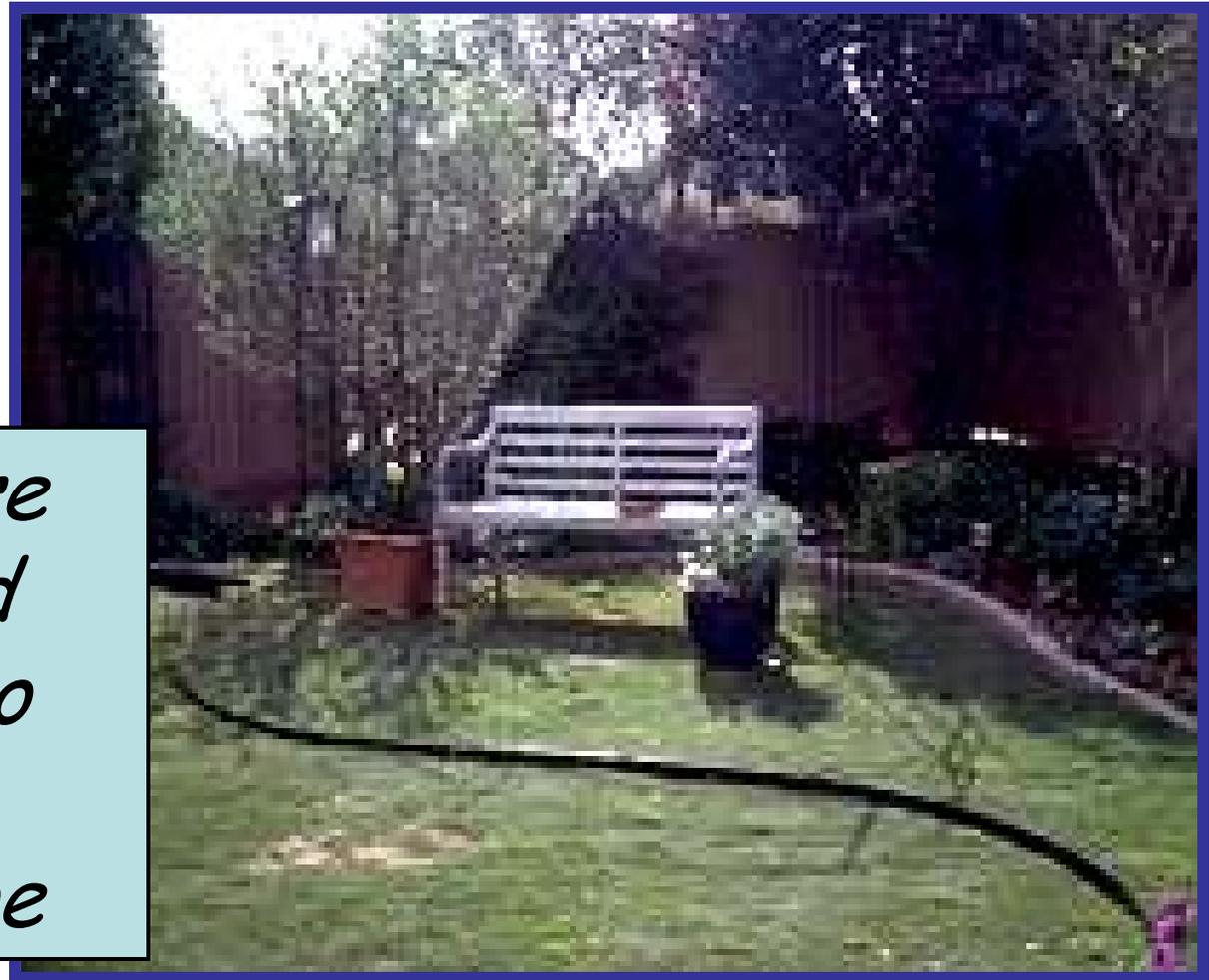


Step 4: Reduce turf

When “less” means “more”

Reduce turf to conserve water

*Add more
beds and
curves to
the
landscape*



To reduce turf, widen existing pathways and incorporate new ones.





**GROUNDCOVERS
MAKE SENSE
UNDER TREES**

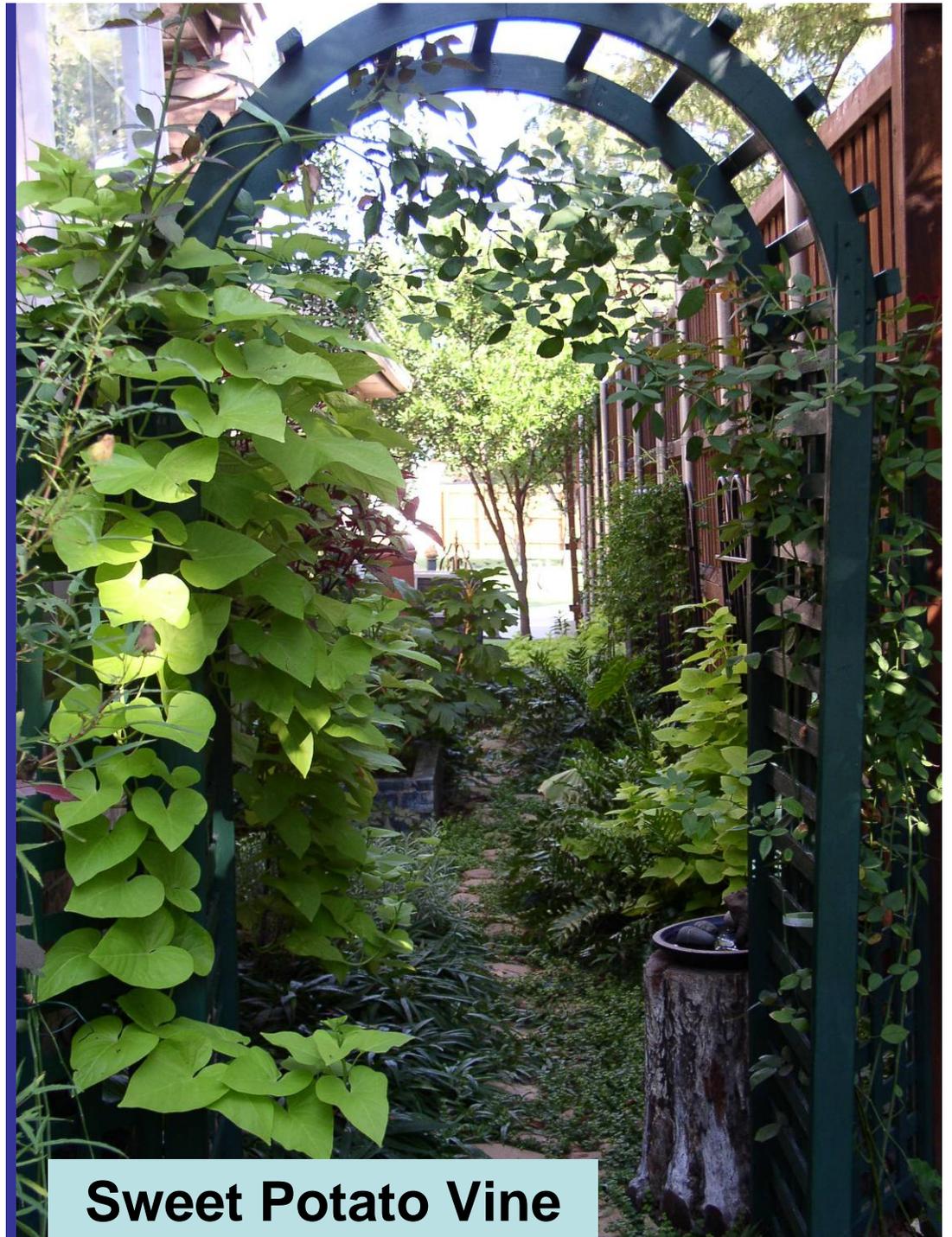
Asian Jasmine

**. . . AND ON
SLOPES**



Shady side yards often won't grow turf.

Low maintenance groundcovers and stepping stones work well here.



Sweet Potato Vine

Step 5: Mulch

How much mulch?

Apply 4 to 6 inches of mulch every
spring and fall



Never pile it up around tree trunks or plant stems. This promotes disease and decay.

What do mulches do?

- Reduce evaporation
- Alter soil temperature by 10 degrees
- Reduce erosion
- Reduce soil borne diseases
- Reduce water hogging weeds



Step 6: Water-wise

Efficient irrigation

Watering Guidelines



- ✓ **Water for 5-10 minutes until runoff begins**
- ✓ **Return to that area to water again for 5-10 minutes**
- ✓ **Water until 1" of water has been applied (soil will be moistened to a depth of six inches)**

Reduce Sprinkler Runoff: Save Water and Money

- **Install adjustable heads**
- **Align misdirected spray heads**
- **Install sprinkler heads that apply less water**
- **Install heads that provide bigger drops**



Soaker hose uses:



During drought, laying soaker hose along the foundation one foot out can help prevent problems.



Step 7: Maintenance

Regularity and moderation

Avoid Excessive pruning *(Meatball Madness)*



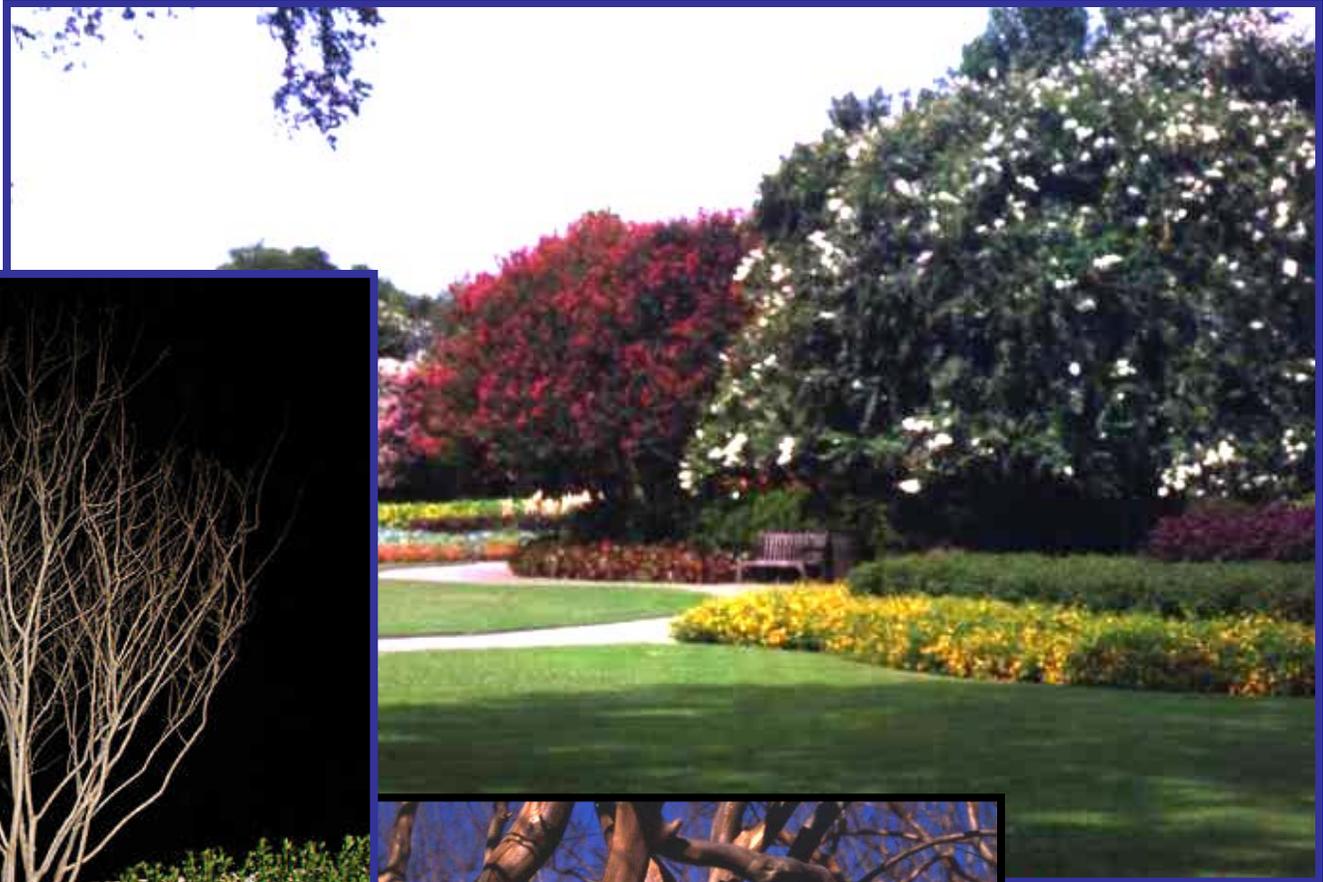
Their natural beauty softens the landscape



Help stop

Crape murder!





Cultural Pest Controls

- Plant disease-resistant and well-adapted plants
- Keep area clean of infected leaf droppings
- Keep foliage dry and provide good air circulation



Physical Pest Controls

- High-pressure Water Spray
- Hand pick harmful insects
- Yellow Sticky Traps



Biological Pest Controls

Let the 'good guys' win.



**Observation,
tolerance and
responsible action
lead to a balanced
and healthy yard.**

Make your North Texas yard a smart yard!



1. Plan
2. Prepare the soil
3. Right plant, right place
4. Reduce turf
5. Mulch
6. Water efficiently
7. Regular maintenance

Smart Yard: Easy to care for and drought tolerant

