

at home on the oregon coast

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planscaper

BY VALERIE RYAN FOR AT HOME

intimidated by landscaping? try this



Seaside
Dennis'
Seven Dees
Planscaper
Leslie
McClanahan-
Hardy, who
has more
than 25 years
of experience
in coastal
landscaping,
draws up
plans for a
garden space
to fit the
needs of the
customer.

ALEX PAJUNAS
PHOTO



McClanahan-
Hardy lays out
different
plants that
thrive in
either shade
or sunny open
spaces next to
Domino, a
once-feral cat
who now lives
at the nursery.

ALEX PAJUNAS
PHOTO

Have you ever stood in front of a new home and thought that all would be well if only that big pile of dirt in front and back were planned, planted and growing beautifully?

Or looked out your window and mused, "Wow, could this place ever use a spruce-up!"

Enter Leslie McClanahan-Hardy, Planscaper at Dennis' 7 Dees Landscaping and Garden Center in Seaside. She will turn your yard into what you have always dreamed of.

Planscaper is a do-it-yourself program that helps people who don't know exactly what to do with their yard. A downloadable Planscaper kit (www.dennis7dees.com/planscaper) will get you on your way. It starts with a questionnaire asking about the scope of the project, who will use it and in what ways, are fences and hedges needed, is lighting a consideration, what are your soil conditions and drainage problems, what elements, such as a water feature or arbor, might be added, do you have plant preferences – and on it goes. Yes, there is a design fee, but it goes toward plants to help you get started.

You can choose how much design help you need, how much of your yard you want to tackle – the front, the back or the whole darn thing. The plan is so comprehensive that all you have to do is fill in the blanks and forge ahead. With McClanahan-Hardy to help, you will have a base plan drawn in no time.

Dennis' 7 Dees has devised the whole system to be user-friendly, and McClanahan-Hardy, who has more than 25 years of experience in coastal landscaping, knows about plants and what will thrive in the many microclimates found here.

Here's how to begin: Note the style and color of your house, look around your neighborhood and note the shapes of lawns, water features, arbors, pergolas,

lighting and color. Do you want to incorporate any of these things in your plan? Then, think about maintenance. Will you do it or hire it done? Start taking pictures, from inside your house looking out and all around the property. Start to draw a base plan, marking on the graph paper provided where your house sits on your property and any plants or walks you want to keep. If this is too daunting, McClanahan-Hardy can help you create the base plan. Once that is in place, let the fun begin! With McClanahan-Hardy's expert help and her creative design eye, you will be colorful and blooming in no time. She will make on-site visits and help determine what goes where. Also available to Dennis' 7 Dees customers is engineering help stone work and interlocking paver walkways and patios, should your project require it.

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What are the advantages of this plan? It's time-saving because you don't have to do the research on which plants are right for your yard. It's money-saving because without a plan, you will buy on a whim – and the plant might work or might be dead wrong. With Planscaper, not only do you get a plan, you also get the equivalent of the design fee in plants. And, best of all, you get the beautiful yard you've always wanted. You will have a custom-designed space based on what you like and what you have envisioned.

Everything about the process is collaborative. You can do the planting yourself and take pride in the work you've put into your yard, or hire them and watch it happen. Call Leslie McClanahan-Hardy at Dennis' 7 Dees, (503) 738-6980, and get started.