Whether you are moving into a new house with a blank slate or have a well established garden, knowing where to start with your landscaping can be overwhelming. Thinking about how you will use the space and what type of style you like is a good foundation. At Oderings we can help you create a garden that is both functional and practical, an outdoor living space that looks great and compliments your lifestyle.

Landscape plan or DIY?
This all depends on your budget and time. You can hire a landscaper who will come out and consult with you. They will then create a garden plan that you can get them to carry out for you, or you could take this plan to Oderings and do it yourself, perhaps in sections.

If you want to go all the way DIY, bring us a picture of the garden along with its measurements. Garden centre staff can help you choose the best plants to give the garden height, colour and dimension but may not be able to help you decide which structures, etc., to use.

Choosing the right plants
This is where Oderings expertise comes into play. Certain plants look great with other contrasting colours. Colour and flowers can still be low maintenance. And different plants may prefer sun or shade, wet or dry. Frost and wind can also be a factor in selecting the right plants for your space, so between the Oderings staff or the Oderings Landscaping team in Christchurch, we recommend you get the correct advice from people who know their plants.

Ground work
Preparation is the key with any project in the garden. Drainage, soil levels and soil replenishment must all be considered.

Irrigation
One of the biggest mistakes gardeners make is not considering how to water the garden. Imagine if your lawn, garden and veggie patch were watered for you at just the touch of a button. Or if everything were watered without you having to do anything. In my opinion this is a vital step to include in your plan.

Whether you choose Oderings Landscaping in Christchurch or a different landscaper, or to do it yourself, a new or existing garden is easy to create or spruce us with a little expertise from Oderings. Come and see us; now is the ideal time to plant your true garden oasis.

There are a few questions you need to ask yourself when thinking about your garden:

What do you want to use your garden for? Is it for your children to play? Is it to increase the value or to grow your own edibles? It may be a mixture of many factors.

Do you have a theme in mind? You may want only foliage plants or specific colours, trees that are edible, a formal-looking garden or a cottage themed oasis.

How much time do you want to spend maintaining your garden? Be honest; there is no point in selecting amazing plants that you won't have time to maintain. This doesn't mean you won't get various options that are as equally amazing.

What are your must-haves in your garden? Is it a water feature, a raised veggie patch or a deck with lots of lighting for outdoor entertaining? Think about paths, seating, BBQ areas, fences and garden shapes.

What is your budget? Landscaping can become quite expensive. Consider your budget thoroughly. You may decide to do your section in stages. As a rule of thumb, you need to allow 10%–15% of the land and house value to complete a landscaped section. This percentage includes your fences, paths, patios, etc.

When I read these considerations, I can understand why many people start to feel overwhelmed. The Kiwi attitude is DIY, but is this the right choice for you?

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