

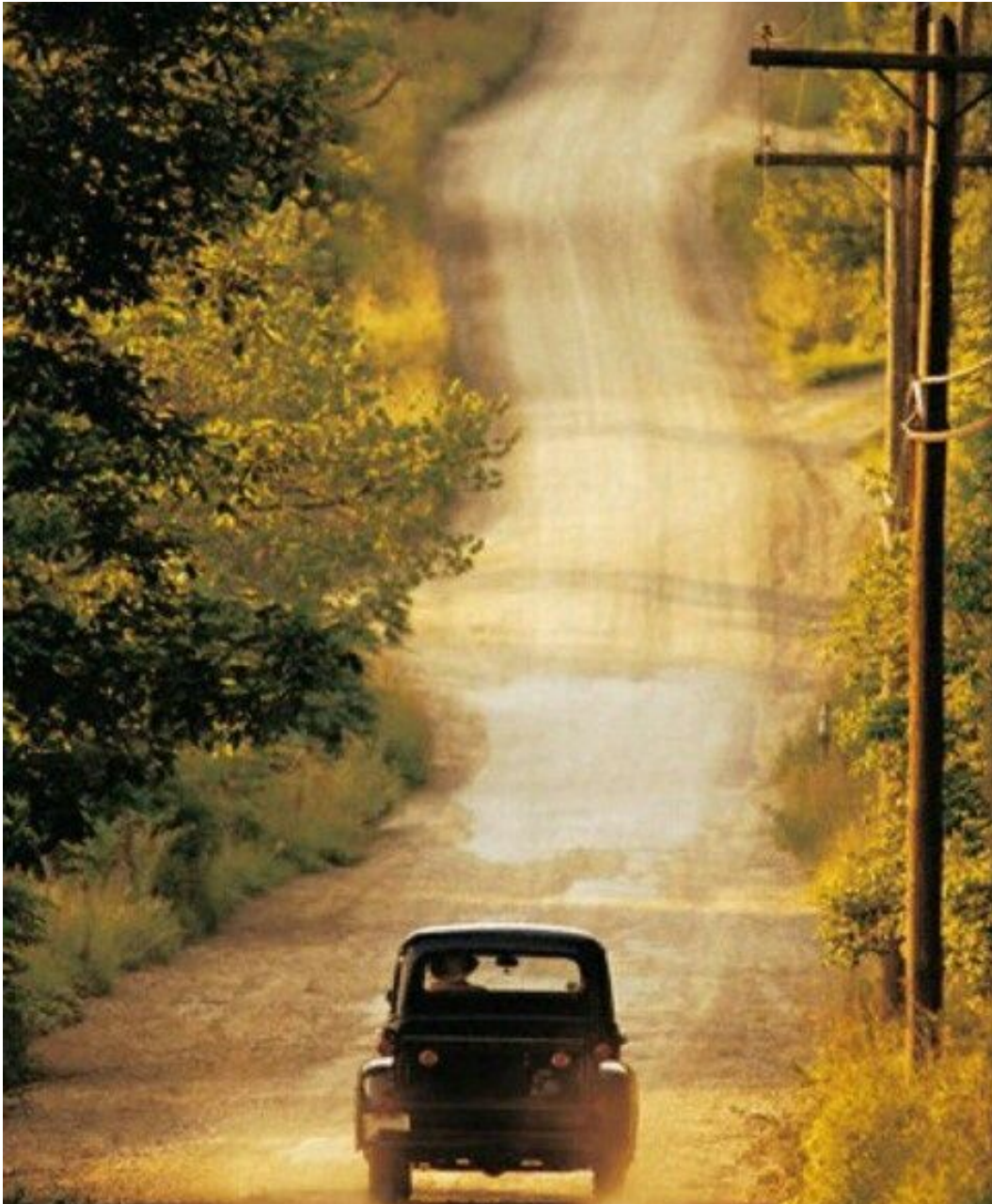
GARDENS Four Seasons

GARDENDESIGN
- Jan/Feb/March 2024 -

COUNTRY **ENTRYWAYS**

**Enticing Ideas for Acreage, Cabin
or Farmyard Property Entrances**

‘Lots’ of Considerations!
(pun intended!)



*“Country Roads, Take me Home to the Place I
Belong....” - John Denver*

Interestingly enough, when searching for photos of rural entryway landscaping, it was difficult to find much let alone ones I wanted to use.

This tells me this feature is often overlooked - a precious detail under-utilized!



Planning a welcoming, purposeful Country Entryway uses many of the same principles as creating City Curb Side Appeal. At a certain point though, you will have to consider the issues that are unique to a Rural property.

Before we get to those - let's take a look at the basics to mapping out your entryway!

Besides being pleasing to the eye, do some thinking about the look you want to convey. You'll set the tone of what to expect



from your property with your entrance as well as creating a sense of anticipation.

(HMMMM - wonder what else is to come past this entrance?)

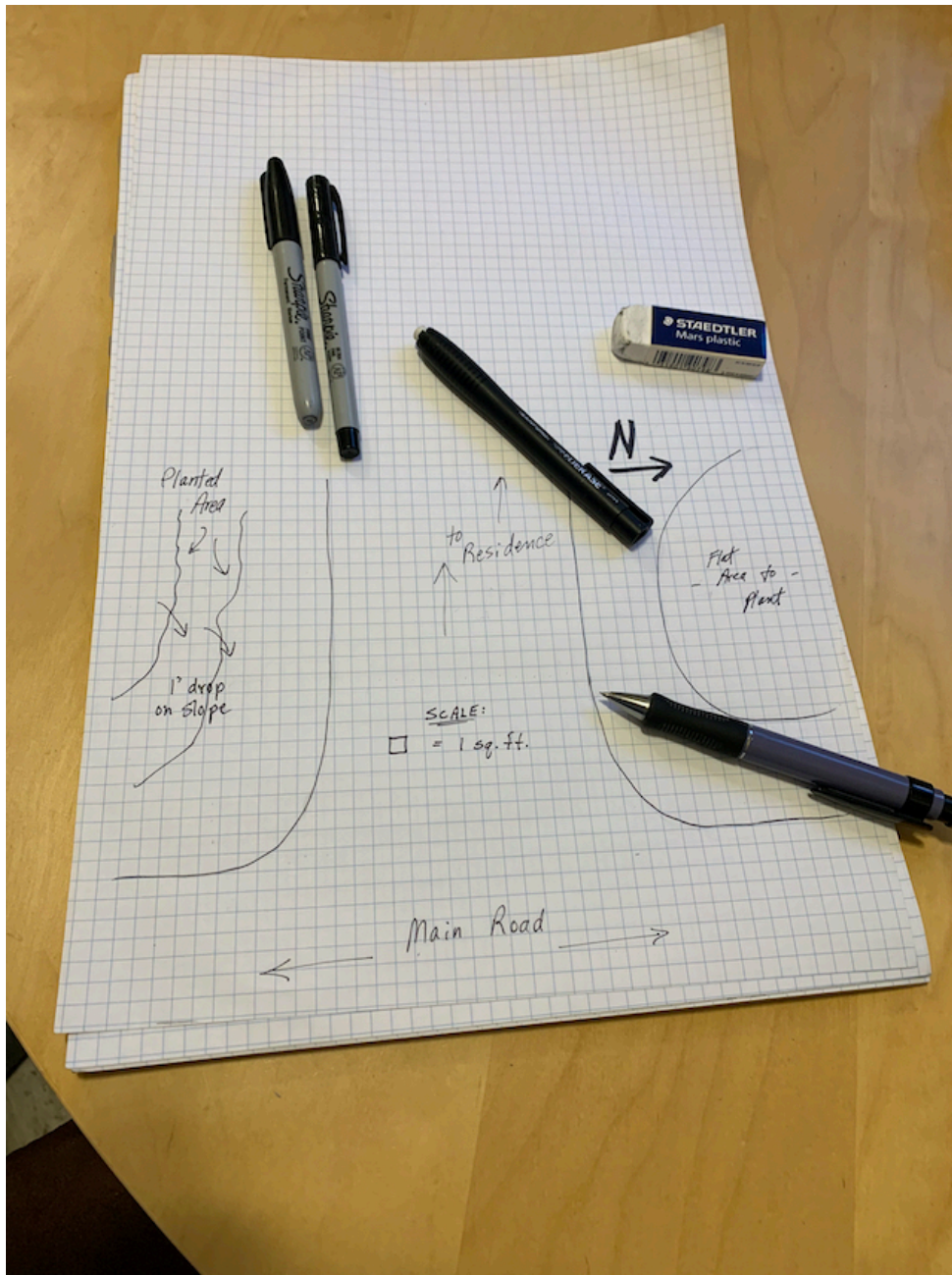
As with any aspect of any property - keep in mind not only first impressions & your personal flair but also resale value.



Do a little research on the kind of look you have your heart set on. A good place to start are the Pinterest & HOUZZ websites. Search for COUNTRY ENTRYWAYS, RURAL DRIVEWAYS, etc. or

Check out my Pinterest site <https://www.pinterest.ca/gardens4seasons/country-driveway-entrances/>

I recommend measuring the space you have to work with & then plotting it on grid paper. I like a scale of about 1" = 10 sq. ft. - so 1 foot per square. That'll give you a good representation of a decent size. Indicate your direction North & any geographical & existing features that will come into play.



Standard private road width for rural properties is 15' across (12' is the absolute minimum for emergency vehicles.) Next up - drainage. You'll want a gentle slope off either side to allow moisture to runoff & snow to drift over the driveway surface (think of how a highway ditch allows snow & rain to drain from the pavement)



You may also have a municipality or RM ditch that you must cross to access your property. Do you require a culvert in that to accommodate drainage? That, too, can become a design feature you'll want to take advantage of.





SNOW REMOVAL !

Always allow room to remove snow - don't let a snowplow carry off your valued construction work!

Ensure your feature is far enough away from the main access & also your own road as you leave your property. That way you can see any approaching vehicles/pedestrians prior to emerging. (Remember the snow plow?)

FYI - A check with your local RM will inform you of any road allowances or any other restrictions.

One last consideration - **SNOW DRIFT**. Make note where it ends up now, but know the development of your entrance will likely alter it for better or worse - plan ahead!



Once you have the dimensions on paper, decide how large of an area you want to develop & the shape. It's usually a good idea to plan something on both sides of the entrance but it can have an asymmetrical feel if that is what you like. Think more on one side than the other keeping a visual balance with similar vegetation.

Indicate your space on your grid paper. Remember, one of greatest benefits of living outside the city is you have more expanse to work with, so be generous while allowing for low maintenance. (you have already a huge property to look after so don't make more work for yourself!) At the same time, mind your scale & proportions - not too small - not too big!



Now, onto **CONSTRUCTION** details.

Do you have a sloped area you can jazz up? Or do you want to create a raised area? Again - keep as much of a clear site line as possible for traffic on both the public side & your property side as you come & go - you'll be glad you did.



Hard landscaping - features that are manmade, can also contribute to less maintenance. If you have boulders occurring naturally on your property, make use of them! They require no watering & look equally good with a covering of frost, rain or sunshine. The same can be said of backgrounds of fencing or a feature made from metal or wood. Here is where you can add a touch of art, whimsy or incorporate personal touches!

How about year round **LIGHTING** ! We have so many hours of darkness in our province so why not take advantage of it to light up not only the entire entry experience but to also enhance signage. I can't emphasize enough how it will add class & glamour, but be careful not to illuminate too much... you want a subtle look - not a landing strip effect!



Speaking of **SIGNAGE** - aside from your property address maybe you want to announce know where one has arrived. (ie: Ranch, Farm, etc.) Make sure it is clearly visible & easy to read from a distance. This is important whether you live in a colony of acreages or in a remote area.



Have you the need for a **BUS SHELTER** for kiddos to be picked up/dropped off by the school bus? Keep it close to your entrance & possibly blend it in with your entry features. You may want to consider a small structure for them wait in if the weather is inclement.



I recently read an article where someone had re-purposed an old mini school bus close to their entrance along with a swing - so cool!

Which leads us to **SAFETY & SECURITY.**

A must have is an entry gate. It won't prevent unwanted visitors from entering your property entirely but it will certainly add a degree of safety since a vehicle will not be able to come up your drive. The other thing you'll want is a remote control for that gate - it will save you time & energy - coming & going particularly if you have a busy lifestyle! (Thanks for the pic Mindy!)



(Photo credit: M. Peryk)

Your gate will create a sense of definition as one moves from the public realm to the warmth of home. Do you want to incorporate vertical hardscaping with an overhead arbour or a horizontal feel with a fence section connecting to a gate?

Then the *really* fun stuff - **PLANTS & the issues unique to a rural property.**

I always say ‘put the right plants in the right place’. Most acreages I’ve had the pleasure of helping with have a wide open, typical prairie setting - hot, sunny & dry! Occasionally I have run into places that have cool, shady entrances so there you’ll have to select shady, drought tolerant greenery.

Take into consideration year round interest - some green in winter, flowers in spring, lush in summer & colourful in autumn.

Also, if you are near a road where salt is utilized in winter, or where salt spray may drift onto your entry, you’ll want to consider salt tolerant plants.



Because you are often dealing with wide open spaces & minimal shelter from the elements, select plants that are reliably hardy in your neck of the woods. I suggest anything hardy in zones 2a or 2b. If you have decent shelter for your spot you can try zone 3.

Find out which flora critters are drawn to the most. Deer love Cedars so stay away from those but you will also have to deal with gophers, moles, voles, rabbits, etc. I won't get into the topic at this point, just know you will have wild animal issues normally not present in an urban setting.



Do your homework, have fun & you will be rewarded with a magnificent entry!



PLANT OF THE MOMENT

FORSYTHIA

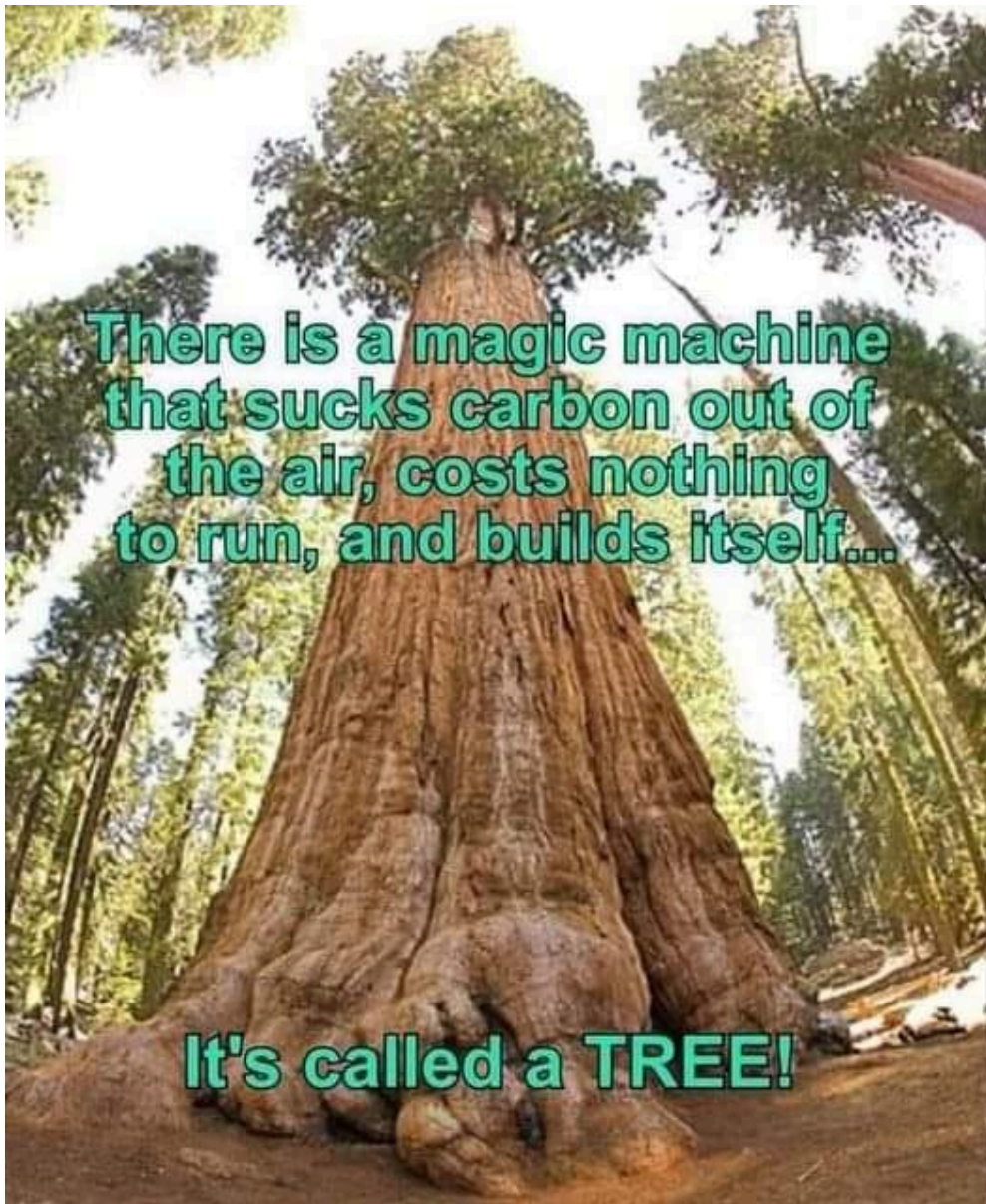
An ideal shrub for any acreage or farmyard!

The first shrub to burst with sunshine-y yellow blossoms even before the green leaves appear! Then it becomes an excellent, extremely hardy green backdrop for other plants. With a hardiness zone is 2b it crests at 6' with a good 6' width. Magnificent!



EVENTS

Love trees as much as I do?



Then you'll be happy to hear of SOS TREES 2024 Arbor Week Celebrations in Saskatoon including a favourite TREE CONTEST! READ ON!



Greetings from SOS Trees Coalition and the 2024 Arbor Week committee.

We are very pleased the Provincial Government of Saskatchewan has formally proclaimed Arbor Week as an annual provincial celebration of trees at the end of May each year. 2024 Arbor Week runs from May 26th through June 1st.

After very successful 2021 through 2023 Arbor Weeks in Saskatoon our committee is excited to be gearing up for ***Arbor Week 2024, Homegrown Resilience***, and hope you will join us.

The previous year's *treemendous* support we received provided opportunity through a week of virtual and onsite events and built new alliances to celebrate Arbor Week. Many citizens and organizations participated in the events and we are working to further education and involvement each year. Previous year's Arbor Week events can be found at <https://www.sostrees.ca/arbortree-2022.html> and <https://sostrees.ca/arbortree-2023.html>

The trees of Saskatoon and the province are continually threatened by climate change, insects and disease, as well as development, putting our urban forest, shelter belts, and native tree stands at risk. SOS Trees Coalition and Arbor Week are needed more than ever before. With the support and encouragement of community members and other organizations both nationally and internationally we have been working to protect, foster stewardship, education and growth of our urban forest.

<https://sostrees.ca/>
<https://www.facebook.com/SOSTreesCoalition>

SOS Trees presents the 1st

TWIGS & TREES CONTEST!

ONE of many exciting events
celebrating ARBOR WEEK in
Saskatoon - May 26-June 1, 2024!
<https://sostrees.ca/arbortree.html>

NOMINATE your
FAVOURITE TREE by
submitting a photo online, via
text or mail or email. Include
your name, phone number &

*Tell us why you love your tree - unusual shape, interesting location,
birds enjoy it - whatever!*

You'll have a chance to win any number of great prizes!

Contest open to everyone but your tree must be within City Limits.

Only one entry per person please.

Entries accepted 'til May 30. Draws on final day of Arbor Week - June 1.

Email: trees@sostrees.ca

Mail: SOS Trees-4016 2nd St. E., Saskatoon, SK S7H 1R3

Text: Margaret 306-227-8040



APRIL 15, doors will open wide at one of my all time favourite local greenhouses - MOTHER EARTH. Only a short drive from Saskatoon - out near Clavet - we can fulfill our cravings for all kinds of amazing green things.



Healthy plants plus knowledgeable & friendly staff make for an entertaining, satisfying greenhouse visit. Plus they have baby goats!

- I grew this stunning burgundy Banana Plant from them last year - Loved it!



.....do YOU know what a

GREEN ROOF PROFESSIONAL does?

**Let my next issue enlighten you with an
incredible environmentally sound practice.**

**Watch for it - Apr./May/June GARDENDESIGN
will be in your inbox before you can say - *“Let’s
Garden!”***



(photo credit: M. Molaro)

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