

KEEP IT FRESH WITH MOTHER NATURE'S HELP

Splash some natural color on landscape

Flowers, shrubs and a trimmed lawn tie front yard together

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For top curb appeal in your landscape, make it neat and add a dash of fresh color. A nice-looking front yard shows you probably care about how the inside looks.

Neatness stems from well-groomed grass and shrubs. Mow the lawn regularly to keep it looking fresh. Keep the edges along the driveway and walks trimmed sharply. Rake up stray leaves, twigs and other debris that blows in.

Prune wayward or dead branches off shrubs and small trees. Remove any that are dying or are so overgrown that they detract from the house and property. Tall shade trees add a lot to your property's value; an arborist can advise on pruning that will take out limbs that are dead or so low they prevent a good view of the house.

Flowers, either in beds across the front of the house or in pots for the front steps, add seasonal color to

the look. Garden centers offer a wide variety of types and colors.

Pick a color of blooms that suits the shade of brick or paint on your house.

Bright colors such as reds and blues show up well against soft shades of yellow brick or white or gray paint. White flowers such as vinca with a red eye look fresh against true red brick, as do vivid shades of yellow. Yellow, orange, pink, corals and peaches enhance beige-to-brown brick or cedar siding.

If you're planting in pots, make the containers uniform in style and size. Containers of single colors and types of flower look better from a distance than do combinations of several colors. A combination, however, is often more interesting to look at up close than a single bloom.

At your mailbox, plant the same colors and flowers as in the containers or beds. It will help tie the landscape together and carry the eye from street to your freshly painted front door.

