



THE GREEN GAZETTE

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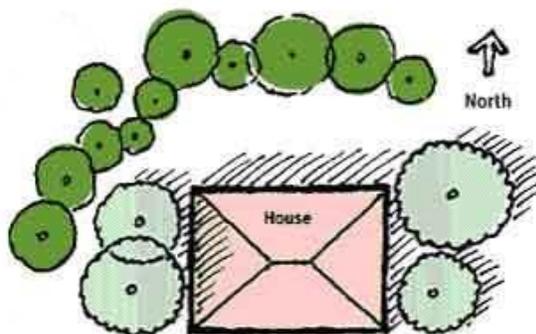
Landscaping for Energy Efficiency and a Cleaner Environment

A well-designed landscape will:

- *Cut your summer and winter energy costs dramatically.*
- *Protect your home or business from winter wind and summer sun.*
- *Reduce consumption of water, pesticides, and fuel for landscaping and lawn maintenance.*
- *Help control noise and air pollution.*

Plant More Trees

Carefully positioned trees can save up to 25% of a household's energy consumption for heating and cooling. This could save an average household between \$100 and \$250 in energy costs annually.



Deciduous trees with high, spreading canopies can be planted to the south of your home to provide maximum summertime roof shading. These trees will lose their leaves in the fall to allow sunshine to warm the house in the winter.

Shorter trees with canopies closer to the ground are more appropriate to the west, where shade is needed from lower afternoon sun angles.

Also, shading your air conditioning unit can increase its efficiency by as much as 10%. But be careful not to restrict air flow to the unit.



Reduce Your Lawn Area

Reducing the amount of turf on your property can result in less water use and pollution. According to the EPA, mowing your lawn with a gasoline-powered mower for one hour unleashes as many hydrocarbons as driving the average car 200 miles. Gasoline powered trimmers and leaf blowers are also big air and noise polluters. Furthermore, turf requires frequent watering during the summer to look nice.

Turn some of your turf into beds with drought-tolerant plants such as ornamental grasses and perennials. Fill the space between plants with organic mulch to protect the soil from erosion, conserve moisture, and prevent weed growth. Many cities and counties offer free mulch (including Tift Co.).

