

# Spring Landscaping Mistakes to Avoid

## 1. Skipping a Post-Winter Yard Assessment

It might be tempting to dive right into planting, but assessing the condition of your landscape after winter is a critical early step. You might have hidden damage from frost or drainage issues that need attention first. Without a full inspection, you risk planting into poor conditions that undermine your efforts from the start.



## 2. Overzealous Pruning

Spring is a great time to clean up your plants, but overly aggressive pruning can do more harm than good. Cutting too early or too deeply can shock certain shrubs, leaving them vulnerable to disease. When in doubt, consult with a softscape and hardscape expert who understands plant cycles in your region.

## 3. Ignoring Soil Health

Soil is the foundation of everything in your yard, and it should not be overlooked. It would be a mistake to skip soil testing; you won't know what your garden really needs to thrive. Before adding anything, do a basic soil test. It helps you apply amendments that actually support growth, rather than creating more imbalance.

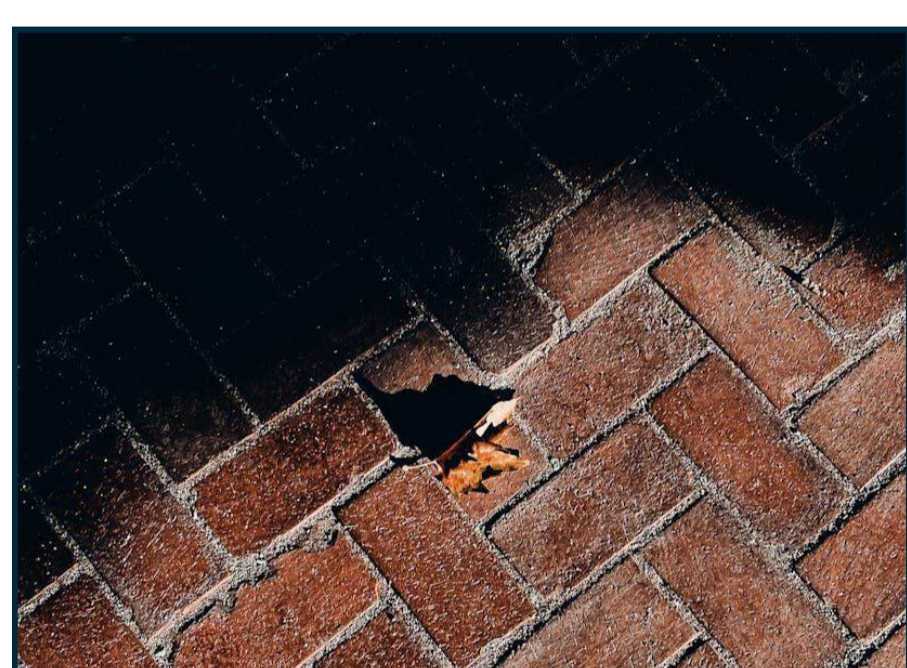


## 4. Applying Too Much Mulch

Mulch is a spring landscaping essential, but too much of anything isn't a good idea. Piling mulch too thickly can suffocate roots and trap moisture against plant stems. The goal is to insulate and protect, not bury. Stick to a two to three-inch layer and keep it away from the base of trees and shrubs.

## 5. Choosing the Wrong Plants for Your Area

Impulse buys at the garden center often lead to frustration. That tropical-looking beauty may thrive in the display, but it won't survive your first frost. Choosing plants not suited to your area means wasted time and money. Instead, focus on native and climate-adapted species. These require less maintenance and withstand the seasonal swings in Virginia's weather.

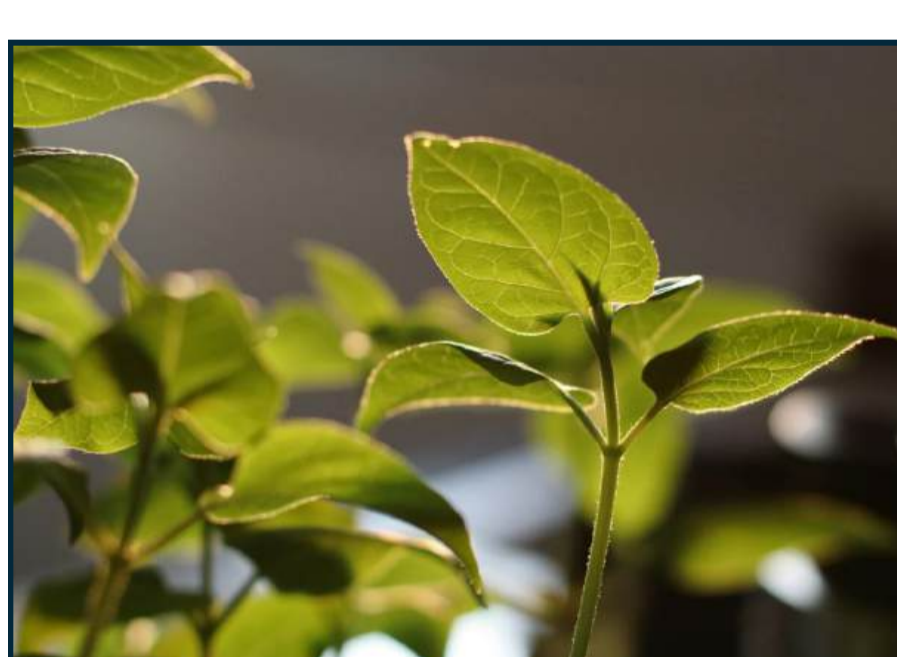


## 6. Neglecting Your Hardscape

It's not just the plants that need a little spring love. Patios, walkways, retaining walls, and water features also deserve attention. Sweep away debris, power wash where needed, and check for shifting or drainage issues around stones and pavers.

## 7. Forgetting to Plan for Growth

It's easy to forget that small plants don't stay small forever. Without proper spacing, today's charming flowerbed becomes an overgrown tangle by midsummer. When laying out new beds or containers, always research the mature sizes of the plants to be sure they fit well. Allow for growth and airflow.



## 8. Starting Maintenance Too Late

Delaying seasonal care can make everything more complicated. Once weeds get established, they're tougher to control. Once your lawn becomes overgrown, it becomes more susceptible to disease. Procrastination is the silent killer of a beautiful spring yard.

## 9. Not Booking Help Early Enough

High-quality outdoor living contractors book up fast in spring. If you wait until the first 70-degree day to call, you might be at the back of the line. Planning ahead guarantees your project is completed when you want it, not when a contractor's calendar frees up.



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