

# Protecting Your Home Landscaping



## Cut Away The Camouflage

**C**ultivate a garden, but not a burglars' paradise. Burglars love camouflage. Site trees, shrubs, walls and fences so an intruder can be clearly seen in your front or back yard, and keep bushes around doors and windows trimmed. Bushes, trees and shrubbery can cancel an intruder as he/she attempts entry into a window or door. A few alterations to the home's landscaping and plant materials can be enough to discourage intruders. To avoid being seen or caught, intruders look for property they can get into and out of quickly. Their ideal target is a house surrounded by large hedges or shrubs, which serve to hamper visibility from the street and neighbour's houses.

Trim shrubbery and trees so doors and window are visible to neighbours and from the street. Trimmed landscaping should not provide concealment for criminals. If the home has a second floor, prune trees so they can't help a thief climb in second floor windows. Place trellises where they can't be used as ladders to gain entry to upper floors.



Good border definition allows property owners to define public and private spaces while maintaining surveillance.

## PROTECTING YOUR HOME - LANDSCAPING

### Location

Ground plants (shrubbery and bushes) within four (4) feet of any sidewalks, driveway, door or gates, should be maintained at a height of not more than two (2) feet.

Ground plants between four (4) feet and (8) feet of any sidewalks, driveways, doors or gates, should be maintained at a height of not more than four (4) feet.

Ground plants under windows should be maintained at a height that is below the window sill.

### Trees

Trees should be trimmed so that the lower branches are more than six (6) feet off the ground. To provide shade for pedestrians, trees should be located adjacent to walks leading from street frontages and major parking areas to major building entrances and site areas. Conflict with light standards should be avoided in order to maintain illumination levels

### Landscaping Rock

Place large gauge gravel on the ground near windows. The noise caused by an intruder walking on it can be a psychological barrier. Do not place large rocks or other items near glass window or doors. These could provide the burglar with his tools. River rock (stone) and other masonry materials such as brick, rip-rap, etc. that are normally used for landscaping accents, borders or scuppers should be grouted to prevent removal by hand. River rock should be grouted so that only one-third (1/3) of the rock is exposed above ground.



### Plants

Plant spiny (thorny) plants along fences and under windows. Such plants will discourage the possible burglar. Protecting with spiny plants can be almost as effective as using barbed wire, and lot more attractive.



### CPTED

Planning on landscaping or even building a new house? Consider consulting with a CPTED practitioner. More information can be obtained through CPTED Ontario at <http://www.cptedontario.ca>, or check with your local police service, many have CPTED/ Crime Prevention officers on staff.

CPTED Ontario's mission is: To reduce the fear and incidence of crime thereby working towards an improvement of the quality of life by promoting Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) in Ontario and throughout Canada.

*Crime Reduction Canada wishes to acknowledge the sponsorship of*



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