



ROCHDALE VILLAGE
ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
169-65 137th Avenue - Jamaica, NY 11434

Landscaping Rochdale for Year Round Beauty



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Environmental Conservation Committee

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Respectfully submitted to:

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The Rochdale Village Board of Directors and Rochdale Village Management

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Making Rochdale's Twin Pines Symbol A Landscaping Reality

It is ironic that for a half century of Rochdale Village's existence in southeast Queens, its twin pines symbol, tree-wise, has not been reflected in the landscaping of the co-op's sprawling grounds.

While Rochdale has an abundance of beautiful seasonal trees, shrubbery and plants during the spring and summer, the development's current tree species remain leafless, dormant and outright stark during the late fall and winter months of the year.

When walking the grounds, it becomes clear that there are only one or two pines or evergreen-related trees planted in each of Rochdale's five cul-de-sacs. These trees along with the two evergreens that stand on either side of the Rochdale Village Community Center main entrance are the only source of green foliage during the winter.

Here's How

To ensure that Rochdale remains lush and beautiful year-round, the committee is suggesting the development apportion some of its landscaping funds to the purchase and planting of evergreen trees. Introducing these species of trees and other moderately-sized shrubbery onto our grounds will ensure year-round beauty in areas like building entranceways while requiring minimal maintenance. They can also help spruce up the fence line as well.

Species for Consideration and Why



The Evergreen tree

Evergreen trees offer year round color and have leaves through all four seasons. Most evergreens appear about the same color in deep winter or in summer heat. *Evergreen trees provide wonderful color in landscapes that are devoid of color due to cold weather, dry weather, or barren ground.*

Evergreen trees are versatile and can be used as specimens, hedges, and privacy screens. They are also commonly used in the northern regions as a windbreak. They are planted in the path of prevailing winds to deflect or intercept winds. During the harsh winters, Northern locations often plant these trees on the side of homesteads to catch snow and decrease wind speeds.

Narrow leaf evergreens are also known as conifers. Evergreen trees retain the majority of their needles through the winter. Evergreen trees, such as the arborvitae, are used in countless locations as screening plants. Spruce trees also belong in the evergreen family. Firs and spruces are used as the consummate Christmas decoration for millions of homes. The pine family of evergreens includes the Ponderosa, White, and Austrian Pine. This is not an inclusive list of evergreen trees, but it is a sampling of some of the trees in the evergreen classification.

The Pine Tree



Pines, cone-bearing evergreens that are native to most of the Northern Hemisphere, which grow 3–80 m tall, with the majority of species reaching 15–45 m tall.

The smallest are Siberian Dwarf Pine and the Potosi Pinyon, and the tallest is a 268.35-foot (81.79-meter) tall Ponderosa Pine located in southern Oregon's Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

Pines are long-lived, typically reaching ages of 100–1,000 years, some even more.

Many pine species make attractive ornamental plantings for parks and larger gardens, with a variety of dwarf cultivars suitable for smaller spaces. Pines are also commercially grown and harvested for Christmas trees. Pine cones, the largest and most durable of all conifer cones, are craft favorites. Pine boughs, appreciated especially in wintertime for their pleasant smell and greenery, are popularly cut for decorations.

The Balsam fir



The Balsam fir – popularly known as Christmas trees - is a small to medium-sized native evergreen tree that can grow anywhere from 40 to 80 feet tall. The Balsam fir has a wide base and a narrow top that ends in a slender, spire-like top. The branches grow from the trunk in right angles, with the lower branches spreading and drooping to the ground when the tree grows in the open. (Seasonal Décor)

The Hemlock tree



Slow-growing and long-lived, Canadian hemlock trees in the wild may reach 80 feet tall or higher, with a spread of 25' to 30'. Hemlock trees are pyramidal or conical in shape, and their small needles give them a fine texture. The needles are dark green on top and light green underneath. The bark of Canadian hemlock trees at maturity may be cinnamon-red or reddish brown. They also serve as “living wall” privacy screens. They are shade tolerant and make relatively little mess.

The Blue Spruce tree



Foliage and young cones

The Blue Spruce is a common horticultural tree in northeastern United States, and southeastern Canada. It is a medium-sized coniferous evergreen tree that can grow 82 to 98 ft tall, and with a trunk diameter of up to 4 ft 11 in.

Many are cultivated as ornamental trees, and the Blue Spruce is among the most widely planted in gardens and parks.

The Arborvitae tree & bush



The arborvitae is an evergreen tree or shrub from the cypress family. They are found primarily throughout eastern Canada and the northeastern United States. The arborvitae has scale like leaves that are soft to the touch, rather than prickly. Arborvitae prefers colder climates to warmer ones.

An Arborvitae, when allowed to, may reach thirty feet tall and ten feet wide. Arborvitae trees are also adaptable to most soil conditions including poor soils that are rocky, sterile, dry or wet.

They can be planted anywhere that has full to partial sun, and require minimal aftercare.

Arborvitae trees come in many different shapes. Some, like the American Arborvitae, are wide and cone shaped. Others, like the pyramidal, are thinner.

The Green Giant Arborvitae is one of the fastest growing privacy trees available in the US and the other species known as the Globe Arborvitae are rounded.

Arborvitae trees can also be pruned into the shape of hedges, and make wonderful year round privacy screens.

Spiral Evergreens



Alberta Spruce Spirals



Dwarf Alberta Spiral

Spiral evergreens make a lovely addition to landscape designs. Known also as topiary, the ancient Romans intricately trimmed bushes and trees for gardens, as did many English gardeners, particularly in wealthy households. The custom continues throughout the world utilizing woody plants with heavy foliage, fast growth patterns and small needles or leaves. Several type of evergreens fall into this category.



Dwarf Alberta Spiral- The **Alberta spruce** can handle high winds, cold temperatures, and heat and/or drought periods. A dwarf evergreen sheared to a spiral form making a dazzling accent, requires annual pruning to keep in form; ideal as a garden accent; incredibly dense needles are very sensitive to winter burn and may need winter protection in exposed locations

Ornamental Features: Dwarf Alberta Spruce has green foliage which emerges light green in spring. The needles remain green through the winter. Neither the flowers nor the fruit are ornamentally significant.

Alberta Variants Great for Artistic Pruning

Juniper

- Juniper makes an excellent option for shaping into a spiral. The density of the needles hides small errors you may make in pruning. There are more than 50 species in the family Cupressaceae, some of which easily reach heights of 25 feet. For the purpose of topiary work, however, consider something like the Pfitzer Chinese juniper, which reaches about 6 feet tall, making it more manageable. Plant your juniper in well-drained soil mixed with organic matter. Once established, this is a very low-maintenance tree.

Boxwood

- Boxwood trees (*buxus microphylla koreana*) make an excellent hedge tree because you can prune it into nearly anything, including a spiral. Better still, boxwood offers very fragrant flowers in spring time. On average this tree grows about 4 feet tall. Being an evergreen, boxwood thrives in nearly any type of soil. In the yard, place this tree in partial sun. Full light, particularly in hot climates, scorches the tree. Water regularly without saturating the roots. Bear in mind that boxwood has invasive qualities that your pruning deters.

Holly

- Holly evergreen trees are very dense, making them an ideal topiary tree. They're also easy to grow and need very little in the way of maintenance. Holly trees fare best in growing USDA hardiness zones 5 to 9. They can reach heights of 30 feet, growing about 2 feet per year. As with boxwood, plant your holly in a partially sunny location. Besides pruning them into spirals, these make excellent privacy hedges that block noise and provide a natural habitat for cardinals and bluebirds.

Yew

- *Taxus baccata* is an evergreen conifer that originated primarily in Europe. Sometimes called English yew or European yew, these trees can grow up to 60 feet tall if left to their own accord. Yews are a long-lived tree, and it will endure severe pruning thanks to the dark, dense foliage. It benefits from annual clipping, but to create a spiral, you must give it regular tending. Place your yew in an area that receives partial shade and ensure the soil remains well-drained for best results.

Bay Laurel

- Bay laurel is an aromatic evergreen that originated in the Mediterranean. The tree can grow nearly to 60 feet tall, bearing pale yellow flowers and glossy leaves. The Greeks used laurel for wreaths at the Pythian Games, the symbolism being victory. Bay will benefit from a full sun location and deep soil. The shine in the leaves is one reason why bay makes a very pretty topiary project. Better still, your spiral tree has culinary applications and you can pick the leaves fresh as desired.

Evergreen Shrubs



Evergreen Shrubs - With their year-round foliage, evergreen shrubs are the preferred bushes for foundation plantings, hedges, or screens. Some evergreen shrubs grow large enough to make excellent tree-form specimens for focal points in the landscape or garden. Many of the evergreen small-leaved hollies and boxwoods are useful in hedges, as they can be trimmed to precise shapes. Many of the evergreen shrubs such as Azaleas, Camellias, Indian Hawthorn, and Lorepetalums produce an abundance of flowers. Many have bright golden, burgundy, or variegated foliage that is sometimes striking enough on their own to serve as specimens.

Winter Bloomer flowers



Winter Bloomers - Just about everyone is cheered by the sight or scent of flowers blooming...much more so in the midst of a cold, gray winter. Beat the winter doldrums by planting one (or a few) of these winter bloomers. Camellia Japonicas pictured.

Most of them are moderate size and easy to grow in a small garden. (Plant them near a walkway or entrance where you're more able to appreciate them.) They include Edgeworthia chrysantha, which have dangling mops of large butter-yellow flower clusters and a spicy gardenia-like scent that can be appreciated from afar.



Edgeworthia chrysantha

Winter Bloomers Cont.

Wintersweet (*Chimonanthus praecox*) bows its heads of translucent pale yellow and maroon petals shyly, as if waiting to greet a visitor. A few cut branches indoors will make the whole house fragrant.

Slow-growing sweetbox (*Sarcococca humilis*) is an evergreen ground cover with white flowers so puny that they would go unnoticed if not for the sharp aroma of cinnamon and cloves.

Winter honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) is more leggy shrub than vine and needs pruning, but it rewards with a fruitlike scent.

Then there's the classic **Chinese witch hazel**, not to be confused with the equally fetching **winter hazel** (*Corylopsis*). Its flowers are extraordinarily frost-resistant. On winter mornings you can see the crinkled gold coming through the rime like sugared crystallized fruits.

Note: Plant winter annuals such as cyclamen, pansy, primrose and calendula. Sow seeds of annual sweet pea in the fall to create a late-winter flush of pastel blooms.

Winter-blooming perennials can brighten the bare winter garden. They are especially satisfying on cold days, viewed from inside a warm house.

Consider planting **Hellebores**, hardy winter bloomers with flowers shaped like cups or bells. **Helleborus niger**, the "Christmas rose," blooms from Christmas time into spring. **Helleborus orientalis**, the "Lenten rose," blooms in late winter in shades of white, pink, purple and green. The *Helleborus* species is also appreciated for its attractive foliage.



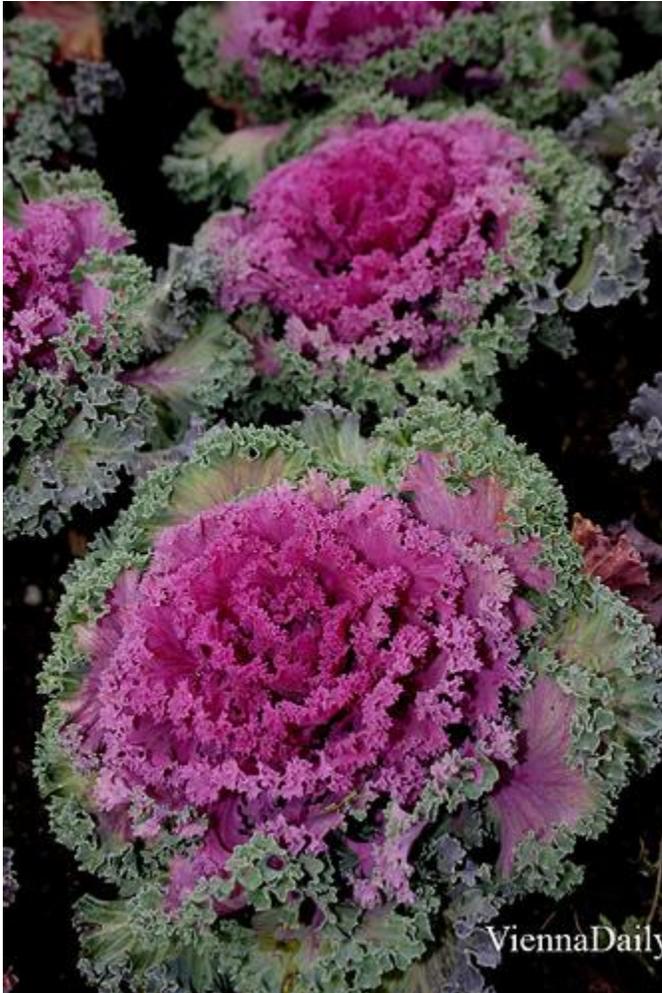
Hellebores

Winter Bloomers Cont.

Bergenia crassifolia, or winter-blooming bergenia, has blossoms of rose, lilac or purple in dense clusters on stems that rise above the leaves. It flowers in mid-winter and early spring. Both hellebores and bergenia should be planted in part to full shade.

Give these winter- and spring-blooming perennials a background of evergreen winter-blooming shrubs. Many of these shrubs look good all year but shine in winter when most perennials are dormant.

Ornamental Cabbage or Flowering Kale



Ornamental Cabbage or Flowering Kale

U.S.Dept. of Agriculture Hardiness Zones:

Annual (Cool Season)

Mature Size: Approximately 18" tall and wide

Ornamental kale and cabbage are some of the most popular (behind the pansy) winter annual plants. They lend a completely different texture to a winter landscape bed. The scientific name is *Brassica olerace*.

Ornamental Cabbage Cont.

Ornamental kale is one of the easiest bedding plants to grow, looks great all through the cool season, and it is bothered by few pests.

The large plants cover a lot of space quickly for a small investment, and require very little maintenance. The colorful foliage also makes a beautiful backdrop for flowering plants such as pansies, violas and tulips.

The terms “ornamental kale” or “ornamental cabbage” and “flowering kale” or “flowering cabbage” can be misleading. First, none of them is grown for its “flower,” but the attractive colored winter foliage. Secondly, kale and cabbage (whether ornamental or not) are genetically the same plant. The only difference is cabbages make heads, and kale do not. All “ornamental” cabbages and kales are really kale, since they do not form heads.

‘Peacock Red’ and ‘Peacock White’ form large open plants up to 2 feet across with leaves that are shaped like abstract feathers. ‘Red Feather’ and ‘White Feather’ resemble ‘Peacock Red,’ but they are larger and have less serrated foliage. ‘Nagoya Red’ and ‘Nagoya White’ form tight balls of heavily ruffled foliage. ‘Nagoya Red’ has bright rosy-purple centers on dark purple plants. ‘Osaka Pink,’ ‘Osaka White’ and ‘Osaka Red’ are usually called ornamental cabbage for their smooth, flat leaves. The bottom half of their foliage remains green, while the center rosettes turn bright purple, pink or white. The overall effect resembles a huge flower.

Kale transplants in the fall will usually be green in color. The bright foliage colors will only appear after the first hard frost. For the best foliage color grow them in full sun. Plants will tolerate some light shade, but usually will not be as colorful and tend to lean away from the shadows.

Kale are very heavy feeders, so fertilize them frequently to keep them in good growth.