



# The Home Landscape and Site Assessment Program

## **Whether you're a new homeowner or an experienced gardener, you can always use some good advice.**

Cornell Cooperative Extension staff and Master Gardener volunteers offer research-based information from Cornell and other universities about how plants grow, when to prune, how to get the most from a small vegetable garden and many more gardening challenges. Our phone-in Horticulture Hotline has helped local home gardeners for decades, and we recently added a blog to help answer questions. Now we're adding another service -- a visit to your home.

## **How does it work?**

We are testing a new concept for Putnam County homeowners. Uniquely qualified Master Gardener volunteers will come to your home, walk your property with you and make suggestions and answer questions changes you want to make in your landscape and gardens. For example, we'll look at specific trees or shrubs, assess the general health of your lawn, evaluate shade/sun issues and discuss next steps with you.

## **What do you get?**

You will receive a written report outlining our observations, suggesting ways you can make the changes you want on your property and providing fact sheets and instructions on how to proceed. You can then make the changes yourself or work with your own design/build firm.

## **What is included in the site visit?**

The site visit actually starts with you. We will ask you to complete a detailed questionnaire. You'll tell us about problems you've had, changes you want to make, and what your goals are for the future of your landscape and gardens. When we arrive at your home, we will have studied your answers carefully and then we'll begin our walk-through. What we will do includes:

- Detailed observations about the property
- Rough sketch of the property
- Lawn health assessment
- Overall assessment of the health of your trees and shrubs
- Examination of specific plant problems you noted on your questionnaire
- Evaluation of areas of your property that may present gardening challenges (e.g., wet, very shady, steep slopes).
- Evaluation of areas of your property where you noted changes you want to make (e.g., proper site for herb garden?)

## **This is a limited offer!**

This site visit program is available for a limited period to help us raise funds for more new and exciting ways to help Putnam County residents learn healthy gardening methods, have more confidence in the garden and make good use of their landscapes.

Here's how to get started:

Fill out the registration form and return it with your questionnaire and check for \$150 to:

**Site visit Program Coordinator  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
1 Geneva Road  
Brewster, NY 10509.**

## **Your sustainable landscape begins here.**

Our questionnaire will help you take a fresh look at your property. It's designed to gather information from your perspective, because you're the person who knows most about your landscape and how you want to use it.

- It's a good idea to walk your property at least one day before you answer the questions, making notes about what you want us to look at .
- Please answer all the questions as completely as possible.
- Make sure you fill out the section on what you want to do on your property in the future -- entertain, play ball with your children, grow vegetables, have ornamental gardens, clear out brush -- anything you can think of.

## **What not to expect**

*The site visit is not a substitute for a professional landscape design consultation or an assessment of tree health by a certified arborist.*

### How to get started . . .

Fill out the questionnaire and registration form. Send it in with your check for \$150.00, payable to Cornell Cooperative Extension.

**Yes! I want to register for a Home Landscape & Site Assessment. Please call me for an appointment.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make check(s) payable to **Cornell Cooperative Extension**. Send your registration to:

Site Assessment Program Coordinator  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
1 Geneva Road  
Brewster, NY 10509



**Cornell University**  
Cooperative Extension  
Putnam County

1 Geneva Road, Brewster, NY 10509  
Phone: 845-278-6738 • Fax: 845-278-6761  
www.cce.cornell.edu/putnam

### Who are the Master Gardener volunteers?

All Master Gardener volunteers complete a 15-week training course and advanced training in specific subjects of their own choosing. They help Cornell Cooperative Extension bring scientific information about plants, insects, birds and the environment from Cornell University and other land-grant colleges to you to help you make the most of your gardens, landscaping and property. The Master Gardener volunteers who perform the site visits have been given advanced training in site assessment, plant health and pathology evaluation and topographical issues.

At least two Master Gardeners will perform your site visit. Then they will work under the supervision of one of our professional horticulturists to evaluate their observations and write the report.

### Questions?

We're ready to help. Call our professional horticulture staff at 845-278-6738.

#### Dianne Olsen

Environmental Horticulture  
Resource Educator

#### Jennifer Stengle

Environmental Horticulture  
Community Educator

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities



**Cornell University**  
Cooperative Extension  
Putnam County



**The Home Garden Site Assessment Program**  
A Pilot Program  
Sponsored by  
**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County and the Master Gardener Volunteers**

### **A limited offer!**

Help support our Environmental Horticulture and Natural Resources education efforts with this unique way to learn more about your landscape.



**Cornell University**  
Cooperative Extension  
Putnam County