



Better Choices
Better Homes
Better Lives

Eco-Solar Home Tour – 2011

Saturday, June 4, noon to 4pm

Site #7: Dusseault Naturalised Landscaping

Address: 14011 91 Avenue, Edmonton

Hosts: Paul and Cynthia Dusseault (homeowners) plus
Asbjorg Vanderveer, Landscape Design & Consulting

Parking: available on street

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Climate Change Central

www.climatechangecentral.com



www.solaralberta.ca



www.cmhc.ca

A. Problems with old front yard

- North-facing yard, shady, with a large spruce tree taking all the moisture
- Impossible to keep grass growing, moss growing, lots of spruce needles
- Only a thin top soil layer, heavily compacted (original from 1958)
- Not a welcoming area at the entrance of the home
- No significant landscaping had occurred since house was built in 1958

B. Preparation

Step 1: Get a plan...

- Homeowners had a professional landscaping plan prepared
- Considered homeowners' interests, desired features and budget
- Homeowners chose to do the work, saving money and getting the satisfaction of doing the job themselves

Step 2: Out with the old!

- 7 small spruce trees were sold and moved away rather than cutting & burning
- Removed large old infested shrubs and removed roots
- Hauled out old exhausted soil, grass, shrubs, spruce needles, yard debris
- Excavated additional 150 to 300 mm (6" to 12") of clay to provide greater depth for new topsoil

(Continued on other side)

Before



After





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(Continued from other side)

C. Why this house is on the Eco-Solar Home Tour...

- To show how homeowners can easily reduce their environmental impact through landscaping choices.
- The principles of Naturalized (sometimes referred to as “Xeriscaping”) are:
 - Design for water conservation;
 - Improve soil and use of mulch;
 - Reduce lawn area; and
 - Select appropriate plants.
- Benefits from naturalised landscaping:
 - More enjoyment from yard throughout the year;
 - Less water use;
 - Less weeding and fertilizing;
 - Less pruning and mowing;
 - Less pesticide use; and
 - A refuge for wildlife around the year.



D. The Redesigned Yard

- Soil Improvement
 - Added 300 to 450 mm (12” to 18”) of triple mix (1/3 sand, 1/3 compost and 1/3 topsoil)
- Hardscape Features:
 - Sidewalk blocks and paving stones on the carport area
 - Patio area added to provide cool sitting area in the summer
 - Large Rundle stone under spruce tree to provide contrast
 - Four large decorative boulders provide colour and depth
 - Variety of edging used to segregate grass, mulched areas paving stones and property line
 - Decorative cedar address post to blend in with the natural feel of the yard
- Appropriate Plant Selection:
 - Variety of hardy, low-maintenance plants for colour, texture and natural beauty
 - Trees: Bur Oak and Birch
 - Shrubs: Dwarf Norway spruce, Taunton’s Yew, Tam Juniper, Prince of Wales Juniper, *etc.*
 - Grasses: Blue Oat Grass, Elijah Blue Fescue
 - Flowering plants: Josee Reblooming Lilac, Barberry, Spirea, Hydrangea, Hostas, *etc.*
 - Ground Cover Plants (living mulch): White Nancy, Cranesbill Geranium
 - Small amount of sod to provide balance and flow
- Mulching
 - Cedar mulch used extensively to decrease weeds (weeds don’t germinate well in shaded soil)

