



James Landscaping, Inc. focuses on Earthkind™ landscapes

A natural approach to the great outdoors

By Tammy Adams

With hard work and a commitment to excellence on every level, James Landscaping has earned a reputation throughout the years as one of Northeast Tarrant County's most respected landscaping companies. Clients return again and again to receive the expertise, creative designs and unmatched service that have become hallmarks of James Landscaping. They are known near and far as the best source for beautiful, low-maintenance, lush landscapes.

Started by Rhonda James more than 16 years ago, the company has flourished under her watchful eye. A degreed horticulturist with a keen interest in preserving the overall

environment while enhancing her client's personal environments, James and Cassie Cole, vice president of the company, take every opportunity to distinguish themselves in the industry by offering more to their clients in the areas of support, education and superior products.

Becoming Earthkind™

From offering low-maintenance landscapes (those that require minimal watering) to hand-selecting plants that will thrive in each client's unique setup, James Landscaping is not your average landscaper. There are no cookie-cutter designs or standard packages when it comes to plant selection at James Landscaping.

Both James and Cole are excited to be a part of Earthkind™,



an environmental landscape management program developed at Texas A&M University. They have completed all the necessary continuing education required to become a certified Earthkind™ provider.

“The goal of the program is for Americans to enjoy beautiful, productive landscapes which require only minimal maintenance while providing maximum protection for the environment,” Cole explained. “Dr. Steve George taught us the principles that include basing your horticultural decisions on a deep, abiding respect for the environment and on the latest scientifically-sound, research-based information.” Another principle is employing Earthkind™ techniques of plant selection and soil preparation to avoid pest problems before they occur, and utilize Earthkind™ and Texas Superstar™ plants whenever possible. Pesticides should be used only as a last resort, and then only the most environmentally responsible product available.

Researchers at A&M take selected plants and plant them in different regions of the state. They don’t amend the soil, don’t fertilize and they water the test plants very minimally. “Actually, they abuse the plants,” James said. “And if the plants survive, and even thrive, they make the cut and are named Texas Superstar™ plants.

“So, these plants that were surviving under the research criteria will actually flourish when used in one of our landscapes because we will amend the soil and apply mulch based on A&M’s latest research recommendations,” she added.

The result of an Earthkind™ design is a beautiful, healthy landscape that requires less water than a traditional landscape, is less likely to need harsh chemical pesticides and thrives well in the area it was designed for. Here, in North Texas, where plants must be able to endure drought and rainy conditions, clients are lining up to have an Earthkind™ landscape put in.

“We have educated ourselves on the program and we are now working on educating our clientele about the great



benefits of it,” Cole said. “Bottom line, for the client, it means dollars saved and less work. It’s a win-win situation.”

The James Landscaping, Inc. Difference

In addition to offering their clients cutting-edge designs and the highest quality landscapes, James Landscaping is committed to excellent service well beyond the sale. It is, in fact, what they are best known for.

For instance, James, Cole and Marie Weil have developed a plant description database that gives each client a customized list of the plants that were used in their landscape design along with each plant’s maintenance requirements.

And they also give detailed, written watering instructions to each client. “By far, proper watering is the biggest problem we see when we are looking at plants that are struggling,” Cole explained. “A plant’s water needs can be so drastically different from week to week in an area like North Texas, so it does require being involved.”

James suggests that clients buy a soil meter or they need to be willing to stick their finger in the soil on a regular basis. “Many people water frequently but not deeply,” she explained. “This creates a weak plant with a shallow root base.” Instead, James teaches her clients to water deeply, wait until just before the plants begin to wilt and then water deeply again. This allows the plant or tree to develop a deep and strong root system.

It is this type of commitment to the client on every level that has earned James Landscaping, Inc. the reputation as one of the area’s premier landscaping companies. From start to finish, a James Landscaping experience is sure to be a pleasant one.

For more information about James Landscaping’s services and a showcase of their work, including landscapes, ecologically balanced ponds, stone patios, lighting and more, readers are invited to visit their Web site at www.jameslandscaping.com

Call today to schedule a consultation at 817-329-0528. 

