

## Importance of Ornamental plants in Landscaping

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**Landscape** and **ornamental** trees are an **important** part of human life. They provide shade and beauty around homes, schools, markets and shopping areas, places of work, along streets and highways, in city parks and other areas. They also help conserve energy and the quality of air, water and soil.

Ornamental plants are those plants which are grown for their aesthetic features in home gardens or in public places like parks. These plants have plant parts like leaves, flowers, stem, fruit or stem and foliage texture which are attractive to the people visiting the garden. These ornamental plants are grown in a garden for cut flowers, to create landscape designs or just to create a display. They have less functional use and most of them don't have any value beyond the fact that they are attractive. There are different varieties of ornamental plants with different sizes, shapes and colour and which are suitable for different climatic ranges, soil types and gardening and landscaping needs. Some ornamental plants have brightly coloured foliage or needle shaped leaves or bright and attractive flowers. Ornamental plants can be grown in garden beds or as window plants in pots, according to their variety. Ornamental plants provide the best visual effect in any garden or space where they are placed. Rose, orchids, lilies, coleus, ferns, etc., are examples of ornamental plants. Herbs, vines, bushes and trees are also included in ornamental plants.

### Uses of Ornamental Plants



An ornamental plant is grown for decoration, rather than food or other by-products. Ornamental plants may be grown in a flowerbed, shaped into a hedge or placed in a sunny apartment window. They are most often intentionally planted for aesthetic appeal, but a plant that occurs naturally and enhances the landscape could also be considered ornamental. While the most apparent use of ornamental plants is for visual effect, they serve a few less obvious purposes.

#### Why ornamental plants are important for your garden



Ornamental plants are more important than just looking nice and impressing guests and neighbours. Ornamental plants are often understood as purely aesthetic and unnecessary. They might also be seen less important to healthy ecosystems than trees or foodcrops.

The truth is, our neighbourhoods are actually ecosystems that are important habitats for wildlife that is critical for our wellbeing. Flowers are a foraging opportunity for pollinators and these pollinators fertilize food crops. So if you have a vegetable garden in your backyard, or live close to a farm or orchard, it may be beneficial to plant good pollinating flowers on your property.

**For example**, those little yellow flowers on your tomato or cucumber plant will turn into



hearty vegetables if they are pollinated by bumble bees. In fact, one out of every three mouthfuls of food we eat are dependent on pollinators. Ornamental plants also contribute to a healthy balance between insects and birds. This balance is important because it reduces the potential risk of pests spreading through gardens.

