



# Landscape Lighting

Add Beauty and Safety to Your Home

**Star-Tip 1078**

*Gardening Tips for successful and beautiful Landscapes and Gardens*

Isn't it time to show off all the effort and success that you have had in creating an attractive landscape. So, maybe you should think about adding some lighting to let your neighbors and friends enjoy its beauty at night.

Take a walk around your yard during the day as well as the evening. Observe the different lighting effects created by the sun and the moon, on your home as well as your landscape. Try to identify where the highlighted areas contrast from the shadowy areas. Imagine how you can recreate these, and other effects by using the three basic techniques of "downlighting, backlighting and uplighting".

## **Areas for Creativity**

- Architectural features that can be accentuated.
- Garden paths that can provide romantic pathways for nighttime strolls.
- Patio borders and decks that can become more festive and useful with improved lighting.
- Statuaries and fountains, that if highlighted would make a real statement.
- Trees or shrubs that can serve as attractive focal points.
- Winding walkways that can present an elegant image, and enhance the safety of your yard.



## **Areas for Safety**

- Poorly lit walkways.
- Darkened areas around doors or windows that could be useful for intruders.
- Driveways that can be clearly outlined for your guests.
- Steps that could be a nighttime tripping hazard.

## **The Lighting Plan**

Downlighting is the effect achieved by attaching your low voltage lamp to an eve for instance, and directing the beam downward onto your landscape. Backlighting can be provided by illuminating a wall behind a plant or hardscapes, and just imagine the look when you cast a spot up onto that attractive palm tree.

After thinking these issues over, and observing the opportunities in your yard; You may begin your plan by the use of a "scatter gram". Simply write down every idea you get. At first, do not eliminate any of them. Build this list of potential lighting situations for a week or so. Then put each idea to the test of practicality and compatibility. You will have narrowed down your options to a manageable amount.

Easy to install Solar lighting as well high intensity low voltage devices are readily available and quite economic. While you may find many opportunities where low level illumination is appropriate to use the easier to install and more economically operated "solar lights", some areas will likely require the higher intensity illumination of the power supplied low voltage type devices.

Solar lighting very easy to install. It is ideally suited for areas where a regular source of power is not readily available, and where lower level illumination is preferred. Remember a solar light's performance is directly related to the amount of sun it receives each day. It needs to be located out from shade, and remember it's output will be diminished following cloudy days. Fortunately, here in Vegas, those days are relatively few.

Low voltage lighting is also an easy and most economical way to make your landscape more visibly beautiful and safe at night. These systems are completely safe to use where children and animals might play. Proper understanding of the electrical current limits of the wiring and transformers will be required however, so be sure to read the instructions carefully. Come into our Nursery and consult with our lighting specialists. Or log on to [www.starnursery.com](http://www.starnursery.com), select "expert advice" and go to our StarNote page and read Star Note #925 for more information.



Solar (easiest to install)



Low volt Spot  
(great to highlight a tree or shrub)



Low volt hanging carriage Lamp  
(an elegant addition)

The solar and low voltage systems make a great project for the "do it yourselfer". Star Nursery carries a full line of Landscaping Lighting, and offers a wide selection of both lighting and power transformers. Look at the possibilities in your yard, use your imagination come into the store and; **Go for it !**