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LANDSCAPING FOR ENERGY SAVINGS

SUMMER:

Reducing Grass Areas saves on energy use to cut grass.

Planting beds with perennials or other plants can also help reduce the maintenance required to maintain the yard.

Be sure to keep wood chips away from your foundation to prevent termites from finding paths into your home. It is best to use gravel for at least 6 inches.

Blocking Summer Sun helps keep the interior of your home cool.

By planting tall deciduous trees to the Southwest corner of the home one can both cast shadows on the home but also when the leaves fall let the sun in during the winter months.

The hottest period of the day is from noon (due south) to around 3 or 4 PM. This is when your Air Conditioners will be strained the most, and can continue working hard into the evening if you have poor insulation or air leaks.

Other summer shading devices can include trellises, horizontal shade louvers, awnings (which can be removed during winter months) and even fencing.

WINTER:

Blocking Winter Winds helps keep the interior of your home warmer.

By planting conifers in the Northwest quadrant of a house, about 30 to 50 feet away, they will help redirect winter winds away from the surfaces of your house, helping to reduce heat loss.