

# Happy Homes

## Monthly



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If your home is currently listed for sale with another real estate professional, please disregard this offer.

## Landscaping for a Cooler House

If you'd like to revamp your home's landscaping with increased shade in mind, here's what you need to know.

### Understand how the sun hits your home

To effectively landscape for shade, you first need to learn the size, shape, and location of the shadow that your home casts as the sun travels through the sky. Keep in mind that the shadow will change with the seasons, too.

### Crunch the numbers

Before you get too hung up on minor pricing differences, make sure you have done the math. For example, at an interest rate of 4.3 percent, the difference between \$199,000 and \$195,000 is only \$19 per month. While this can add up over time, it's probably not worth losing your dream home.

### Cool in the summer, warm in the winter

If you live in a climate with hot summers and chilly winters, plant deciduous trees. During the intense days of summer, the leaves will help block some of the sun's rays. When the leaves fall during autumn, sunlight can reach the home. Don't just take our word for it, either. According to Energy.gov, [this is the ideal planting strategy](#):

- Plant taller trees to the south of your home to maximize the amount of shade your roof receives during the summer.
- Trees with leaves that are lower to the ground should be planted to the west. As the sun slowly sets throughout the day, it hits your home at a lower angle by afternoon, which is why this strategy works. Shrubs are also a good choice.

### Create shade with garden vines

A vertical vine garden is an excellent way to help cool a home, and it tends to show results much faster than planting young trees. Vines also have the added benefit of providing insulation from hot outdoor air, and there are tons of different types to choose from based on your preferences and needs.

### Indoor plants that cool down a house

The foliage inside a home also plays a role in regulating air temperature, which will help if you're looking for an extra cooling boost. Many indoor plants also help purify the air, which is doubly helpful if you close your windows often during the summer.

Another way to keep your house cool is to protect it with a home warranty from 2-10 Home Buyers Warranty! They have the industry's most comprehensive HVAC protection – including unlimited refrigerant and SEER matching.



### Mustardy Grilled Corn and Sausage Kabobs

- 2 large ears sweet corn, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 1 large green sweet pepper, cut into 1.5 inch pieces
- 1 14 ounce kielbasa, cut into 12 pieces
- 1/3 cup bottled Italian salad dressing
- 1 tablespoon yellow mustard

### Instructions

- 1) Prepare grill for direct cooking over medium-high heat. Thread corn, kielbasa and sweet peppers on 4 long metal skewers.
- 2) In a small bowl, whisk together Italian dressing and mustard; brush some of the mixture on the kabobs before grilling.
- 3) Grill, covered, directly over medium to medium-high heat for 8 to 12 minutes, turning and brushing occasionally with remaining dressing mixture, until vegetables are tender and charred.

Recipe courtesy of [midwestliving.com](http://midwestliving.com)

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### Did you know: the average cost to replace a dishwasher is \$346\*

A Home Warranty Service Agreement from 2-10 Home Buyers Warranty gives homeowners protection against unexpected systems and appliances breakdowns.

\*Source: HomeAdvisor.com

