

Hillside Planting & Landscaping Sequence

Stop erosion and build beautiful, stable natural steps on your sloped yard.

Transforming a severely sloped yard requires a strict construction order to prevent washouts. Follow this sequence from bottom to top to anchor your hill while new roots establish.

● Key Hillside Measurements

1/3 deep

Bury boulders for structural anchoring

26 inches

Steps: 2R + T target size

6 inches

Perimeter trench depth for netting

3 feet

Spacing for steel landscape staples

3 inches

Shredded hardwood mulch layer

Water The Uphill Zone

Always water the top side of your plants so moisture soaks evenly down through the entire root mass without causing dangerous surface runoff.



● 9-Step Planting Sequence

- 1 **Stake Contour Lines** Stake your level contour lines directly across the slope face from bottom to top.
- 2 **Shape Soil Treads** Cut and shape the raw soil to form your natural step treads.
- 3 **Set Heavy Stones** Securely set your heavy path stones and border boulders into the earth.
- 4 **Trench The Edges** Dig a perimeter trench at the extreme top and bottom for erosion control fabric.
- 5 **Pin Jute Netting** Pull biodegradable brown jute tightly across contours and pin it firmly.
- 6 **Map Triangle Spacing** Stagger in triangles to naturally catch surface runoff and weave water slowly.
- 7 **Cut Tight Slits** Plant through jute net by carefully cutting a tight X-slit for each root ball.
- 8 **Berm Downhill Lips** Berm the downhill lip of every single plant to create a temporary percolation pool.

● Step Sizing Adjustments

Find your row: **Your Riser Height**

Your Riser Height	Your pick	Why
5 inches	16 inches tread	Ideal for gentle slopes
6 inches	14 inches tread	Standard comfortable stride
7 inches	12 inches tread	Keeps steep hills safe

● Site & System Checks

- Assess if steepness requires shortened treads to avoid awkward leaps.
- Verify perimeter trenches are fully backfilled and tamped down firmly.
- Route flexible half-inch drip tubing horizontally across your established contours.
- Place one-gallon-per-hour emitters directly uphill of each plant stem.

● Project Notes & Plant Choices

Enjoy your beautifully anchored, erosion-free hillside landscape!