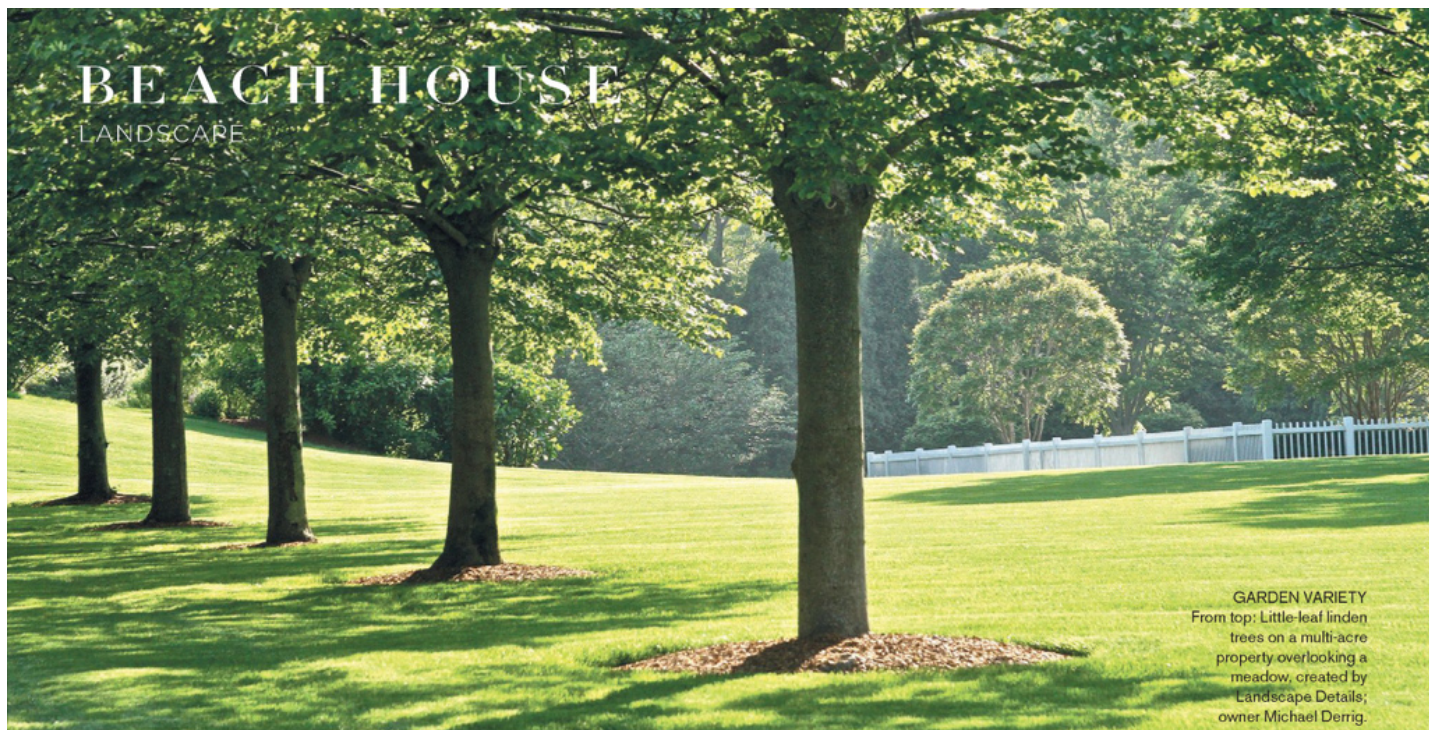


BEACH HOUSE

LANDSCAPE



GARDEN VARIETY
From top: Little-leaf linden trees on a multi-acre property overlooking a meadow, created by Landscape Details; owner Michael Derrig.

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

According to **Michael Derrig**, owner of the full-service landscape company **Landscape Details**, the key to a good garden is good preparation. He breaks down the must-dos for a beautiful summer—and for surviving another brutal winter.

As we saw spring emerging this year, we quickly realized we'd just been through the most damaging winter in recent history. In the past, because we have a more coastal climate than other locales around us like mainland New York state, Pennsylvania and Connecticut, we've managed to survive the winters just fine. But this year was different.

In the Hamptons, we've gotten away with planting trees and plants, like Southern magnolia, Camellia and Franklinia trees and certain hollies, due to our coastal climate. These plants have marginal hardiness up in this area. This year, however, many of the Southern magnolia and hollies perished. They're totally brown. Plants like these need to be in a protected spot, and you need to know the microclimate of the particular site. Placement is key!

That's one reason landscaping

and good horticultural practices are so crucial. There's a lot more science involved than most people think. During the winter, while deciduous plants such as maples and oaks lose their leaves and go dormant, evergreens take up water. We say "evergreen, ever-growing." During the dry winter months, we go around with water trucks and water our evergreens—the arborvitae, Cryptomeria and cedars—to make sure they don't desiccate, or dry out. It may seem odd to see a green Landscape Details truck out there watering plants in February or March, but it saves the plant, especially in high-wind open areas like Bridgehampton and Sagaponack.

We're a full-service landscape company—we do landscape design, construction and maintenance. We have a lighting division, and we do carpentry to build custom gates,

pergolas and fences. But plants are my real passion, and because my team and I are experts, we're able to listen to what the plants need in a unique way. Call us "plant whisperers."

No doubt, springtime is for planting, and now we need to replace the plants that died due to the harsh weather this year. We have many plants arriving now for the summer, like Yoshino cherries and star and saucer magnolia trees (though not Southern magnolia trees, unfortunately). We buy them from all over—New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania—and we have our own 20-acre tree farm in Calverton, N.Y.

To survive another harsh winter, you have to make sure things are properly planted, that the soil is fertilized and that you're getting your plants from a place that has good sources. I like Lynch's Garden Center



(175 N. Sea Road, Southampton, lynchsgardencenter.com), Eastlands Nursery & Farms (1260 Montauk Highway, Water Mill) and Marders (120 Snake Hollow Road, Bridgehampton, marders.com). The importance of proper preparation can't be understated. By being prepared in the fall for winter, you get a good spring. And after the winter we just had, a good spring is everything. 1796 Sag Harbor Turnpike, landscapedetailsinc.com