

Caribbean Landscaping Checklist for Homeowners

A practical, easy-to-use checklist based on essential Caribbean landscaping principles.

Environmental Understanding

Identify sun exposure (East, South, West).
Check wind direction—capture NE trade winds.
Observe how water flows during heavy rain.
Ensure drainage moves water away from the house.

Landform & Grading

Confirm slopes work with natural land shape.
Add retaining walls only where necessary.
Grade yard to prevent erosion or water pooling.

Structural Layout (Hardscape First)

Define walkways, driveways, and edges.
Establish patios, steps, and usable zones.
Confirm clear paths for access and flow.

Plant Selection

Choose the right plant for sun/shade areas.
Select drought-tolerant or native plants.
Avoid planting large trees too close to walls or roofs.

Plant Layering

Use three layers: trees, shrubs, groundcovers.
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Avoid isolated single plants—group for fullness.
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Mix foliage textures for a lush tropical look.
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Maintenance Considerations

Reduce lawn areas to lower upkeep.

Mulch beds to control weeds and retain moisture.
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Ensure irrigation or manual watering plan exists.

Privacy & Screening

Use plants (not walls) to create soft privacy.
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Check hedge spacing for future growth.
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Ensure airflow is not blocked by dense planting.
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Entry & Flow

Keep entrance visible and welcoming.

Use curved, gentle paths for good chi flow.

Ensure no clutter or overgrown plants at entry.

Long-Term Planning

Account for plant growth over 10–20 years.
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Leave clearance for roots near structures.
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Plan for future shade and garden expansion.
