

Formal Style Gardening at BSDU Jaipur: A Modern Landscape Approach for a Sustainable and Professional Campus

*Ashok Kumar Bajya¹, Sourav Virmani² and Dr. Vinay Kumar Verma³

¹Trainer cum Horticulture In-charge, BSDU, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

²SIN Admin, BSDU, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

³Assistant Professor, BSDU, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

*Corresponding Author's email: akbajya91@gmail.com

Formal style gardening is a landscape design approach based on symmetry, geometric forms, clear axes, orderly planting, defined pathways and disciplined maintenance. The landscape visible at Bharatiya Skill Development University (BSDU), Jaipur demonstrates how formal gardening can be integrated with a contemporary institutional campus. The lawns, straight pedestrian paths, evenly spaced trees, clipped planting beds, bollard lighting and strong architectural lines create a clean, organized and professional outdoor environment. This article discusses the major principles, plant arrangement, functional value, maintenance requirements and sustainability opportunities associated with the formal landscape of BSDU Jaipur.

Keywords: Formal gardening; landscape design; institutional landscaping; BSDU Jaipur; lawn management; tree avenue; sustainable horticulture; campus landscape.

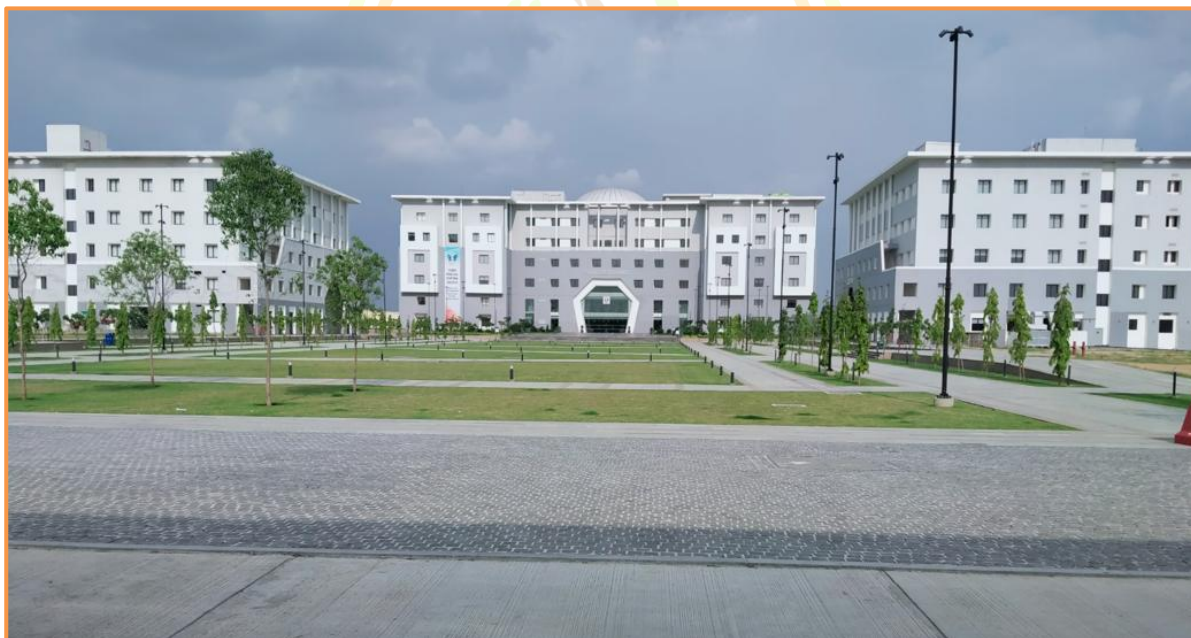


Figure 1. Formal landscape character and structured green spaces at BSDU Jaipur

Introduction

A well-designed institutional landscape is more than an attractive green space. It contributes to the identity of the campus, improves the visual experience of students and visitors, supports outdoor movement and provides a pleasant setting for learning and interaction. Formal gardening is particularly appropriate for institutional landscapes where order, visibility, cleanliness and a strong visual identity are important. BSDU Jaipur provides a useful example of this modern formal landscape character, where open lawns are combined

with structured avenues, geometric paving and architectural planting. The landscape composition shown in the photographs is closely related to the architecture of the campus. The white and grey buildings provide a contemporary backdrop, while green lawns and regularly positioned trees soften the built environment. The result is a balanced relationship between hardscape and softscape, with a strong sense of symmetry and visual continuity.

Major Features of Formal Gardening at BSDU Jaipur

The most prominent feature is the use of geometric organization. Lawns are maintained in broad, clearly defined areas and are intersected by straight pedestrian pathways. Trees are planted at regular intervals, creating rhythm and repetition. This arrangement gives the campus a formal appearance and makes circulation easy to understand. The landscape also uses a restrained plant palette and repeated forms rather than an uncontrolled mixture of species. Young ornamental trees, flowering or foliage shrubs and ground-level planting are positioned to support the architectural character of the buildings. Repetition of similar plants is an important formal design principle because it creates unity throughout a large campus.



Figure 2. Structured lawn, pathway and tree planting illustrating formal campus design

Symmetry, Geometry and Visual Order

Symmetry and geometry are fundamental to formal gardening. At BSDU Jaipur, straight pathways, rectangular lawns and repeated tree lines establish a strong visual axis. The approach creates perspective toward the main buildings and gives important campus spaces a dignified appearance. Geometric paving patterns further reinforce the relationship between the buildings and landscape. Formal landscaping should not be interpreted as a landscape with only straight lines. Curved or natural elements may also be introduced where they improve comfort or biodiversity, but the dominant framework should remain organized. In a large institutional campus, this balance helps maintain both visual discipline and ecological function.

Planting Design and Selection

Plant selection is a critical component of successful formal gardening in Jaipur's climatic conditions. Trees and shrubs should be selected according to their adaptability, water requirement, growth habit, root behavior, maintenance needs and compatibility with buildings and pathways. Plants with upright or compact growth habits are especially useful along formal avenues and entrances, while lawn areas provide a visual base for the composition. Uniform spacing is equally important. Trees placed at consistent distances create rhythm and make the campus look professionally managed. Near buildings and pedestrian routes, plant height and canopy spread should be managed so that visibility, lighting, security and movement are not obstructed.

Pathways, Lighting and Hardscape Integration

The photographs show a strong integration of landscape and hardscape. Wide paved walkways connect buildings and lawn areas, while smaller pedestrian routes divide green spaces into functional zones. The use of repeated paving modules creates a clean and contemporary appearance. Black-and-white bollard lights and taller poles provide a visual rhythm while supporting safe movement after dark.

In formal campus gardening, hardscape should be treated as part of the landscape composition rather than as a separate engineering element. Drainage, pedestrian comfort, accessibility, lighting, irrigation lines and planting beds should be coordinated during planning and maintenance.

Lawn Management and Maintenance

A formal landscape depends heavily on regular maintenance. Lawn mowing should be carried out at an appropriate height according to grass species and season. Over-mowing can weaken turf, whereas infrequent mowing can destroy the formal appearance. Edging along pathways, buildings and planting beds is necessary to maintain sharp boundaries. Irrigation should be scheduled according to soil moisture, season, turf condition and plant requirements. Efficient systems such as drip irrigation for trees and shrubs and well-managed sprinkler irrigation for lawns can reduce unnecessary water use. Irrigation should preferably be performed during periods of lower evaporation, while avoiding excessive watering that may encourage disease or nutrient loss. Tree and shrub maintenance includes formative pruning, removal of dead or diseased branches, staking of young trees where necessary, weed management, mulching and monitoring for pests and diseases. Plant health should be checked routinely rather than relying only on corrective treatments.

Sustainability Opportunities

Modern formal gardening should combine visual order with resource efficiency. At BSDU Jaipur, sustainability can be strengthened through drought-tolerant and climate-suitable plant selection, efficient irrigation, mulching, composting of horticultural waste and integrated pest management. Rainwater harvesting and reuse of suitable treated water for landscape irrigation can further reduce dependence on fresh water, subject to site infrastructure and safety requirements.

Organic matter generated through pruning and lawn maintenance can be processed into compost or mulch where appropriate. Mulching around trees and shrubs helps conserve soil moisture, moderate soil temperature and reduce weed emergence. These practices can maintain the formal appearance of the campus while improving resource efficiency.



Figure 3. Formal avenue planting and geometric pedestrian circulation within the BSDU campus

Management Recommendations for BSDU Jaipur

- Maintain a campus-wide landscape inventory covering trees, shrubs, lawns, irrigation points and hardscape interfaces.
- Prepare seasonal horticultural schedules for mowing, pruning, fertilization, irrigation, weeding and plant protection.

- Use uniform plant spacing and standardized pruning practices in visually prominent formal zones.
- Adopt irrigation scheduling based on season, soil moisture and plant demand rather than fixed over-irrigation.
- Maintain clean and sharp lawn edges along pathways and buildings to preserve the formal appearance.
- Use mulch and compost wherever suitable to improve soil health and reduce water loss.
- Monitor newly planted trees for staking, watering, pest incidence and establishment during the initial growth period.
- Maintain clear sightlines around pathways, entrances, lighting fixtures and security-sensitive areas.

Conclusion

The formal gardening approach at BSDU Jaipur demonstrates how landscape design can complement modern institutional architecture. Symmetrical organization, geometric lawns, orderly tree planting, defined pedestrian routes, appropriate lighting and disciplined maintenance together create a professional and welcoming campus environment. For long-term success, the formal character should be supported by climate-responsive plant selection, efficient water management, soil-health practices and systematic horticultural maintenance. A well-managed formal landscape therefore becomes not only an aesthetic asset but also an important part of the functional and environmental quality of the university campus.