

# Backyard and Garden Makeovers

A Collection of **49** Tips and Ideas for Converting Your  
Outdoor Area Into Your Own Special Space

by [The Complete Gardening System](#)

# The First Steps of a Backyard Makeover

The reason many people are able to affect such positive results in recreating their backyards is they address the blight within their backyard first. This means all those dandelions, long grass and weeds that need to be pulled up along with discards of trash. Before you can have a garden makeover, you need to take care of all the preceding unsightly elements first.

Many people look at this particular type of situation and wonder what is the best approach to begin a backyard makeover project. Looking at your situation realistically; discards will need to be hauled away. Secondly, you will need to consider what tools are needed to take care of the weeds and long grass.

Gloves are necessary in order to protect your hands. The hand protection is particularly necessary if your work requires you to take down certain shrubs full of thorns, or even less movable objects such as rickety fences and gates and the like. Some people will use a garden trowel in order to take up unsightly weeds. If you are unable to bend properly you might want to consider a tool that allows you to stand when ridding yourself of the discouraging weedy condition. The idea here is to think about first what it is you need to take out of view and prepare with the proper tools in order to get the job done. Then when you get to the second portion of the project - landscape mode, you can determine what additional tools you require at that particular time.

Once the discards are out of the way go ahead and start weeding the ground. Taking scraggly weeds out of your yard will make your yard look so much better. Plus the bonus is that your yard is appreciably nicer to view once the weeds are out of the way. This aspect will allow you to stay motivated and move forward with the remainder of the cleanup detail as well as the landscaping that succeeds it.

The landscaping portion involves your looking into what flowers and shrubs you'd like to plant in order to provide it with a pleasing appearance. Another consideration if you are in the right environment and the block of land can accommodate it, you may consider setting up a vegetable garden. This aspect may be reasonable especially if you like to cook and like the idea of growing your own vegetables.

In matter of progression, creating a yard makeover involves removing weeds, long grasses, and old gates or other such unsightly items first. Secondly, you plan your garden and purchase plants, trees and shrubs accordant to your agricultural zone and what will work well on your parcel of ground. The approach sounds simplistic when just stating it; however, knowledgeable landscapers and gardeners know such a two to three part project is a great deal more involved. However when all is said and done redoing your yard is certainly well worth the effort.

# A Sensational Transformation

Perusing gardening magazines may make you wish your backyard resembled one of the beautiful pictures you admire. You need not feel envy as you can affect the same type of transformation yourself. There are a variety of approaches wherein you can take your backyard from a less than appealing parcel to something out of the ordinary.

The initial approach is to size up your backyard. Consider areas where clutter prevails. If there are areas with items you no longer need or anticipate using then get them hauled away. You will need to clear your garden of clutter before you can proceed. Once the clutter is no longer an issue it is time for the fun part; making over your backyard.

Certainly if you have been perusing the garden magazines for months on end you will have formulated some ideas. If not, now may be the time to do so. You might also glean some ideas by thinking about how other yards are presented within surrounding neighborhoods as well as your own.

Take your ideas and regardless of where you have attained them ensure you have put together a plan where your personality is part of the new landscape. For example, if you are the sort of person who enjoys entertaining, you'll want to designate an area where your friends can appreciate your thriving oasis — possibly a patio or an area where you can cook out or grill.

Make a list of things you would like to see changed and then start on your project. If you have plenty of capital you will want to hire a professional landscaper to provide you with his or her unique brand and expertise to the project. If that is not within your budget or preference you can still proceed on your own with the landscaping project. However, conducting some product research online will be necessary.

You will want to take care of the landscaping of the yard by initially planting interesting trees and shrubbery. Also if you are the sort of person who appreciates a garden, you will want to plant flowering items that are currently in-season - and make provisions to change out flowers for others that are in bloom for different seasons of the year.

In order to create a marvelous makeover you will wish to consider decorative items that will make your garden and yard all the more pleasant to view. Such garden accessories - if well selected - are what will make your backyard special and inviting to guests. Items may include benches, tables and chairs for out-of-doors socializing and decorative pots or statues — however kept in balance and to a minimum.

Backyard renovations if thought through can be enormously rewarding. The key is to put your own unique lifestyle as well as personality into the equation. By so doing you are sure to come up with something sensational!

# A Solution for Unsightly Weeds

In order to transform your backyard into a venue of wonderment one thing is for certain; you will want to keep the weeds out. Since you can't post a no-trespassing sign for this form of unsightly plant-life a more realistic solution may present in the form of landscape fabric. What exactly is landscape fabric?

It is a material especially used in gardens to keep down excessive weed growth, rather in the same way compost does, only it does not rot down like compost. Landscape fabric is a viable solution in keeping the weeds out as you simply place it around all sorts of preferable plant life such as flowers, shrubbery and shade trees. This may easily spare you the drudgery of digging up the weeds with a trowel. The material is actually used to promote the positive plant growth and discourage or put an end to the weeds.

The way the latter is accomplished is that the material effectively blocks out natural light so that weeds do not have a chance to emerge. The plants you wish to keep around are not blocked since the same material that blocks sunlight from getting to unsightly weeds allows plenty of air and humidity and other forms of moisture to reach the roots of garden plants. This is based on the theory that the plants where growth is encouraged have already emerged and the weeds attempting to make an eventual appearance above ground are still underneath the soil.

Before buying landscape fabric you will need to consider a few points. First off, you need to choose a landscape fabric with plenty of durability that holds up well and is well-suited for its intended application. However, fabric that is a great deal more durable is more expensive and there is a reduction in the amount of moisture and air that can reach your plants.

The fabric used needs to be absorbent enough to provide proper moisture and air to flow into the soil. The fabric must be appropriate to its application because if it is not you will have a problem on your hands with the soil becoming infertile or your plants not growing properly. In this regard, the fibers of the fabric should be evenly distributed. Also the areas where there are openings should be small enough that weeds cannot grow through. You can buy landscape fabrics at most garden centers as well as community nurseries.

# A Tomato Trellis Can Add Charm

Many people enjoy the wonderful pastime of growing tomatoes along with other vegetable crops in their gardens. In fact, online there is a considerable amount of information provided on the subject so you are not about to run out of information anytime too soon with respect to growing tomatoes.

Tomatoes can be added to your backyard arrangement in many locations depending whether you wish to grow them singly, or within your backyard vegetable garden. Some gardeners who lack space will actually provide areas on their terraces to grow them. However, one application of tomato growing is to use a trellis in order to yield tomatoes in greater abundance and add charm to the location.

A good many gardeners provide stakes for their tomatoes. However, there are some very organic-style gardeners out there who believe it is okay to allow the plant grow without the support of stakes or any other kind of support. This means the plant quite literally grows on top of the soil. Plants which are allowed to grow in this manner grow dimensionally larger. However they are exposed to disease or infested with insects or pests of some form or other. Also if fruit - which is the actual classification of a tomato - touches the soil it usually becomes bad.

All of this can occur before the gardener has a chance to pick the fruit from the vine. You can get around the situations of rotting fruit, infestation and disease to some degree by adding a great deal of mulch to the garden. However, even with the preceding application you are going to face the inevitability that your tomatoes to some extent are going to go rotten.

One way to keep your tomato plants up off the ground is by employing the use of what is known as the tomato cage. The cage is comprised of wire and can come in the form of a circular pattern or square design. You install the tomato cage when you plant your tomatoes. The cage provides abundant support as the tomato plant becomes larger and full of fruit. The only drawback to such an application is the plant generally becomes larger than the cage by the middle of the warmer summer months. Here again, the plant begins to bend and starts touching the soil.

Another matter of issue is once the plant becomes rather large the cage can be blown over by a gust of wind or even falls over due to the fact the weight of the plant and fruit is too much for it to support.

Growers have found a unique way around the situation by using a trellis as a supporting structure for the tomato plant. The trellis is a good solution since it allows your tomato plant to continue to grow in an upwards direction rather than growing outwards. If you affix the trellis to your home, a shed, a fence or simply two stakes, it can easily hold the tomato plants' weight to the end of the summer.

Also if space is a premium, you can use the trellis idea to grow a greater number of tomato plants within a given area. You can grow tomatoes trellis-style within a two foot square area; whereas if you grow tomato plants the traditional way it requires an area of four square feet. This is due to the fact you naturally need an area to walk and pick fruit from the vine during the growing season. With the concept of the trellis you can easily double the number of tomato plants grown and within a smaller more compact area. Also if your back has a tendency to give out easily you need not worry. The trellis eliminates a great deal of bending. Certainly though you may need to do some reaching — however, this can prove considerably easier than effecting harvest by traditional means. Give the trellis concept of raising tomatoes a try the upside potential is you will get more tomatoes.

# **A Vertical Garden Will Maintain Privacy**

A good many individuals have not considered when seeking privacy from nosy neighbors, a highway or other public area, the use of a vertical-style garden. The vertical garden is basically an assembly of plants or flora which by use of a trellis grow in an upward direction. You can use the idea of a vertical-style garden within a terrace area, near an outdoor porch or even next to a deck. Many privacy-seekers find the vertical idea a good one.

The initial course of action is to measure the spot where you wish to attain privacy. Also think about how you wish the vertical garden to appear. Are you wishing the garden to become part of your landscaping arrangement? In other words, do you want a garden that will last throughout the years? Or, do you just wish to employ its use for one growing period? Also with respect to the preceding you will accordingly need to think about: a) the period you wish to affect growth of plants; b) the preferred plant dimensions as it pertains to overall width and height; and c) lastly; would you like to use the area during the colder months?

If you want an application for a very brief period, it is best to go with annual climbing vines. You can plant an annual such as the morning glory from a seed during the months of spring after there is no chance of frost. The resulting vine will grow quickly and continue flourishing into the months of autumn. Plus you ought to gain a great deal of color from this vine as it is known well for its varied hues of color.

Virginia creeper is the recommendation if you require a plant with more permanency. The Virginia creeper is a perennial and generally is a worthy selection in the way of a permanent vine. It provides the gardener with leaves that are darkish green, turning to gorgeous shades of reddish orange later on during the fall months. Further, the vine has small greenish flowers followed by deep purple berries. Birds like the berries and will cling to your vine when winter arrives. It climbs your trellis and in effect you need not worry about tying it down or cutting it to any degree in order to motivate its directional growth.

# A Water Feature Makes for a Magical Retreat

Many people wishing to seek that little bit of charm in what is already a gardener's retreat may benefit from the placement of a backyard fountain. By adding a fountain, the time you spend in your backyard is made even more peaceful. The sound of trickling water is generally appreciated by most individuals. However, there is something to be said for visual appeal as well and so the fountain, having become so popular within today's market includes a number of offerings in order to accommodate demand.

One style of fountain is termed the free-standing fountain. This kind of fountain stands on its own merits since you need not incorporate it with a small body of water such as a man-made pond. The free-standing style serves its greatest purpose when set inside the parameters of a small-sized backyard. There are many different kinds of fountains. You can purchase a fountain to resemble a sculpture or even a decorative lawn ornament.

Next on the list is what is known as the jet fountain. This style of fountain is best integrated with a small pond. If you are fortunate enough to have such a water feature already in place then you certainly will want to conduct a "go see" of this particular style of fountain.

A familiar form of fountain for many is the traditional wall-mounted water feature. This is a good selection in yards that are of a smaller scale requiring ornate, elegant embellishment. You may mount the fountain to an appropriate wall setting such as a wall at a terrace location or any other form of wall that can be classified as highly decorative. This type of fountain is best described as a design providing a sophisticated somewhat elaborate visual appearance. For example, an iconic lion is usually part of the look of a popular wall-mounted unit.

A waterfall fountain made of artificial rock is yet another favored choice. The rock waterfall style goes best in areas where ponds are already in existence. The fountain style goes well additionally inside a water garden style setting and provides a nice rustic addition to your backyard.

Fountains powered by solar energy are popular nowadays. If your backyard is rather large in size and you wish to set up a fountain further from the house, you may find it near impossible to get power to it. The solar energy fountain offers an apt solution since no electrical power or service is required in order to run it. The fountain is as the name suggests powered by the sun's energy so the solar panel should be placed in full sun.

# A Wildflower Garden for Backyard Charm

A wildflower garden for many is idyllic as it is reminiscent of traipsing through wooded environments or countryside. Many individuals may be interested in setting up a wildflower environment right in their backyard. Growing a wildflower garden in your back yard is a charming concept. Many gardeners attest each wildflower comes with its own characteristics. Whatever the wildflower receives in a more natural environment is what it seeks to grow well anywhere else. When the wildflower is taken away from its natural setting it generally does not survive for too long.

Thus, in order to manufacture a wildflower garden it is necessary the gardener effect a gardening arrangement that mimics nature or the conditions where the particular flower survives best. For instance, if you were to notice a wildflower in a wooded location you may make note of the condition of the soil, the precise spot as well as the flowers or environment around it. In noticing these particulars you are put in a position to provide the best of care for the wildflowers you select.

If you notice two wildflowers of differing species within the same general area you are advised to replicate this pattern as to growth within your own backyard garden. If a wildflower is in a field or meadow then it will do best in a grassy area within your backyard arrangement where it is given plenty of room. Considering the freedom of most wildflowers as to growth it is best to emulate this freedom again within your backyard setting.

You can actually journey into a wooded setting and find your own wildflowers such as Columbine. Make certain when you uproot the flower that you allow some of the soil it was implanted in to surround its root system. This soil you've removed with the flower should surround the flower when you plant it along with naturally new soil.

Prior to finding wildflowers in natural settings prepare a flower bed. This is necessary for obvious reasons since you would not want time to elapse before repositioning the flowers in their new soil. You will wish to emulate the soil composition of the woods which is rich with natural nutrients such as decomposing leaves.

Drainage underneath your flowerbed needs to be efficient. Naturally you do not want your wildflowers planted in soil that is full of standing water. Some persons believe that the soil for wildflowers is filled with water, however consider the soil in a wooded setting and such is not the case. You can always dig deep and place some pebbles toward the bottom of where you have dug. On top of the rock place soil from the woods you visited and then after this layer place other prepared nutrient rich soil. Lastly, you may buy wildflower seed and throw the seeds in different areas of your yard as well for an easier gardening option.

# Add a Garden Pond

Constructing a pond is a terrific way to add an additional dimension to backyard landscaping. Further you can place foliage around the manmade pond in order to replicate the way a pond is found within nature. Before construction, you will need to consider placement of the small body of water. The best place is a shady area. The suggestion then is to place your pond underneath a mature tree so that the temperature of the water will remain cool. Also a shady spot keeps the pond safer for your fish.

Some wonder if the placement in a shadier location is advisable due to the cleaning up of leaves and branches that will naturally be blown down or fall from the tree. However it is still a preferable location since you don't want to place the pond in the sun. The water will tend to evaporate and get a great deal warmer if the sunlight is not diffused by shade trees so in this regard, you will just need to make it a habit of maintaining it regularly; cleaning out leaves and twigs.

Next determine the size of the pond. Some of this determination will naturally be based on how large you expect the fish to become. In other words, if your fish get sizable your pond should be a bit larger than the size of the fish at maturity. However some kinds of fish do not grow large if kept in a small pond.

Another consideration is the design or shape of the pond. When contacting someone to build the pond they can accommodate you by placing the size and design which you most prefer into the ground. However, you must be certain to get the design and size right before placement is made since modifications cannot be made afterwards. If you are uncertain as to what you want the recommendation is to opt for a more provincial design-style, as you certainly cannot go wrong with the selection. Also ensure you select the right supplies in the beginning in order to maintain your pond properly as well as keep your fish from dying. If you use your pond as part of a garden arrangement then you will also need to find plants that appreciate shady locations; and do not require a great deal of time as far as care.

Once pond installation is complete you will need an aerator and filter in order to keep the water clean. The aerator and filter will keep your fish healthy and make your pond easier to maintain. Since the water will be circulating through the use of an aerator there is less likelihood unwanted plant life will grow.

# Basic Guidelines for Terrace Construction

If you can incorporate a terrace in a garden or backyard setting the reward is tremendous. When weather is pleasant you can use the setting of a terrace as an out-of-doors living area as well as for entertainment purposes. Also it is nice to have a terrace for mild temperatures as it makes the need to transition inside during the colder, bleaker periods of the year all the more easy.

There are several ways you can present a terrace. One way is level the ground. Another way is to have your terrace located below ground level; or you may select a terrace above-ground. Naturally, the easiest terrace to construct is right at ground level. One common material you can use is cement in order to build a ground-level terrace.

Another suggestion is to use flagstones. You can effect construction of a flagstone terrace by taking a load of gravel and adding it to the soil. Once the gravel is applied you can add the flagstones to the gravel base. You can fill the areas in-between flagstones once soil is removed with grass and soil or another type of cover.

With respect to terrace construction it is possible to take clay tiles, separate them and lay them in the soil in order to create the floor of your terrace. The rougher portion of the tile is laid into the soil. Another type of terrace can be formed by constructing a form of certain dimensions. You subsequently pour a mixture of cement, pebbles or crushed rock and sand into the form you've built. This type of terrace has an attractive yet rougher appearance.

Redwood is another choice for rustic terrace flooring. This is a highly attractive flooring possibility; however not near as sturdy as a stone terrace. You can buy redwood blocks pre-cut and lay them into sand beds. The sand beds are laid on gravel that has been previously compacted.

If your terrace is sunken in design, you will need a retaining wall in order to address the strong possibility of soil erosion. The soil is dug to five inches below the depth you wish to place the terrace. Use either gravel or sand as a significant base.

A terrace that is raised is generally not truly raised but is built right at the level of the residential dwelling and the outer portion of it is raised. In this instance the terrace also requires a retaining wall. Draining is effected by a centralized drainage system or by means of piping underneath the ground that is built through the terrace's retaining wall structure.

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# What Landscape Style is Appropriate for Your Backyard?

Landscaping your yard is one of the best ways to improve upon the resale value of your home. However before you begin any project it is a good idea to decide what landscaping design best fits with your residential dwelling. There are various styles so it is up to you to determine which is right for your backyard.

Formal landscaping is a style where everything is in its place. The lines are basically straight and the shapes are perfectly geometrical. In other words, everything is in absolute balance and there is no such thing as planting trees and plants in a random manner. The plants are generally positioned closely together and maintenance is performed by way of pruning the plants.

Another common landscaping style is informal design. This type of style works well with neat little bungalows. Within this style, flower beds are created with curvy edging and you can randomly plant your flowers since the smaller area is generally cozier and can accommodate the less than formal effect.

English Garden is yet another landscaping design-style which generally is in accord with a specific type of home as well as the manicured yard that surrounds it. A combination of formal and informal garden may feature a walkway comprised of classic brick construction. Usually the walk starts at the front of the home and continues to the back of the property. The backyard area is then comprised of plants located in less than formal circular groupings. An oriental landscape design is best employed within small backyards. Evergreens, rocks and water are used and the entire effect is best described as generously stylish.

As previously illustrated there are a number of design schemes and how formally or informally you landscape your yard is going to be determined a great deal by the architectural-style and size of your home. Naturally if you have an estate style setting this requires a considerable amount of thought and employs an entirely different concept as to design than a bungalow-sized dwelling and accompanying small yard. Random planting can be affected in a very small space while more formalized design is suggested for larger more classic structures.

Once you determine what design scheme is most relevant you may try perusing through landscaping periodicals specific to the form of design that is pertinent to the architectural detail of your home. In so doing, you can make things much easier when planning a total landscaping scheme for your outside environment.

# Waterfalls Add Elegance to Landscape Design

Waterfalls for the garden are chic nowadays. Additionally you can attain a nice peaceful vibe from fountains and ponds when made part of the waterfall design. It is a nice touch to include some plant life and fish for the pond within the setting. Some persons go so far as making the sight magical by placing lighting inside the area. The waterfall can be quite a bonus in gardens where theme-wise it fits. The best way to approach a project where you want to include a waterfall is to start with a little preplanning.

If you enjoy shopping you will probably have fun locating a garden waterfall. This is due to the fact there are many designs of waterfalls found within the virtual arena. Each design is unique and interesting as it comes with its own stylized vibe and notable features. You will need to consider a great deal when engaging in the construction of a waterfall for your backyard garden.

Initially you are required to think about where precisely you would like to place your garden waterfall. An area suggested is one providing a good deal of sun throughout the day. Additionally, do not place your water decoration near trees that shed their leaves since the leaves may cause an obstruction. The location is important since plant and animal life will require sun.

The other consideration is how much money you are willing to part with in order to build a waterfall arrangement within your backyard setting. Certainly, your predetermined cash outlay is a factor with respect to the design and size of the waterfall construction. Regardless, even when budgets are not limitless any size or design of waterfall is always a welcome backyard adornment inclusive of a stylish garden that blends in with the waterfall design.

Next you will need to consider what animals and plants to employ within your design scheme respective of the waterfall system. Naturally plants aquatic in nature make good choices. Flowers are another good selection. You might consider planting flowers that fit around the pond's edging.

Fish are another consideration for your pond. Before purchasing fish it is advisable to find out how large the fish will become upon maturity. This is advisable from the standpoint some types of fishes may be too big for your pond inside of a year. If there are fish in your pond keep a constant eye on them to make sure they do not become ill. A pump and filter is necessary in order to keep the water from getting stagnant.

# Vines Give Vertical Appeal

The avid gardener often looks toward climbing foliage to add to his or her backyard arrangements. The climbing vine is such a unique and charming addition to any backyard garden or venue. You can take any number of climbing plants and train them to climb such items as pergolas, trellises, garden arbors, railings and decks just to name a few. Also you can take climbing plants and thoughtfully place them through the garden design scheme in order to initiate more privacy or create shadier areas.

The plants will direct your sight upwards which can improve upon a landscape design where width is more prevalent. Naturally if you wish to include vines within your backyard landscape it will be important you consider what types of plants are available. Your region respective of climate and type of soil is also an important consideration when coming up with the ideal vine.

One vine that has gained in popularity of recent years is the Trumpet Vine. The vine is found in two variations, one being a general-style Trumpet vine; and the other a Chinese Trumpet (creeper). The Chinese Trumpet vine is a tropical plant and stands up best within agricultural zone eight. The general Trumpet Vine grows best within agricultural zone five.

The Trumpet Vine is defined as a vine which grows very quickly, particularly where great amounts of sunshine prevail. When the Trumpet Vine blooms it provides the gardener with very impressive flowers with a color palette ranging from the most vivid of reds to orange to yellow. Once housed on a trellis the vine clings as if it had roots. The support must need to be sturdy however, since over a period of time the vine has a tendency towards enormity and can become quite weighty.

Almost everyone has seen buildings riddled with ivy. In this regard, there are several kinds of ivy and all are vines that will grow quickly and generally will easily grasp brick walls. You need to know something about what you are doing when planting ivy as it can also damage the structures providing it support. For example, the roots of the plant can cause destruction to the masonry aspect of a structure. This means its roots can cause damage when its vines are taken away or off the building. So when adding ivy, be certain you know how to grow it as well as look after it.

# Using Online Software for Garden Design

The popularity of landscape design has basically boomed within recent history. Landscaping is considered a worthwhile investment for any property owner. Why? Because through investing in landscaping the homeowner can enjoy its effects for many years to come, plus it raises the value of the owner's property and increases curb-appeal. Another area that is also enjoying a growth spurt is online software specifically created in order that you may create a landscape design for your particular property. By using the software, you may be able to save a small fortune when planning and subsequently landscaping your property.

Since your property is probably going to be the most significant investment of your lifetime this is all the more reason to invest energy and time in designing a visually pleasing outside arrangement. But before using any type of software consider the geographical region where you live. If you wish to incorporate a nice green lawn accentuated with certain flowers within the wrong area, i.e. a very dry region, you will not be too successful no matter how well you design your yard as far as color and shapes go. However, if you fit the design or plants to the environment then you will have something worth pursuing. Also areas that provide plenty of moisture are good regions to possibly incorporate a small pond into your landscaping theme. The pond can add a great deal of interest within certain design schemes.

Additionally, on top of software design solutions, you may wish to lean on the various sites that provide an aspiring landscape designer - no matter how novice - ideas and inspiration. Many gardening sites are full of pictorials that can trigger the imagination.

As far as landscape design software solutions there are a number of services you may be interested in. The easier and less costly landscape design solutions found on the net are: Plan 3D, Instant Architect Home; 3D Home Architect Home & Landscape; and 35 Do It Yourself Backyard Project Plans. As well, there are many other intuitive solutions that allow the budding designer the ability to put together design ideas before embarking on any landscaping design process.

It is recommended before you place a lot of time or investment into your landscaping project you use one of the many online tools so readily available over the Internet. The preceding software solutions as well as others that are similar can make design so much easier, simpler and enjoyable than if you were to sketch out a plan yourself.

# Use of the Pergola

Pergolas are a form of gazebo generally placed in a garden-setting. You can set up a pergola away from the home or it can be attached to your home. The pergola can provide some light diffusion in the way of shade; and makes everything seem all the more roomy since you are able to observe the sky above.

In order to construct a pergola garden you will need to initially place emphasis on the Pergola itself. The pergola is not complicated in the least bit as far as design goes. Essentially all a pergola amounts to is some hardwood, cement and nails for construction. The pergola design is comprised of columns which provide support for it. The columns are placed in the ground and the cement keeps them in place. The open design aspect of the top of the pergola is generally a cross hatch design or can be made up of beams. Lastly, if constructing the pergola on your own you will want to stain the structure to help preserve the timber. Once you add plants and flora to the pergola everything will tie together nicely.

The flooring area of the pergola is generally comprised of concrete or tiles, but can be timber or even gravel. With this in mind you are probably best off choosing plants in heavy containers. Such container gardens are not difficult to maintain with no digging or weeding to speak of. To facilitate moving the containers they can be placed onto wheeled frames that can be bought specially for the purpose.

You can grow trees and climbers in heavy container arrangements. This will give your pergola garden vertical interest that will enhance the height. A good choice as far as climber plants is the beautiful morning glory. The plant will easily thrive and is also pleasantly fragrant. When choosing trees for your Pergola style garden it is best to select dwarf fruit trees. This tree will thrive within a heavy container and many even bring forth fruit.

Nothing is more enchanting than fruit trees and climbers surrounding the magical pergola. There are many species of rose that will climb the pergola adding an element of charm and fragrance. You can provide the appearance of climbing rose vines on the outside of the structure and inside place heavy containers of the plant. If it becomes uncomfortably hot during summer months you might consider the addition of water misters to keep everything enjoyable and provide a cool drink for your plants.

# Use of the Internet in Gardening

Many persons are wondering why all of a sudden backyard landscape design has become such a significant item. The main reason is the changing times. In earlier periods a person's gardening creativity amounted to joining up at the communal nursery and snatching up all the best flowers available. Now with the availability of online resources much has changed. The gardener is able to research online for various flowers and gardening methods. Anyone can learn about various soil compositions in their growing area, and how the soil affects different types of plants. They can find out how to arrange things so there is always something growing or blooming in the garden, and all other sorts of marvellous information and ideas.

With the significant resource of the Internet it makes a great deal of sense, especially when adding value to your largest investment, to create a garden that you and your family and guests can truly enjoy. This brings us back to the beginning once more and that is the intense popularity of garden and landscape design. Some are employing others to do it while more frugal types are doing it themselves. And with all the information available and online tools and gardening resources now at your fingertips, employing your own design makes sense — that is, if you truly like doing such things for yourself.

When you research you will find most gardening sites provide good information with respect to certain plant species accordant to agricultural zone. The sites suggest where certain plants can live most healthfully. Additionally, when wishing to buy more exotic or unique style plants it is easy enough to find such plants and trees online and at competitive price points.

Many of the old tried and true seed companies that a good many consumers remembered receiving catalogs from while growing up, are now online and so buying quality seeds is basically a mouse-click away. Additionally, well-known growers specializing in certain types of flowers have also found their way online. Old-line retailers who have been around for years selling high-end plants such as roses are now easily accessed, providing an easy-to-navigate virtual venue in which to shop. Additionally, you can find other retailers who you'll easily recognize selling bulbs.

Conclusively, you can conveniently research, design, and subsequently purchase quality products of all kinds for creating a backyard atmosphere according to your own unique creative signature.

## Use of the Canvas Gazebo

If you are looking to add something unique to your backyard landscape consider the gazebo. First off, if you choose a wooden gazebo this structure is going to be much more difficult to construct. A person wishing to erect something a bit easier as far as construction goes may wish to consider a gazebo made of canvas. It takes a very minimal amount of time to set up and you will have a nice landscaping enhancement within your backyard living arrangement.

The canvas gazebo is made with a frame comprised of aluminum. This infers the frame is not difficult to move about nor is it complex as to installation. The doorways and windows of a canvas gazebo are made of screens. You can leave the windows completely open as well as the door when environmental conditions provide for it. Also you can close the door and windows when insects such as mosquitoes present a problem. In this way you are never uncomfortable inside the gazebo since there is adequate protection from the outside elements.

The secondary consideration is: location, location, location. You are probably best advised to keep your gazebo somewhere within the scope of your terrace's pavement. If you drag the structure further out you are likely to get it stuck in the mud. This is not exactly what you may have had in mind when purchasing the structure. If you are still insistent that the gazebo be set up further away from the house then there is a way to get around the circumstance. The answer is to purchase some form of synthetic turf and subsequently place it upon the area where you would like to set up your gazebo. In so doing, you will not need to worry about mud or, during drier conditions, dirt being an issue.

There are a fair amount of canvas gazebo-types from which to choose. It is best to select a gazebo that matches well the design scheme within your backyard as well as the architectural style of your home. Also the canvas gazebo is readily available at a number of on-line retailers and can be purchased in the way of a gazebo kit. It is not difficult to set up and can add impact and definition to your backyard living arrangement or garden atmosphere within a relatively short period of time. It is especially useful for entertaining and can be placed near a barbeque for this purpose.

# Understanding Various Garden Styles

One way to approach a project with respect to affecting the perfect marvelous makeover for your backyard is to first gain a good grasp of a variety of garden designs and arrangements. Once you have attained some idea of different garden styles you will be in the favorable position of deciding what is right for your particular space.

The rock garden is making a comeback and its popularity is soaring. When employing the use of a rock garden within the right backyard environment the amateur landscaper can make quite the impression. When you use designs incorporated with rocks you do not need to be near the water and also the garden requires far less maintenance than others. This is partially due to the fact that the plants and flora you place in such a garden setting are normally hardier than many other plants. Persons wishing to watch their budget may wish to consider placing a rock garden within their backyard space.

Another suggestion for the gardening enthusiast is the English-style cottage garden. This garden design is employed by many because it is informal in composition. Also English-style cottage gardens can best be described as gardens exuding charm. The English-style allows informality as to design, however is still prevalently sophisticated. In this light, you can have the best of both worlds — that being an informal garden that is decidedly sophisticated.

When you employ the style representative of English cottage style, the design is inclusive of a number of flowering plants. In fact, there is generally a hodgepodge of roses, foliage in the way of vines and perennial flowers. You can even make it so the flowers grow across areas where your guests stroll - all part of the charm of this style of garden. Also the perennials are good suggestions because the plants obediently grow again the next growing season without much effort on your part.

Another popular gardening trend is to take aspects of the Japanese garden and integrate it into a provincial garden. This means for the gardener from North America that he or she is going to have included some enormously ostentatious flowers. Once used, the Japanese plants become the focal point of the whole backyard landscaping design.

However, you must be a very good green thumb since many plants housed inside true Japanese gardening arrangements are not only impressive but carry a price tag and maintenance schedule equivalent. You can witness all over the American landscape that many persons' backyards are being transformed into the equivalent of the Japanese style garden. This infers there is a simplistic nature as to the design aspect and generous accompanying plant-life.

If you merely use Japanese design-principles without the integration of native plants but plants from your region — you could then actually save money.

And lastly, when not quite certain where to start with a gardening style, it is never a mistake to use a tried and true tested design that has worked for decades. Just make certain the plant life is right for your growing zone.

# Understanding Mediterranean Landscape Design

One design fundamental that cannot be overlooked with regard to marvelous backyard makeovers is exotic and interesting Mediterranean landscape design. This type of landscaping is usually most effective with respect to estate-style settings; however elements of it may be used on other types of land as well. The following article serves to point out some of the history of Mediterranean landscape design and its many unique features.

Mediterranean landscaping originated in Arabia centuries ago but has changed to some degree throughout time as may be expected. Mediterranean landscaping incorporates various elements from garden landscapes of the Grecians, Romans and Italians. Mediterranean landscaping naturally enjoys a close association with the hot, dry climate of the Mediterranean area. Mediterranean styling is vastly dissimilar to more modernistic landscape forms due to the fact it has evolved from the elements found in the ancient gardens of Rome, Italy and Greece. Most people who employ its landscaping fundamentals easily refer to it characteristically as having Old World charm and elegance.

Some of the elements incorporated into this form of design include products made of wrought iron, wood beams, classic statues and columns. The furniture placed out-of-doors generally is Moroccan, Italian or Arabian as far as influence.

Housing or residential elements need to fit within the landscaping influenced by Mediterranean design fundamentals. For example, you would not integrate Mediterranean landscaping into a Federal designed home. This type of mismatch would be totally inappropriate. In the way of hardscape, Mediterranean styling goes well with a garden gate made of wrought iron with a free-flowing curved design. This serves as an exceedingly nice tie-in to a home that fits well with Mediterranean landscape style.

Plenty of trees and shrubs are preferred within this design style. Since the landscaping began in a very warm climate the characteristic of a shady backyard is most important. Gorgeous oak trees with plenty of curvature are recommended within this garden style. Also you'd do well to include olive trees, various fruit trees in the way of lemon and orange; as well as Cypress trees. When adding climbers the best vine to include is the grapevine.

Add a lovely herb garden to the mix inclusive of rosemary, sage, basil and thyme. These herbs will emit interesting aromas to waft throughout the garden. Also due to the fact Mediterranean gardens originated from an agricultural history you'd be well advised to include a vegetable garden.

Water is always a part of most Mediterranean style gardens so it is recommended you place a fountain designed in Romanesque or Italianate styling within your landscaping arrangement. Make certain however that your beautiful fountain is in proportion with the rest of the landscape's design.

# Understanding English Garden Design

People familiar with English garden design are aware it is a garden complete with flower beds offering curvature as far as design, twisty pathways and a variety of color hues. The maintenance is relatively simple for the gardener or resident since most plants found within this type of garden-style arrangement are well-cared for by Mother Nature.

The English garden is a variety of flowers however under constraints.

The English garden originated because some people preferred a less formal landscaping theme. Other proponents of English garden design were no longer enthused about classic styling. The two styles mentioned are polar opposite from an English garden design scheme. More formal style gardens are linear in effect; English gardens are not. Formal gardens are angular but English gardens do not generally make use of angles. The English garden can best be described as a garden not ostentatious in effect and very natural in appearance.

The painters who painted impressionist style were significant in encouraging the development of the English garden style. For example Monet who became famous for his water-style garden arrangement expressed interest in designing his garden in a very robust way with tremendous use of color.

The English garden most predominate in the States is the residential style. Pergolas covered with clinging vines; gardens filled with roses and different colors bursting at the end of each growing season are typical of an English garden-style arrangement. The English garden style is a truly informal garden design. Varying colors and plants provide the viewer with enormous visuals in the way of textures and flowers growing in the most natural of form. But while the English Garden is suggestive of a naturalistic style garden, it is not. Flowers within English Garden style design are randomly planted which is suggestive only of a countryside landscape.

The English garden is planted with no rhyme or reason; the flowering plants and foliage are the personal preference of the gardener. You will find plants from all styles of gardens. Plants from the vicinity are planted predominately within an English garden since this provides the closest vibe with respect to the naturalistic component of the garden. Floral plants are housed together.

The object is to allow for planting here and there however not allow messiness as far as appearance. A hodge-podge of plants is used inclusive of bulbs, annuals, perennials, shrubs, herbs and climbers. Rose bushes keep the garden fragrant and a perfumed element is found essential as well as significant. Generally a picket-style fence acts as an enclosure for the English style garden — that, or a row of shrubs in the way of a hedge. The preceding is what brings some order to the garden.

# Benefits of Using a Professional Landscaper

Most persons are best advised when deciding on changing their backyard landscaping to work with a professional landscaping company if financial resources are available. In other words, you may count on the services of such an organization to effect a great deal more as far as yard maintenance than simply showing up to cut the grass weekly.

The professional landscaper's job is to ensure the architectural elements of your home blend nicely with the landscape that surrounds it. This is achieved when the landscaping company puts together a primary design plan for your backyard. Also, many landscaping organizations will specifically design special areas within your backyard arrangement. This is necessary in order to achieve the best as far as design that flows well from one section of the yard to the next. Professional landscape designers ensure that everything is pulled together nicely and thus in balance so that your backyard looks absolutely terrific from each and every angle.

A landscape design firm will go to work for you using a plan that includes both softscape and hardscape. It is necessary that the designer creates a plan for your backyard design in order that the proper design is successfully achieved. Also the design must flow from the back or interior aspect of your home and fit well with the architectural features of your residence.

A person who owns an enormous parcel of land may require a design complete with idyllic garden paths, interesting lighting arrangements, a terrace, gazebo, out-door kitchen, renovated pool area, arbor, courtyards, fountains, and various plantings. In this type of arrangement it is necessary for the designer to continually repeat the geometric design and colors in the way of masonry walls, tile, etc. As you can see working with a professional landscaper with regard to the preceding scenario becomes quite necessary. Good design requires all of the preceding to be tied in together nicely and the whole arrangement to be in perfect balance.

A garden style that is simple is generally accomplished by selecting three harmonising colors and then repeating this color selection throughout the entirety of the design. In other words, one thing many amateur landscapers lack is the knowledge of the preceding concept. Many times an amateur will put together a garden that is full of too much confusion as to color and form. When working with a professional landscaper this type of inappropriate design is not made.

# Bring a Weedy Block Back to Life

Many landscapers and gardeners know; it is possible to take a neglected block of ground and quite literally transform its appearance by adding the right landscaping details. Once the parcel is weeded and the grasses are cut it is time for the fun to begin. Can an eyesore backyard actually become the envy of the neighborhood? Quite literally, yes.

The best way to start your project and attain successful results is by considering the use of various plants within the landscape design scheme. It is easily reasoned; planting a variety of plants and in abundance can easily make any backyard more inviting. In time the plants you choose will add to the uniqueness and charm of your backyard.

If you have a larger home and would like to provide a more prestigious look symbolic of an English country manor, you might try planting some stately evergreen trees. Evergreens look well with mansions and estate-style homes.

If you live in a dwelling that presents a less-formalized appearance you can do quite a bit for your backyard by employing color. A good way to do it is by planting a variety of colorful flowers ideal for the agricultural zone where you live.

Some persons when bringing a more formalized home back to life may make use of a path of roses. This is especially appealing if there is plenty of room to stroll around. Also if your home is classic in design you might try including a rose garden. The bonus of growing roses is that you can bring the cut flowers inside and enjoy their wonderful perfumed.

Older-style country farmhouses are the dwellings where wildflowers grow out back. Wildflowers are especially low maintenance and are remarkably beautiful. The organic vibe is what provides the appeal. Also consider the fact that where you plant is an area where you need not cut the grass. Within the same outside environment, in order to keep grass-cutting to an even greater minimum, you may wish to also include a vegetable garden.

Nothing can be more enlightening than walking out your back door and selecting some fresh vegetables for that night's dinner. Persons not exactly located in a countryside setting or on such a block as just described can get around cutting the grass by placing a patio outside their backdoor. On your patio you can include borders of plants and huge plantings of your favorite colored flowers.

# Build a Gazebo in Your Backyard

Most people are familiar with a backyard gazebo as the structure is very popular when landscaping. The gazebo can be used for such events as a wedding or just provide a place where guests and family can unwind and enjoy each other's company.

There is a great deal of choice when it comes to design. This is a good thing because you undoubtedly will find a gazebo that is just right as far as your own personal preferences. It is not beyond the realm of reason to have a gazebo especially built according to your own standards. In fact, it is now possible to attain a gazebo kit online and construct the gazebo on your own. That said, you will undoubtedly require some suggestions and insights if you decide to take this course of action.

First and foremost whether you are a handyman or not you can, if you remain calm actually build your own gazebo. Just imagine the pride you'll experience once the gazebo is finished. Also when guests come to visit you can truthfully inform that you are the gazebo's builder. Again, when using a gazebo kit you do not need to be handy with tools or carpentry. Many novice and amateur builders have put together a gazebo using a kit.

After you have attained the kit it will be necessary to review the steps for assembly. Make certain before you embark on your project you are comfortably clear as to each of the steps contained on the kit's pamphlet. Also take your time reviewing all of the illustrations and pictures with respect to the instructions. In so doing, you will attain a better grasp of each aspect of construction.

Successful builders know that construction is not too difficult if you generally understand all fundamentals as it pertains to the entirety of the project. So before you get started on your gazebo building project take time to read the plans over well.

As far as a construction tip is concerned you'll want to make sure you place the deck boards together tightly. The reason this action is so essential is because once the wood becomes drier a certain amount of shrinkage will occur. If you place the boards next to each other in tight and secure fashion you need not worry so much about gaps in between the decking boards.

Two heads are better than one. If you are a bit uncomfortable going it alone you can always recruit a friend or close family member to assist you with the project. Preferably select an individual who has some carpentry know-how and skills if possible. A person who likes to put things together is your best choice.

Outside of reading over the instructions and asking for the help of a friend you are ready to begin the project. The addition of a gazebo within the right backyard setting can and will bring years of enjoyment for you, and friends and family.

# Consider the Architectural Style of Your Residence

People seeking ideas for marvelous backyard makeovers need to be aware that the best idea is one that blends nicely with the individual gardener's geographic location inclusive of climatic conditions and certain types of soil compositions. Certainly, modifications can be made and they are all the time — however certain restrictions may apply depending on where your backyard is positioned. For example, plants that grow well in a warm dry area will not be appropriate where the agricultural zone is wet and cold.

Fortunately when supplying your backyard with the best makeover, rest assured that when you travel to the local nursery plants for sale will be suitable to the area in which you live. If you shop online, this may not be the case; you will need to perform some investigation and research in order to locate plants and shrubs right for your climate as well as the size of your backyard and the soil type.

Also you will want to add flowers and shrubs that go well with your style of house. For example, if you live in an old country farmhouse a garden of wildflowers may look interesting. If you live in a more classic style residence you may wish to consider a garden of roses or a more traditional brand of shrubbery such as evergreens. It will never do to choose the wrong style of garden for the style of house you have.

Can you imagine a more formalized residence with a garden of unruly wildflowers in the back? By the same token can you envision a formalized rose garden in the backyard of a 100 year old weather-beaten country style dwelling? This latter example is totally incongruent. The wildflower garden actually adds charm to a somewhat dilapidated dwelling; and the more provincial-style garden arrangement adds value to the classic style residence. The equation then is backyard landscaping must present an accompaniment or enhancement to the architectural structure. There is no room for eclectic ideology when designing a backyard arrangement as an extension of your inside living arrangement.

One consideration when instituting a marvelous makeover for your backyard is installing a fence if one is not in place. A fence, if provided in a more metropolitan location has the distinct benefit of not only distinguishing a boundary, but also making your house more saleable when it comes time to sell. Most persons when viewing real estate like the idea of a fence. It keeps children and pets safe and prevents persons from running across your property. As part of your landscape plan the fence will need to match nicely with the architectural look of your house.

Another landscape consideration outside of plants and trees is placement of a deck or patio in your backyard. Such an area can also make your home seem more inviting or attractive and is ideal for guests. Further, after your day is through, you can sit out on your patio and enjoy all your efforts with respect to the gardens and shade trees you've established with your landscaping.

Also if you are going to take in your newly transformed yard from your patio or deck you may wish to consider lights that come on at night only for your garden area. This small detail can provide quite a dramatic effect when sitting and enjoying the view during the early evening hours from your patio.

# Constructing a Fire Pit

Many persons who entertain out-of-doors and in effect keep outstanding backyard landscapes inclusive of gardens; would like to step things up a bit—and construct an impressive stone fire pit in order to accommodate backyard barbeques. However before getting started a good many out-of-doors dinner party hosts wish to know the best location for a stone fire pit.

In answer, the best place is generally your garden area; however you can also include it within the arrangement of an out-of-doors kitchen. You might think stone fire pits are generally an old idea; however recently they have become somewhat popular and are part of improving the garden area. The stone fire pit incorporated into your backyard landscaping in order to effect a positive impression as far as your guests are concerned so needs to look truly unique from a design standpoint. It will need to work well into the mix of your garden design scheme; especially when it is lit. Using high-quality materials in its construction will also make its appearance all the more impressive.

If you are not too sure how to proceed with the idea the advice is to first go the way of a professional-planning route. Also within the design scheme of the stone fire pit function plays a significant role. Consider the fact if the fire is not engaged correctly and sparks and smoke do not properly escape you may have a critical safety matter on your hands.

The professional contractor who is knowledgeable as to proper construction of the stone fire pit can prove highly beneficial to you in assisting you to design a fire pit that works well with your environment and is also safe. Your next garden dinner party can benefit from a stone fire pit that has been well-constructed and pleasantly designed.

The person who can construct your pit is the individual you will explain details as to design. The professional's overall objective is to employ the ideas associative with your design scheme in a way that keeps your guests safe. Also the fire pit must be constructed so as not to prove threatening to the surrounding garden environment if that is where it is placed.

Fire pits made of stone can be comprised of a variety of materials relative to stone. If you have a rather elaborate notion then costs will be higher. However, it will be well worth the price when you see the appreciation on the faces of your guests - that is if you don't recognize an envious vibe beforehand.

# Cost Effective Makeovers

There is nothing better or more invigorating than enjoying a well-landscaped yard. However, if you are thinking about re-landscaping your entire back lot this idea may prove cost-prohibitive to some degree, labor intensive and require a good deal of thought. There are a number of landscaping recommendations that are less-pricey options.

A good screen may be provided by way of Hawthorn plants, however there are a good many other plants you may also consider. Using plants with respect to privacy concerns is a two-fold suggestion since in the future, you can use such plants as a background, establishing colorful flowers in the front.

If your landscaping design is relevant to a classical style dwelling; consider planting evergreens. Evergreens upon maturity keep the chilly winter winds from easily passing over your lot. The trees will also help to shelter other plants from drifting snow and frosts.

If you have ever put together a flower border the most difficult consideration was in deciding which flowers go well together. You must make the determination of what color hues coordinate well together in addition to a satisfactory arrangement as to height. Once you have some idea which flowers you'd like to put together for any flowerbed you may attain additional information from your local grower with respect to the varying plants' compatibilities and relative care instructions.

Allow for plenty of room at the back of the bed. In this way you will maintain proper air flow and the plants will receive the sunlight they require.

Another non-pricey idea is to create what is termed as an island flower bed within your backyard. You merely find a spot in the middle of your yard. This area is a nice focal point and is surrounded by your lawn. You can create an island in varying shapes as well as dimensions. The dimension and shape of course has a great deal to do with the overall size of your backyard. You'll want to plant the plants that grow tallest in the middle of your island; and the plants that present less in stature around the edges of the flowerbed.

If you wish to really simplify matters, you can plant a garden that is already planned. Simply go online and type the keywords pre-planned garden. Once you do you will find vendors offering gardens already thought out for you and all that you need to do is plant the garden.

# Creating a Comfortable Retreat

Providing your backyard with a redo can serve two worthwhile purposes: it can create a nice outdoor, private retreat and it can increase the property value of your home. Landscaping ideas are found all over the Internet and as well you can attain an abundance of ideas from many gardening publications and landscaping periodicals.

In other words, there is quite a bit of information to process with respect to landscaping ideas for your backyard. If things seem a bit overwhelming rest assured that even the slightest change in landscaping can provide an enormous impact on your property's appearance. So even if you just settled on a few ideas the redo may be looked upon as considerable. Here are some sensational ideas that can make an immediate difference as to the visual appeal and functionality of your backyard.

Many persons like to add niceties such as outdoor-styled kitchens and sunrooms for entertainment purposes. Naturally if you like to have cookouts the kitchen idea is a terrific suggestion for you. Further, a sunroom provides a nice retreat when your day has proven hectic. Provide a nice view such as a colorful garden and this makes the idea even better.

If the sunroom or kitchen idea hasn't caught hold, another suggestion is to increase the size of your existing terrace area. This is an especially good suggestion if you like to entertain; the larger size terrace allows you to create several conversation areas. Guests like the idea that they can form small-sized groups and can conduct different conversations respective of the group. This again makes for better use of the backyard space when entertaining friends and family. You can add touches of flora around the terrace area by means of large potted plants.

Items such as fences and stone walls bordering certain areas of your backyard can add interest. You might try incorporating plants which climb on walls as well as fences. The trellis too can support climbing plants and vines or provide plant support for terrestrial-style plants.

If you are seeking privacy and it seems like forever for a hedge to grow large enough, you might try planting faster growing plants and shrubbery near the incoming hedge. This ploy is used in the interim until the hedge is at the stage of growth that provides the privacy required. How you affect this idea however, is probably going to take some thought.

# Design Ideas to Match Lifestyle

There are many factors to consider when designing a space with respect to the back of your property. Not only is landscaping relative to the architectural-style of your house but what you incorporate into it is also determined by other factors such as family-time. For example, if you have a block which is fairly large and the area is right you may wish to include a small pond with fish, especially if grandchildren visit often. If your family structure includes small children then you might wish to set up play areas in certain locations within your backyard landscape design.

Some persons like the idea of installing walking paths wherein they and their guests can stroll through peaceful garden areas within the backyard. These magical paths are invigorated with all kinds of plant life and the area can be small if your yard is not particularly roomy. If you wish to add more balance to your environment and your house is considered classic-style architecture a good sampling of the appropriate sized trees and shrubs is probably a good recommendation. Shrubs placed in the right location can add a good deal of symmetry to a property line.

Revisiting the idea of a play area for children; one recommendation is the “retro-style” tree house. Another idea if you are considering a more rustic vibe is a play set made out of wood. While the children are at play, you can be tending a delightful garden full of color and continual bloom. One way to effect the continuation of blooms is to arrange things so that when one kind of flower plant starts to fade another with a different blooming season is ready to spring into bloom. Also a vegetable garden is a recommendation for the amateur chef. There are many vegetables that look very attractive when in bloom or when the fruit is ripening, so you need not feel that a vegetable garden should be hidden.

Some of the suggestions provided give you an idea as to versatility of backyard landscaping. In conclusion, the best course of action is to plan your landscaping in accordance with the architectural style of your house while including other elements such as a) how you entertain; b) whom you entertain or have over as guests; c) immediate family considerations; and d) places wherein you impart your own brand or personality such as a colorful flower gardens with inviting walkways and/or a vegetable garden—if that is what you prefer.

# Designing Flower Beds

Many people who are new to designing flower beds will testify that designing plant beds can be a bit intimidating at first. The best way to take away the intimidation factor is to gain knowledge by performing some online research. Additionally, visit some communal or local gardening spots and look over a great number of shrubs and other types of plants. Take time to read the tags of the plants you view and ask the nursery attendant the best way to care for the plants you are most interested in. You might even share some of your gardening design ideas with him or her and see how the nursery horticulturist processes the information provided and what advice is resultant. The smaller grower generally can provide good information to you relative to plant care.

Before embarking on the project, plan dimensionally for the area you wish to create. As far as planting trees, include accordant to region possibly some trees or plants that do not shed their leaves in the fall, and other trees that shed their leaves prior to cold weather. Within this mix, include perennial flowers to jazz things up a bit as well as some interesting grasses. When you design your garden ensure the plants you select can not only favorably co-exist together, but also that the design of what you include in more formalized settings has good balance.

In order to make the view most pleasant, plant in uneven numbers and plant across the bed. If you plant a shrub in one particular spot and then another shrub in a randomly-selected area this makes for a disorganized appearance. You are better off to run your plants across the bed since the eye likes to view things from side to side. Also if you take one or two species of plants from one flower bed to the next one this will produce a nice visual appearance. An ornamental plant is a good selection for employing a dash of color. However, before you plant anything read up as to how big the tree or plant will become upon maturity and then plant it in the appropriate location.

Many persons prefer the evergreen shrub since it does not shed its leaves and adds some color even during the bleakest periods of the cold winter months. Another suggestion is to create island beds within your backyard. The plants provided here must add some dimension without causing obstruction.

# Flowers Make a Definite Impact

Many gardeners attest to the fact that not only is flower gardening extremely enjoyable it is not in the least bit difficult. Persons involved in gardening for awhile will exclaim their joy at seeing the flowers they've planted burst into bloom. Also the scent adds to the atmosphere within the backyard setting. Many gardeners now like to try organic gardening.

In order to get started your organic garden requires essentials such as a soil composition that is healthy; plenty of sunlight; watering on a scheduled basis; natural fertilization; and naturally the utmost of care supplied by the gardener. However, before purchasing supplies it is important to give some thought to what you want in your garden.

You probably will wish to keep your garden full of color throughout the year. In this regard you will need to select foliage and flower plants as to their longevity and times of the year they bloom. For example, annual flowers are easy enough to grow and attain flowers; however, they only live one year. Evergreen plants enjoy a life span which is considerably longer than annuals however you often need to wait two years before you see flowers. The objective is to find plants that will provide nice blooms during their growing season and once faded other plants appropriate for the next portion of the year replace them.

Also within your garden of flowers you are best advised to group smaller plants together rather than match and mix them with larger flowered plants. This will provide your garden arrangement with interesting visuals including varying degrees of shade and height. The differences as far as texture and placement will make your garden all the more eye-appealing.

Annuals when planted within nutrient rich heavier soil compositions will require no fertilization. The exception is when the annuals are placed in containers; then fertilization is required. The reason the latter is true is because the soil in containers is readily depleted of essential plant nutrients - and because of this the plant needs to be replanted from time-to-time.

Consider also when purchasing plants of the evergreen variety you will need to add compost and mulch several times during the season of growth. Here again, this is important because the plant will take much in the way of nutrients from the soil for a span of several years. However as a cautionary suggestion when adding the mulch and compost it is best not to overdo it. If you add too much you can cause deterioration to the root system. This same cautionary word of advice applies to the flowers as well since you can burn the flowers as a result of too much organic material.

When you go to water evergreen variety plants make it a practice to water deeper (and less frequently) toward the root level. The idea is that by providing watering applications as described you will train or motivate the root system to grow deeper into the ground thereby establishing the plant as hardier.

When you place your annual flowers on a watering schedule ensure they are provided moisture on a weekly basis. You should water them just enough to maintain moisture within the soil. Too much moisture is just as damaging as not enough.

You will also need to remove flowers that have faded. This encourages your flowering plant to grow more flowers. Once the plants have flowered pollination occurs and as a result there is seed. When you take away faded blooms this signals the plant to produce even more flowers.

# Transform Your Garden on a Budget

The trend currently is to see professionals making over a garden so that it is above-average. What happens in this circumstance is a landscape gardening team remakes your garden in less than a day or a weekend. That said, you can also remake the garden naturally, though this may take more time - or you can have the service provided.

The fun is seeing a garden that is rather depressing turned into something much more eye-appealing and exotic. The best way if you want to avoid a great deal of cost is to go ahead and turn your sub-standard garden into one you can brag upon a bit. The way you go about it yourself however is not an overnight proposition. In order to steer you in the right direction the way you go about transforming your backyard garden is by conducting a little pre-planning; investigation and find plants that provide good quality.

Quality plants are essential as you do not want to invest money in those plants that quickly die out. This matter of circumstance can prove quite exasperating on top of which you literally throw away your money.

The objective you want to shoot for is to do things right from the beginning and then you needn't come back and make adjustments that will cost you even more. Further, do not be afraid to spend a little more on quality plants as by doing so you will not have to buy more to replace what has died.

First off, develop a basic gardening plan, not one that is over the top or too involved. Determine during the course of planning what plants are best for your area's climatic environment and soil conditions. If you wish to save a great deal of money in developing a marvelous makeover for your backyard, invest in seedlings or seeds. Sure; seed planting may take a bit longer than you'd possibly like with respect to waiting for your marvelous garden transformation to take place. However, seeds are better able to develop root systems that prove healthier than other quicker means of planting. Also the plants from seeds are invariably more vital. You'll just need to practice a little patience, that is all.

If you are still one who prefers to buy some or all of your plants in containers then check the plant's health by noticing the plant's root system. If the roots are growing out of the bottom of the pot, or the foliage appears lacking in color than do not buy it. Also buy plants that after a year or so you can separate and replant.

The preceding will get you headed in the right direction in creating a backyard garden venue that is pleasing and one you can afford.

# Three Types of Trees for Your Backyard

People wishing to anchor their landscape design firmly in place may wish to consider the inclusion of trees. There are three types of trees and you may wish to incorporate one or a couple of these trees within your landscape detail. They are evergreen trees, ornamental-style trees, and shade trees. Which you choose is determinative of which landscape design you choose to use as well as accordant space.

Shade trees offer much practicality within most landscaping arrangements. Generally due to the tree's structure, the canopy provides a good deal of shade for the sunny portions of your backyard. When selecting a shade tree realize the trees providing a canopy with a great deal of width provide the most coverage for your ground plants seeking spots of diffused natural light. An elm is an ideal tree within large estate-type settings. An area where the tree can grow freely as just described is the best place for a shade tree such as an elm.

The ornamental tree is not quite as generous in size as other types of trees – in fact, some are quite small. However feature-wise the tree provides foliage that is out of the ordinary. The branches, colors of the leaves, flowers and perhaps berries or other fruit are most vivid and interesting dependent on the characteristic. A good place for an ornamental-style tree is near the corners of the block of ground. An example of an ornamental tree is the dogwood tree (flowering variety). The tree blooms in the spring with beautiful pink or white blossoms. Additionally the tree's branches are wide. A nice bonus is that during the fall cheerful red berries emerge.

Another reasonable selection is the evergreen tree. The tree as is inferred by its name retains its leaves throughout all season the year. This makes it ideal for continuing color since the branches of the tree are never left bare. Keep in mind, if employing the evergreen in your landscape it can become quite large upon maturity.

When planning for trees within your landscape arrangement, it is always a good idea to determine eventual size before planting. In so doing, you will have a fairly good idea what to expect down the road as to relative shade and whether or not the tree will continue to fit in the space provided. Additionally, there are certain plants that can benefit later on from shade such trees provide.

# The Main Elements of a Backyard

The primary elements of designing a backyard that proves visually appealing consist of a patio and a garden. In other words, your backyard is made pleasing by placing a garden respective of your personality and an area to socialize with friends and family; or provide you a respite from your indoor arrangement. Also keep the following in mind; when designing the patio the materials used in laying one must blend appropriately with the remainder of the design scheme. As you know, not all patios are made of basic cement. There are also patios consisting of brick and other types of stones and this must match up nicely with whatever it is you use for your remaining areas in the way of a garden and landscaping detail. There is much to consider when putting your ideas into play.

Some amateur homeowner designers address designing their landscapes as to what the members of their families prefer. If children are part of the picture their recreational needs may need to be considered when designing your yard. This is especially true when the yard is small-sized. In example, if your children are of appropriate age a play set of some sort may be in order. And to keep the appearance uncluttered, the garden portion will need to be positioned so that small children will not run through. Hopefully, if you plant a garden in somewhat close proximity to the area where the children play, the children will be instructed not to run through it.

There are many nice ideas when it comes to putting together an inviting backyard. One design suggestion is to border your yard. A border rectangular in shape is universal for almost all backyards. Or if you wish to think a bit “outside the box” you can incorporate a border that possesses some curvature as far as design. Don’t worry if the backyard is not on perfectly even ground. If your backyard is the style that slopes downward, merely build steps into the landscape design.

Some curvature as to design will take away from the severity of borders that are provincially rectangular as far as appearance. When backyards are smaller, borders that are circular in nature make for the best appearance generally. Outside of these specialties, back to designs relative to children; it is necessary to make the best use of any and all available space — that is where the children can actively play.

As far as your patio goes, if your house is contemporary or modern in design, then the patio design cannot come across as looking traditional. This isn’t even eclectic, but highly out of order. When your house is a traditional design, then as far as your patio is concerned; a construction made of bricks which proves classic in appearance is your best selection.

Also when you have a very traditional house and classic patio as just described, outdoor furniture or decoration that has a rather seasoned or older-style vibe to it is a good choice. This will tie everything together nicely. It is not wise to mix things up too much out-of-doors when it comes to patios. The patio or outside entertainment area must match the unique style of the house. There must be no mistake that the two go together.

# Take it One Step at a Time

Many people think of backyard design ideas and are ready to quit before they get started. This is because there is a great deal to landscape design and thinking of all the details can seem rather overwhelming. The best way to approach the matter therefore is to take it one step at a time. If looking at the total picture seems like overload then visualize various elements of the entire landscaping design scheme instead. The way to carry out this approach is described below.

First off, think of each area of your backyard as specific grid locations inclusive of a certain geometric form or shape. For example, you might envision a certain area in the form of a rectangle and another area is comprised of squares which run the length of the backyard; again, both examples are concepts. Lines within the grid concept can be construed as places to stroll within the garden-setting.

Once you have one area formulated within your drawing, complete with a place to stroll, you are in a position to visit your local grower. During this stage of the landscaping process you present a list of various plants which you've decided upon for the different areas within your design and ask the horticulturist to provide pricing. Your list may include shrubs along certain walkways if specific to your basic design; flowerbed plants; various types of trees; lawn beds and climbing plants. Also ask about plant care for the plants you are interested in. The care plan includes frequency of watering; and whether the plant responds better in shade or sunshine as well as other aspects such as fertilization.

Take your list and decide where within the garden setting you are going to place particular plants. Naturally, plants that respond well to sunlight are best situated where your garden location is most sunny and plants that like shade can be positioned under the canopy of a mature shade tree. If you enjoy a great deal of colorful blooms, plan on incorporating a number of complementary hued flowers that grow well together within your garden arrangement.

Once you have the initial garden planned out and have determined how long your flowers may bloom you may wish to take things a step further. Plan on what flowers will replace the fading flowers so you are in a position to maintain continuing blooms — that is if you wish to do so. It will be quite an accomplishment to have your list in hand and decide where upon your layout all the various plants will be located.

If you've decided on walkways through your garden these paths may be comprised of a) gravel, b) tiles, c) bricks, or sand. Naturally you'll need to determine the amount of footage and get some pricing as far as the materials and labor for the walkway as well. In this regard, at least you have several options as to materials that is, if your design-style can accommodate it.

Conclusively, take each area, decide how you'd like to use the space and plan accordingly. Once you have pricing for particular plants and have decided upon placement you can tally price for the entirety of the project. Or if you wish to work on one particular area at a time then price out that area specifically.

# Searching for the Perfect Backyard Trellis

You won't find a short supply of trellises when you go searching in today's market. There are many types of trellises in the way of metal, plastic, wood materials as well as an abundance of designs. There is an enormous amount of choice. The gardener wishing to use a trellis may find information as to the best kind of trellis to purchase as well as options, very useful information. The gardener is best-advised to know that the kind of trellis purchased is pertinent to how he or she wishes to use it as well as the climatic conditions of the region of residence.

If you are searching for a trellis you wish will meet your requirements as to budget then consider a wooden trellis. The wood trellis is useful in that it not only provides the gardener with an affordable selection; but it is generally easily found in gardening retail stores. It also provides the consumer with varying degrees of durability.

If you opt for a cheap timber trellis it will probably not stand up to the environment for any significant period of time. Also bear in mind that many wood trellises will be subject to wood rot and the out-of-door climatic environment can make matters even worse by accelerating the process. The trellises that are manufactured quickly and within more commercialized locations are normally constructed with staples which naturally allow the trellis to come apart quite readily. Your trellis may become disassembled before its wood starts to experience decomposition. Therefore, when purchasing a wood trellis take quality into consideration.

The trellis made of plastic is easily available and comes in a wide-range of color selections) as well as dimensions and designs. The plastic trellis is a pricier option than the one made of timber. However it can stand up to climatic change much better than wood. You want to ensure the color of the trellis is protected from the UV rays of the sun. If it is then you need not worry about the color fading over time. The trellises made of vinyl PVC are a good choice in the way of a plastic trellis.

A metal trellis is another suggestion and is a reasonable selection. The metal trellis was once ill-regarded inside gardening circles. It was incorrectly thought the metal would cause your plants to scorch, however nowadays we know that the problem is not great. When you are making a buying decision pertinent to a metal trellis look along the lines of a light color that can reflect heat rather than absorb it. White is a good shade since it reflects light and will subsequently not damage your foliage. However if the metal is thin it will tend to rust out quickly.

# Protecting Your Garden from Summer Scorchers

Few gardens can take a beating from the sun if proper measures are not set forth. The backyard garden that is oppressed by too much intense sunlight will soon make your marvelous backyard makeover appear less than ideal. The following article addresses how to handle the ordeal of too much direct sunlight during the warmest of summer months.

In the way of vegetable gardens, you will need to keep the watering of your garden consistent and regular. That said, many gardeners will state such consistency is not always going to work. The vegetable garden still may suffer from too much exposure to the sun. If this is seemingly the case, you must make certain the water is reaching well all areas of the plants and not running off before the roots have a chance to absorb it. Many gardeners use some sort of water injection system in order to attain best results.

A component that holds water well is mulch. So the suggestion is likely what you may have suspected it would be; to mulch your garden quite frequently. The best measure is to use at minimum approximately 3 inches of mulch with an organic-basis. In so doing, you keep your plants from losing moisture and the soil remains moist and cool. The mulch also keeps the soil's temperature steady.

Another suggestion is to allow particular plants that require it, plenty of shade. A shady location for your garden will keep the intensity of the summer heat from destroying many of your plants. Examples of plants that do not do so well within conditions of high heat intensity include spinach and cabbage. Placing your cabbage plants for instance in the shadier part of your vegetable garden is very advisable.

It does not matter the type of garden; whether vegetable or flora or regular foliage; the plants must be kept on regular scheduling as far as watering and accordant to the plant. This is the best source you have in protecting your garden from the heat. If you are watering your lawn; also considered a garden of sorts — the way you water it is going to differ from the way you water other types of gardens. The water you supply to your lawn must be provided in a manner that is steady and slow. This is because during the period of summer the soil may become very dry and water absorption quite difficult. If you just engage the sprinkler system the water may flow to the sides of the yard instead of getting into the soil.

# Pre-planning Makes a Difference

Many people like the idea of a marvelous makeover as it pertains to their backyard; after all, who wouldn't prefer a flowering oasis over a weedy overgrown lot? However, even with the best intentions sometimes transformations do not get accomplished as planned. The owner is doing well just to cut down the weeds and grass. Once you have the grass cut and the yard weeded you are headed in the right direction with respect to transformation. The next step encompasses a little planning.

Before you begin the design project, it is up to you to find out the dimensions of your yard or the space you wish to transform. In this way, you can accommodate the areas with plants that will not only work well outside your residence, but are also in proportion to the area you wish to improve. For example, if your back lot is more long and narrow from a dimensional standpoint, you can make it appear wider by using the correct design. If the backyard is very plain with no hills or slopes you may wish to use a design that provides curvature for interest.

It is necessary to decide what type of visual look you wish to produce. Do you want your yard to appear more spacious? Do you wish it to appear longer? What is it in this regard are you wishing to achieve?

The second consideration is color. How colorful do you wish to make your yard? Some persons like to have a great deal of greenery rather than much color; maybe just a splash of it here or there. For example, a landscaping arrangement that works well with a red brick ranch house style structure. Placing climbing plants against the outside of the brick dwelling may add some depth and stability to the already classic look. Further, if evergreens and other green shrubs are introduced on the fringes of the house and within the backyard this may add to the classic look of the overall design. A couple nice pale-hued rose bushes may present as the only element of color. However, everything is pleasant to look at, particularly after a nice spring rain when foliage is all the more green.

Third, if your lifestyle requires you to entertain frequently, you may consider installation of a patio. Also when thinking about patio installation it is also wise to envision what style of patio furniture you will place upon the patio you install. Large pieces of furniture would overwhelm a small patio. Here we go back once again to the aspect of size.

No matter how well you like a certain furniture style, if it is too heavy in appearance for the size of patio, it is not going to look at all spectacular. Proportion is very important in maintaining a certain degree of symmetry within your design. So once you decide on the size of the patio, find furniture that will look nice outside your style of home as well as fitting within the space you've allocated for the patio.

In conclusion, taking into consideration the amount of color with respect to plants and shrubs is first in the preparation stage. Also think about the size of space you are working whether it is a garden area or a patio. Make certain your furniture fits nicely (dimensionally-speaking) on the patio, allowing plenty of room for guests to get up and move about as necessary. Also if you use the patio for outside cooking you'll want to incorporate size-wise a grill that will fit.

# Mobile Structures Add Interest

Many people do not realize that just as you can affect subtle differences by moving various items around in your indoor rooms you can also do the same in your backyard. One way to do this is to change your terrace furniture, bird houses and lawn ornamentation around a bit. Certainly if you move your more mobile decorations or seating arrangements it is going to impact the backyard to some degree. And these are not the only items you can shift a bit in order to create a makeover for your backyard living arrangement or landscape.

You can place containers of annuals on your terrace or by the backyard doorway when in bloom and when the plants fade replace them with new plants. Placing flowering plants near your guests sitting on your terrace provides an inviting and comforting vibe and your guests will appreciate viewing them. You can also take hanging plants and set them around the patio. When the plants no longer look so good you can easily replace them.

Fountains are becoming more and more popular nowadays within the backyard landscape and many are easy enough to move around. They are generally placed near a location requiring electrical service; however electricity is not an absolute essential. You can now actually purchase fountains that derive power from solar energy. Many persons enjoy the sound of flowing water from the fountain or water feature. And it is a rather soothing feature incorporated within the backyard landscape. The running water serves more than one purpose however, and that is it keeps out background noise that is not so comforting for some; such noises as traffic or other's conversations from next door.

Another mobile trend is solar lights intended for the yard. You can take your solar lights and move them around your garden in order to place accents on different flowers and plants. You can also gain more in the way of light within certain specified portions of your backyard. For instance, when you are planning for an outdoor barbeque or cookout during the evening solar lighting is useful in this regard.

Also many home landscapers and decorators do not realize there are arbors that can be quite mobile. Certain arbors have a base area that can be set up on even ground i.e. your terrace. On other occasions you can add weight to the movable arbor foundation by using heavy plant containers. The garden arbor is especially attractive when used in conjunction with a special event being hosted at your residence. Using more mobile items within your landscape allows you the opportunity to create a new look to your backyard landscaping or out-of-doors entertainment arrangement whenever you find it necessary to do so.

# Minimalist Landscaping

When you broach the subject of minimalist landscape design the whole idea of it has to do with the concept that less is truly more. You can use the same design principle within your landscaping scheme which many have found highly successful within their inside living arrangements. So what is minimalist thinking when it comes to landscaping? Outside of the obvious idea of it the true minimalist landscaper will not place such a high priority on the inclusion of vegetation and place more focus on other components.

The idea of the design concept of minimalism is nothing new. In fact it was popular centuries ago. Since it has evolved to a great degree the practicality of employing its use is the fact you can do so within many different settings. The idea however is carried through effectively when the principles associated with minimalism are in balance with the elements of the dwelling that sits on the block as well as the overall dimensions of the lot. Another consideration with regard to minimalist landscaping is that it must also be relative to the outdoor lifestyle of the residents.

In order to be a success with regard to minimalist landscape design you need to have just the right garden. If you go overboard in the garden area - meaning too many types of plants and flowers and in too great a number - you lose sight of the design fundamental that less is more.

If you want minimalist thinking to work within your backyard design scheme then the suggestion is to think of your backyard just like you would when performing design in any room of your house. Think of it as merely another area to design except this time out-of-doors.

The partitions within your garden arrangement can range from stone walls to a line of simple plants highlighted with solar lights. The idea behind minimalist landscaping is to use discernment when it comes to the selection of trees, shrubs and flowers. Remember the plant must be able to stand on its own however, still maintain a connection with all the other plants in your backyard. In other words, the way you space the plants and elements of geometric design are the emphasis rather than grouping a great many varying plant styles together within particular locations.

One aspect that is greatly emphasized within a minimalist landscaping arrangement is the use of stone walls. Masonry walls have been around for centuries just like hedges. Within Grecian and Roman ancient history, designers most always integrated the stone wall into the design detail.

Today the stone wall has certainly stood the test of time. The use of stone masonry walls are used not only within large garden-settings, but also smaller spaces such as a charming courtyard. No matter the stone wall is also pricey. If you prefer a masonry constructed wall then your best bet as far as price is to have one constructed in brick. The architectural wall in brick can enhance your backyard landscaping and is noticeably less expensive than other architectural wall options.

You must remember whatever material composition you choose, these materials will provide a background setting for the plant-life and any ornamentation you place within the garden-setting so it is important that the background materials fit well with what you choose. In other words, the designs in geometric form and color must work well in combination accordant to minimalist styling providing the viewer with landscaping design that ties appropriately together. When you view minimalist design you must never feel you are trying to take in too much as far as details. You can employ the elements of minimalist design to either modern or era-related landscapes.

# Garden Design for a Small Space

Often, people with smaller yards sigh and say that their yard is just too small to do anything with it. Such a person believes that landscaping designs are only for those with large-sized yards; however nothing is farther from the truth. Good landscape design comes in all forms and as such designing a small yard in good taste is easily accomplished when the right designs are used. Here are some ways to make your small yard look pleasing and inviting to guests.

Since there is some challenge presented in designing a small yard you will need to be aware of the best arrangement to employ when it comes to patio furniture, the materials to use for the patio and incorporating small trees and flowering plants into the mix. Going overboard as to furniture will make any small space seem a bit claustrophobic or cluttered whether inside or outside. Thinking things through before effecting placement of furniture will lend enormously in providing your yard with a clean, uncluttered look. This includes considering the design and dimensions of the furniture you incorporate within your design scheme.

The way to think when using design inside any small space is to use lines that are clean and not cumbersome. If you were going to provide a term for it the relative term is streamlined.

When a piece of furniture is considered streamlined, the designer has made the best of insubstantial or rather plain furniture in order to provide a pleasant uncomplicated look. On top of streamlined design ensure you place items in your backyard in small numbers. The more objects you place in your backyard the more cluttered it will begin to appear, which completely defeats the purpose of streamlined design. So with respect to the preceding, the conclusion is your furniture design must present as a clean and uncomplicated appearance and you must place items in your small space minimal in number.

Another no-no is adding swimming pools or water decoration within the design scheme of a small backyard. If you must have some element of water purchase a bird bath. You are best advised to plant a garden of raised beds. Also including some simple items such as plants in their appropriate containers on the patio may lend some eye-appealing versatility. You might include plants requiring the bright sunshine provided by your patio, moving them indoors when the sun proves a bit too intense.

## Garden vs. Family Play Area

Not all designers achieve the results of accommodating an area within their backyard landscaping arrangement of a secure pool area, a garden that will not be undermined by children at play and a yard providing a great many eye-appealing visuals. However if you believe all of these components cannot be affected, think again. Many designers have been able to provide residents with award-winning style garden arrangements and breezy areas where children may happily play.

The anticipation of many children as well as parents is that there must be plenty of room to play. This translates generally as an abundance of green lawn. The thought of throwing a garden into the mix is somewhat doubtful to many, since this means the lawn area may be scaled down to some degree. However the thoughtful landscape designer is quite aware that if elements of the right design are included a beautiful garden can be affected as well as an ideal play space — even if it is not as open an area as the residents had hoped. However, if the correct principles of design are used there should be plenty of space where the family can enjoy all sorts of sports and games.

Generally, starting out with a design scheme incorporating a great deal of locations used for various purposes will require the landscaper to be very thoughtful and creative. In other words, the drawing board is generally blank as it pertains to the area of the garden, particularly if the property dwellers are not used to the visual of a garden. Also if the house comes with a pool the designer will need to ensure it is safe and secure and generally a redo of design may be needed. When incorporating the pool aspect naturally the style of the house needs to be kept in the back of the mind of the landscape designer, since the pool area needs to neatly flow from the residential interior.

In adding visual interest consideration must be given as to where the greatest opportunity for the viewing of the showcase garden exists. If the house is contemporary and two-story for example that area might be upstairs. The landscaper needs to take into consideration from what area of the house residents and guests attain glimpses of the garden arrangement and make certain that the presentation is very eye-appealing from that angle.

The shape generally of a masterful garden-design should be geometric. Everything must be proportionately harmonized. The interior of the home must be easily exited onto the back of the property and into the garden area.

Around a pool in a stylish estate setting, raised Mediterranean flower beds with transparent gating can extend from a terrace area. Again, this is an illustration of flow and security — especially when fencing would look detracting or inappropriate. As far as safety is concerned, pool fencing can be kept discreet by way of trees, foliage and blossoming exotic-style flowers. When the pool area is viewed from the house a Mediterranean style garden that surrounds is the effect providing layers of texture and interest. Needless to say beyond this point is plenty of green lawn behind the pool/garden arrangement for children to play without the necessity to worry the children's activities will disturb the Mediterranean-style oasis.

# Hardware Features for Your Backyard Makeover

There are many out-of-door features you can add to your backyard makeover aside from flora and leafy plants. The features you use will be relative to what you prefer as homeowner. Following are suggestions outside of plant-life that may be to your liking.

One suggestion is a garden arbor. The arbor when placed in the proper location can provide an appealing addition to any backyard landscaping makeover. The arbor can serve one of several purposes inclusive of filling up a spot within the garden area or used in a completely different location outside of the garden-area. The arbor will add a dimension to your design with respect to height and is a good place to grow climbing plants.

You can incorporate fencing within your landscaping as the fence provides for privacy, is secure and keeps a pet from traipsing over other persons' properties. The fence can also be used to separate flower beds and add charm to a garden-setting. For example, within a country-style garden the addition of a picket fence at the property line may be advised.

Using a gate can make a terrific initial impression when guests come to the site of your garden. Naturally the type of gate employed is subject to the architectural details and style of your dwelling. Positioning your gate at your garden's front end provides your visitor with the impression he or she is entering a unique garden-setting.

Further if you incorporate a garden gate along with walkways, this establishes a feeling of continuation. If you decide to place a gate at the end of your garden you provide a vibe as to size. The gate situated in the rear of the garden area will make it seem as though your garden has a great deal more depth than is actually the case. A Victorian gate is the ideal selection to include with a Victorian-style house such as the "Pink Lady". This type of gate can nicely pull the architectural influence of the house in together with your historic era backyard garden arrangement.

A trellis can establish a central point within a specific section of your floral bed provide privacy inclusive of foliage near an area of entry; or cover a less than favorable area such as the weed-strewn yard of your neighbor. The trellis can offer a number of worthwhile backyard landscaping purposes and further is available in the most simplistic form to highly expressive ostentatious design. You can adorn trellises with flowers or ivy or you can leave well enough alone showing off the trellis design only.

# How to Prep Your Garden for Winter

Fall is the time of year many gardeners view as closing gardening season. However you may wish to rethink this idea. The months of fall are actually excellent for maintaining your garden and getting it prepared for the next growing season. This sort of thinking can be made part of your marvelous backyard makeover for the next growing season. You will also appreciate the view of a clean well-maintained garden area regardless of whether plants are blooming there during the colder periods of the year.

Fall is the ideal time to take care of the maintenance of the grounds as well as the tools you use to keep your garden in the best of shape. So it is advisable to check the soil, take care of the lawn mower in the way of cleaning it and sharpening the blades, and add mulch to the flower beds for the following gardening season.

When you are prepping your backyard for a marvelous makeover for the next season it is further advisable to cease fertilizing plants and adhere to a less frequent watering schedule as the temperatures start to slowly plummet. Many gardeners will want to know what plants to trim back and which to keep the same. This all depends on where you reside and what kind of plants you grow.

If you are not certain the best way to proceed it is highly advisable to ask a horticulturist located within your area of the country. Even a person who works in the plant centre may be able to advise what is best for your particular plants.

You will certainly want to take out any plants that are suffering from disease. In taking them out of your garden you do not run as much of a risk of reintroducing this sort of plant malady during the next gardening season. Also, always at the end of gardening season be sure to provide your gardening area with one final weeding.

This will greatly enhance the appearance of your garden through the final months of fall. This process of final weeding will ensure that each of the unwelcome plants you take out during the fall will not be present to sow their seeds in your garden ready to spring up during the next season.

Did you know that if you plant strawberries at the beginning of the coming fall you may actually have fruit available toward the tail-end of it? Additionally, strawberry plants are hardy and can manufacture fruit for approximately 3 years.

If you like you can take various plants you've cut back to their new winter home inside. Also if you decide to plant shrubs and trees prior to fall weather, make sure you maintain a watering schedule. You'll want to make certain the plants and shrubs are well-established before the colder months arrive. You can also use burlap to cover your plants before frost presents.

Another item on your "to do" checklist is to prune any limbs on trees that are suffering from disease as previously alluded. Do this early on, when you can still tell the difference from the parts of the plants full of vitality and the parts that are not so well.

# Separate Your Landscaping Into Different Projects

Persons wishing to take a tired old backyard and bring it formally back to life may wish to do so, however the cost of such a redo may be one of concern and subsequent frustration. What is the best way to affect a landscaping project in this regard when money is at a premium? The suggestion is to take various portions of your backyard and landscape each area one at a time.

This may even mean that in order to save money you work on one small portion each year. What difference does it make if in the end you accomplish the result you are looking to achieve? And that is a yard you can be proud of. Waiting to have enough money for the combined total project is just putting things off and in this light nothing gets accomplished; not even the smallest of landscaping projects.

The plan is therefore to re-style a certain part of your yard on a per-annum basis. This is similar in concept to when you plan re-modeling projects inside; one at a time. This is how you improve your house inside so why not try the same approach on the outside? First off, before you begin planning on a smaller scale, and even though you are not going to invest in the entire yard as far as landscaping all at once, you will still need to plan for the bigger picture. This means plan your landscaping project as if you were going to landscape the entirety of the yard, then break down this larger project into sub-groups.

Next take a piece of paper graph-style if you prefer to work on a grid; and draw the fixed structures located on the block. Examples of the immovable assets include your house, sheds, a sundeck and mature trees and shrubs. Once you have drawn the preceding decide which existing plants you are taking out of the new landscaping arrangement. Make copies of the drawing in order that you can work different landscaping design schemes up.

Think of your lifestyle when coming up with a landscaping design scheme. If you like to entertain out-of-doors, incorporate items pertinent to this type of activity into the design. For example, if you generally have guests in the backyard, it is wise to plant flowers in borders along the fringes of your property. In this light, the area remains open for your guests to maneuver. If such isn't the case, you might try a setting where you can place island flower beds in the middle of the yard and comfortable paths on which to stroll. Also there may be areas where you may relax or converse with family members and friends. The furniture, if you enjoy sitting outside in the evening, must be reasonably comfortable so you can better enjoy your outside environment.

If you currently don't have a fence you can always substitute a hedge. This will provide you with privacy down the road and keep persons and animals from easily traipsing across your property. The hedge is also effective once it matures, in keeping the wind from blowing with so much force over your yard.

Many designers find it difficult to plan for a flower border. This is reasonable considering you must find flowers complementary to one another in the way of color and height. Plan initially for flowers in a six foot wide bed if you can manage it. Measure the bed from the fence. Use three to five different kinds of flowers and plants allowing sixteen to eighteen inches between each plant. Between each plant grouping allow approximately twenty inches. Always make certain there is enough room at the back of the flowerbed. You'll want to make certain tall flora plants are at the back and short plants are placed in front of the taller plants. Other areas to address at different times include provisioning for gardens and water schemes such as fountains, waterfalls and ponds.

# How to Transform a Small Backyard

Bungalow landscaping or landscaping relative to small houses can be quite enjoyable. You can affect all types of magical gardening ideas within your bungalow landscaping theme. You can include smaller fruit trees as well as charming trellises in order to hold up climbing fruits or perfumed flowery traditional style plants.

If the imaginative visuals lent here serve any purpose at all, it is to get you thinking about landscaping the backyard of your small size dwelling endearingly referred to as the bungalow. However many bungalow home owners are curious about how to go about landscaping a small backyard space.

Before landscaping your small courtyard, just as you do in any design planning, you are advised to measure the yard dimensions first. Where within your allocated space you have the most area available is where landscaping must commence. Colorful flowers are always a good choice in which to begin - naturally appropriate to your area of the country. When you use plantings, be advised generally at the majority of community growers the most common flowers for the region will be available — so nothing to worry about there.

Also you might consider a bush that provides blooms as opposed to flowers. If you choose planting a small flowering hedge, it is recommended you choose bushes that do not grow too large. If they grow too quickly you are going to have a maintenance issue on your hands; it won't be long before your small courtyard is smothered by the growth. When planting flowers and plants make everything as far as maintenance is concerned as carefree as possible.

A nice aspect of landscaping a small yard with a relatively small house included is that you have two options to select or even both in the way of landscaping with flowers: 1) You can either incorporate floral plants in containers within your landscaping scheme; or 2) you can plant flowers in the ground. Whatever you do try not to get carried away by overplanting. Borders of flowers presents as a nice idea. Flower pots on the porch or even in window boxes are also seemingly good courses of action.

A small vegetable or herb garden can be nice. Or if you prefer flowers a small-sized flower garden is another suggested enhancement. The use of flowers such as cornflower, larkspur and nasturtiums is suggested within your landscaping scheme and if located in the right region will yield good results.

# Improve Your Backyard on a Minimal Budget

Nowadays many homeowners are interested in improving the landscaping of their yards however find it difficult on a limited budget. But what is the best way to handle the landscaping detail when means to do so prove a bit on the lean side?

The best approach is to take a good look at your backyard. Ask yourself the following questions: a) Do you wish to make a significant change or changes? B) If significant changes are not your concern; then it is supposed that you would like to refresh the look of your yard. In this respect, which areas need improvement? If you do not have the money to buy a new fence for instance, you might consider a fresh coat of paint on your existing fence.

Look at the garden area if you have one. It may be that the garden needs weeding and certain plants pruned or re-housed in containers to be brought inside the house. Also look at the shape your grass is in; you may need to fertilize your lawn in order to invigorate it. All of the preceding suggestions so far will not cost you a great deal of money. For example, taking down a fence and replacing it can prove quite costly, but not so if you can paint the fence. On a wood fence a fresh coat of paint can make a dramatic improvement.

Many flowering plants are not all that expensive. And if you follow the care instructions to the letter, you can often make a good investment by purchasing some of these plants. Create gardens with borders you can often pick up materials for borders for next to nothing or sometimes free. Many persons use all kinds of materials when it comes to bordering a raised bed.

One suggestion came in the form of rocks found at many new housing developments. Once the house is built the rocks are generally taken out of the way in order to landscape the premises. You might ask the builder if they would mind if you take some of these rocks which he is planning to get out of the way. Some persons disassemble pallets and some even turn over old rain gutters or bottles and use them for borders. Use your imagination and you'd be surprised what materials come to mind when wishing to border raised flower beds.

If you don't want to bother about borders you can still liven up your yard by simply planting a multitude of flowers ranging in various colors – and of the kind that are easy to propagate from cuttings or seed, so that you will eventually have many more for free. Purchasing flowering plants does not present an expensive proposition, so keep it in mind when wishing to give your yard an inexpensive facelift.

# Including a Deck in Your Backyard Makeover

Once the decision is made to construct a deck for your backyard there is little thought given to backing down. However, there are some good suggestions you may wish to know about before work on your deck begins. In other words, if you take the time needed in order to make certain you have all your ducks in a row, the construction stage is sure to go ahead more easily.

The first consideration is placement of your deck. The way to think about a deck is that it is an addition to your inside home environment. It is essentially like one other area of the internal living arrangement except it is out-of-doors. You want to also use the same design scheme when setting up a deck arrangement as you would an area indoors. In other words, you want to make sure everything is placed properly. Also it is highly significant you allow for privacy. Do not place your deck in a location that is in too close in proximity to your next door neighbour.

Within the overall design scheme consider how you will position the deck so it is most comfortable for your guests and family and where conversations will not bother neighbors or where neighbors' conversations will interfere with that of your guests.

Use your site plan which was provided to you when you bought your home. The reason this plan is important is because it indicates where the easements with respect to your property are located. You will want to construct your deck within the parameters of your property. If you are not sure how the size of the deck will fit dimension-wise into your backyard you can use various items such as wood partitions or excess lumber to make up varying arrangements as to size. The idea is to create a visualization of dimension in order that you can ascertain what the best sized deck is in proportion to the rest of your backyard.

Another consideration is whether or not you want your deck covered. If the region where you reside receives a good bit of snow and ice you will want to make certain the roof of the deck has enough pitch to accommodate it. Dependent on the purpose of your deck covering it can be highly beneficial to you as homeowner, especially if you wish to use it for entertainment.

It can increase the usage as to your inside arrangement and furthermore, you can include an out-of-doors style kitchen. Also if you cover the deck entertainment area you need not worry about bad weather ruining your backyard festivities or outdoor dinner occasions.

# Jazz Up Your Backyard with Borders

Many gardeners and garden design experts recognize the fact that garden beds placed around the edge of a gate or path, backyard porch or terrace provide a nice decorative touch to any landscaping scheme. Another purpose to use the flower bed border is to indicate lines of boundary or create sectioning within your landscape design.

For instance, you can use a border plant bed to section off certain areas of the yard with respect to particular plant beds inclusive of flora and vegetables. The border floral bed is normally set up in the shape of a rectangle; however, a non-traditional look would be to have a border in the shape of a curve.

When you set up a border plant bed the normal design scheme is to plant the tallest of floral plants toward the back and the shorter flowers in the front portion. Your border bed can continually house plants if you wish, by replacing plants that fade for new ones. Or you can use the floral bed for one season worth of blooms. However if you allow a season where your border bed is without blooms then it is advisable to compensate with some type of blooming plants within your other gardens.

Think of other areas where you can keep plant life thriving in relation to your bordering plant beds.

Possible suggestions are shrubs that remain green all year such as evergreens, ornamental grass and other types of ground coverage. The idea is to provide your yard with appeal from a visual perspective in the way of differing plants. Also a good flora bed border should at the most not be more than 7 feet wide. If you make the border plant bed too wide it will be harder to maintain.

However, there are other plant and flora beds providing a border along an area such as a gate or the perimeter of the backyard that when wider than 4 feet need to be separated to some extent. In order to provide the separation backyard stepping stones placed every so often is a good solution. Also when setting up borders consider the fact your grass-cutter or any device used to haul brush or clippings may need to pass over the border, so the breaks in the border will accommodate such a purpose. If borders are located within an herb and vegetable garden area, the walk areas in these areas naturally are more significant than the border.

# Making the Most of What You Have

Many persons dream of a marvelous backyard makeover but are constrained due to budget. However there are many ideas of which you may not be aware that are totally workable even within the parameters of the most frugal budget. The following article provides several types of cost-saving remedies.

Many cities offer free mulch. A great many municipalities will take homeowner's trimmings and recycle the cuttings into mulch. Mulch that has been manufactured or recycled from organic clippings and cuttings is a cost-effective alternative to purchasing mulch by the bag. If you require a good bit of mulch you may spend far more in this area than you wish if you purchase it by the package.

So the recommendation here is to find out if your city does in fact offer the material for free. Also by using free organic mulch you'll find you need not water your yard quite so frequently. Take the mulch and generously apply it around the root areas of plants as well as around the base areas of trees. Mulch is a very organic type of fertilizer and is an ideal nutrient for plants.

One way to acquire more plantings using what you already have available is to take your perennial flowers and separate them. It is best advised before you attempt to perform this project to check at several sites online as to the proper technique. You do not want to cause any harm to the plant when separating. Also once you replant the perennial you want to assure you achieve the desired result of a successful replanting. This is another cost-saving measure since the more perennial flowers you have in your garden the less need there is to spend money on annuals. Also, perennials will increase in number each year.

Set up a container or area for compost. The way you affect this is by constructing a wood frame and enclosing it with wire. Fill the bin with your grass clippings, scraps from kitchen, and leaves. Every so often: take the contents of the bin and toss them about with a gardening fork. You will want to do this in order to assure everything is adequately decomposing. The compost inside provides the thrifty gardener a way to fertilize his or her garden at no cost. But do not place meat scraps or bones in it.

Why seethe with jealousy at your neighbor's gorgeous plants? One way to get around the feeling is to simply ask for a plant clipping. Once attained, you can add this plant to your own outside environment. If you engage the Internet, you will be able to find out within a brief period of time how to correctly establish clippings. Another way to keep costs minimal or free is to collect the seeds from your annual flowers. You can save the seeds and grow them in the future.

If you'd like to keep costs low when watering plants then consider the idea of a rain barrel. There are many rainwater barrels available that come already assembled. Also you can find a barrel and create your own rainwater collection container. Purchasing basic hardware such as a tap is essentially not pricey and you can install the tap using a drill. Also you will need some caulk. Where openings exist cover with some type of tightly woven screen in order to keep insects out. Rainwater can be used for plant watering, however it should not be used for drinking purposes.

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