

garden



By **Roger Myers**
American Beauty Landscaping

Roger Myers is the President and Founder of American Beauty Landscaping. Established in 1979, ABL is the Valley's industry leader with over 90 National, State and Local awards to its landscape design and build credit.

stones is theatrical; a source of light, action and sound. Regardless if you have 20 acres, or a 20'x20' deck or patio, you can introduce water into your landscape. Lets' explore the options.

You can introduce water into your landscape simply by purchasing a self contained vessel. It may be a simple bird bath, or as grand as a three tiered fountain with a 12' base. Most garden centers in our area have a wide variety of sizes, styles and materials, regardless of your budget. Simply plug in the pump, and you will have a moving, splashing water feature enhancing your landscaping, making your outdoor environment more enjoyable. The sound of a small trickle, or the splash of a busy multi-tiered fountain, will provide soothing therapy after another hectic day. Maintenance is minimal; keep it clean, add fresh water to replace evaporation and splash-out, and drain and cover it for the winter months. If you can – bring it inside particularly if it's a clay product.

I suggest you add a valve to the pump that allows you to adjust the amount of water that flows through your fountain. Make sure your pump fits your feature to obtain the results you desire. Also, place the fountain where you can enjoy it. Where can you see it and hear it? Just outside a window? Or perhaps your goal is to enhance the front of your residence for others to see. It makes for great curb appeal, especially if lit at night.

For some of you, nothing short of a pond will do. Short on space? We have a 3' deep pond, that's 5' x 6' irregular just 10' outside our back door at American Beauty Landscaping office. We have an 18" waterfall, which keeps the water aerated supporting over 40 fish from 1" to over 14" long! That's a lot of enjoyment out of less space than an average bathroom!

The key to a successful water feature is the filtration system. Much improved over the last five years as demand has increased, today's systems are self-contained and operate similar to a swimming pool system.

A pump housed inside a water box pulls in water like a skimmer, then filters out surface debris over a series of nets and plastic filter pads. The water then is pumped to the top of the water feature where another box is filled with various types of stone such as lava rock. This is the heart of the "bio-system" as good bacteria lives on the filter materials and keeps the water clean and full of life.

Ultimately a biologically balanced eco-system is created between the water, plants, and fish life. Add marginals, (plants that thrive in shallow water), water lilies that grow in pots at the bottom, and floaters – surface plants that live on top, and you have a thriving, beautiful, water feature that will give you an endless source of enjoyment.

A small feature as I described can be purchased for around \$900 including liner and pump, you will need an outdoor power source for the pump. A professionally installed feature that's a turn-key project with boulders, waterfalls, plantings in and out of the water etc., may run \$5,000 or more.

Just add water! You will attract birds, frogs, and many other water loving plants and animals, providing you esthetic pleasure, soothing comfort, and pride of your living creation.

"Good Fishing!"

Roger A. Myers
C.E.O. American Beauty Landscaping

WATER GARDENING

Man (and woman) has long been attracted to water for survival, transportation, irrigation, recreation, and its esthetic appeal. Rivers, creeks, ponds, lakes or oceans have always attracted civilizations, and do so to this day.

Is it any wonder that we still enjoy the many benefits that water brings to the landscape? How "cool" is it to have your own lake, pond, pool or stream? Feel it, swim in it, cool off with it, listen to it, and enjoy every good feeling that it provides. Its no wonder water is Hot!

So is it a "cool" idea to have water in your landscape or are you still just luke warm about the thought? Nothing adds more to a garden than a show of water. Even a trickle falling on a bed of

"Landscaping For Life"



"We would like to commend the crew that worked on our home. They were professional and courteous. What impressed us most was their attitude. Despite the heat, they were focused and worked very hard."

B. Monico -New Castle

"The yard looks great; the young men are doing a fine job. They are courteous, friendly and fast. Keep up the good work."

M. DiCarlo

"When your landscaper is proud of the work he has done and brings people to see it, you know you've made the right decision."

E. Anderson -Austintown

"We are thrilled with the results and eager to show off our new look. Our neighbors have been complimentary."

D. Hazen -Salem



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