

garden

By Roger Myers

Roger Myers is the President and Founder of American Beauty Landscaping. Established in 1979, ABL is the Valley's industry leader with more than 100 national, state and local awards to its landscape design and build credit.



YO 1107 Log # 496

Landscape For Life...



For 28 years I have worked in the landscape industry, and have seen a lot of beautiful landscapes throughout this Mahoning Valley. I believe it is our cultural heritage which gives us the desire to take pride in our community, our homes, and our families. Providing a comfortable dwelling, with green grass, trees and flowers, makes coming home from work all worth it! "It's our roots"!

And while we agree that a well kept home gives us a sense of pride and accomplishment, our busy schedules, and diverse backgrounds don't always allow us to be proficient in the areas of landscaping, maintenance and design.

Having said that, you may have reached that point in your life, when doing it yourself is no longer an option. If you're like me, "A BOOMER"; you look to others to do it for you....paint the house, mow the lawn, wash the windows, change oil – and wash the car! I no longer look under the hood, there is nothing there I recognize...plugs? Points, carburetor: GONE! So I leave it to the pros.

Landscape construction has become much more elaborate and involved, just as the engine in your car. "Boomers"...don't over do it, call a professional.

Be sure to get a "PROFESSIONAL". There are many who drive pickups with tools and mowers but know little about proper landscape design and installation.

When looking for a reputable company, look for how many years of experience, educational degrees or certifications their staff members have. Ask if they belong to professional organizations such as The Mahoning Valley Landscape Association, The Ohio Landscape Association, the Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association, or the Association of Landscape Contractors, the latter being a national group of professionals.

Good designers have architectural degrees, or our certified landscape designers by the APLD (Association of Professional Landscape Design).

Reputable individuals will show you a portfolio of completed jobs, (I would not do business with anyone who could not show me what he has done). Great landscaping not only requires technical skills, but artistic flair as well. You may or may not appreciate a person's "art", even though he is a good "technician". You need to put it all together... select a person who fits your particular style.

Do not be ripped off! Get it in writing. Your contract should be specific explaining all the nuances of the job.

And finally, be sure he is insured and has workman's compensation. You want him to be covered, should he drive a machine through your house, or bumps your new car or favorite child, or cuts your cable or gas line. It's amazing how many things can go wrong with a poorly trained, inexperienced landscaper.

Most important consideration of all is the DESIGN. If you need more than just a few plants installed or a beautiful multi-level terrace, or gardens, or a water feature, then you need a design. Expect to pay from a hundred to a thousand dollars or more depending on the scope of the project.

A good landscape design can provide you with many years of enjoyment, reduced maintenance requirements, a relaxing outdoor living space, or curb appeal. It will also add 10-15% to the value of your home, and you will be proud of the investment you've made in your own environment!

Happy Thanksgiving From all of us at American Beauty Landscaping

