

# 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.



YO0209 Log # 469

## IS YOUR LANDSCAPE FOR THE BIRDS?



Since December 21st the days have been growing longer by approximately a minute; well, the amount of daylight that is! We can take some joy in knowing that with longer daylight, Spring most certainly is just around the corner, even though it's still so darn cold.

Winter need not be a "dead" season for gardeners...

Die hard landscape lovers, who really enjoy the beauty of nature, and the outdoors need not despair with the winter days of North East Ohio. A trip through Mill Creek Park, by car, or on foot for the hardy soul; after a new snow can be very beautiful, serene, and invigorating. Yes, there is more to see and do then watch the playoffs! (Besides, the Browns are out of it as usual!)

One can appreciate the beauty of nature, and be amazed at the life that abounds, both plant and animal. –Perhaps you might appreciate re-creating those beautiful winter scenes in your own backyard.

As we plan our residential landscapes, be it big or small, with a little creativity and knowledge, our winter garden need not suffer from the "blahs"!

Of course a good balance of ever greens, either needled or Broadleaf (leafy) will provide an abundance of winter color and texture, as well as a cozy protection for wildlife. What is more spectacular in the winter landscape than a large Blue Spruce under a blanket of a new fallen snow?

But, don't forget many woody ornamentals have interesting branch patterns, or produce colorful berries which provide an abundance of color against the backdrop of the winter snow. Birch trees, and Dogwood, Winter King Hawthorn, Winter Berry Holly, Harvest Gold Flowering Crab, are some of my favorites in the winter landscape.

Grasses offer a variety of color and texture, which is a good reason not to cut them back in the fall.

And finally to help keep you busy, and entertained, for young and old alike; do the birds a favor, and put up a feeder or two. Choose a spot within 5-10' of a good window for observation, and you might be amazed at the variety of feathered friends that thrive in our Ohio winter.



Winter is a great time to watch the birds, and your backyard can be as spectacular to look at, as it is environmentally friendly for our feathered friends. It's not too late to get started, and dollar for dollar, it is cheap entertainment! See you next month.

Roger A. Myers  
CEO/Designer, American Beauty Landscaping