

Home Lawn and Garden

Beautify your backyard with a lovely garden pond

If you really enjoy being in your yard and would like to give it that extra dimension to make it even more enjoyable, as well as the envy of the neighborhood, here's a great suggestion—put in your own yard pond! Too much trouble? Don't know how to do it? Through new technology, all these worries are needless.

Installing your own garden pond is simple, maintaining it is easy and, best of all, your pond will provide years of trouble-free enjoyment.

European gardens, particularly in Great Britain, southern France, northern Italy, Holland and Germany, almost always feature a yard pond.

Nine years ago, a German company, Tetra Werke, known best in the United States for its home aquarium products, developed a bonded two-piece heavy duty (32 mil. thick) flexible rubber pond liner. This liner allows homeowners to free-form a yard pond efficiently and easily, in whatever shape is best suited for the terrain or the homeowner's needs.

This liner can withstand the warmest summers and the coldest winters, and is available in sizes big enough to create ponds almost 10 feet in diameter.

How do you construct a garden pond? Start by selecting a location on your property where the ground is fairly even, although because of the flexibility of the liner some leveling can be achieved when digging your pond. The pond should be placed where it will get approximately six hours of sunlight per day.

While you can place your pond anywhere, it is not recommended to place it directly under trees, since falling leaves can foul the water and tree roots will make digging difficult.

Using a heavy garden hose or a rope, free-form your pond design to conform to your landscaping scheme.

When constructing your pond, dig both a shallow area and a deep area. Fish will feed on insects in the shallow area, and it is the ideal place for potted plants such as lilies.

The deep area will provide security for your fish and protect them from birds and small animals. Depending on your climate, the deep area of your pond should be anywhere from 24 to 40 inches, and the shallow area from 4 to 12 inches.

After digging out your pond location, line the ground with sand, carpet padding or even old newspapers, before installing the liner. This will protect the liner against sharp, protruding objects such as roots and rocks.

To create that professional look, build a rock border around your pond, allowing the rocks to overlap the edge of the pond by 1 or 2 inches. You can landscape back around the pond and even build a patio, if desired.

Maintaining your pond is very easy. Tetra has an economical, permanent pond filter and air pump, as well as a full line of water chemicals and foods to ensure that your fish will prosper. And if you want to add the grace and beauty of a waterfall or fountain to your pond, Tetra even offers a powerful and reliable water pump.

What kind of fish should you put in your pond? The hardiest are large Common or Comet goldfish. Depending on the size of your pond, these hardy fish will grow rapidly and can withstand the worst climates. As long as the water in your pond

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