

Worksheet for Developing a Water Garden

Take the time to print off and fill in this worksheet if you are planning to add a water garden or water elements to your landscaping. It will save you much time and expense if you take the time to think about what you want and the final result you are aiming for in your garden.

	Questions:	Answers:
Construction	Is this new construction or do you have to work around existing landscaping?	
	Do you have plenty of room to construct your water garden or are you limited to a small area?	
	If planning a large water garden, can you get heavy equipment in the area or are there barriers such as boulders, cliffs and trees that block access to the area?	
	What type of material are you planning on using? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete/cement • Synthetic rubber liner • Heavy grade plastic 	
	If the climate is cold, do you need insulation such as Styrofoam sheeting?	
	Most water gardens use recirculating pumps. Do you need to consult an electrician concerning this area of construction?	

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	<p>Will you need a filtration system?</p>	
	<p>Do you have a high water table? Do you have to consider adding drainage trenches?</p>	
Soil	<p>What type of soil do you have in the area?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loam • Clay • Gravel 	
	<p>What is the moisture content?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry • Moist • Boggy/Swampy 	
Style	<p>What style are you thinking about?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal • Informal/Free form • Informal/Natural/Wild • Raised Garden • Earth Pond • Container Water Garden 	
Purpose	<p>What is the main purpose of the water element?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a view • Add calmness and serenity to landscape • Fish pond • Water Garden • Add sound of running water • Water Fountain • Waterfall 	

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Design Elements	<p>Do you plan on using any of the following elements?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fountains • Statuary • Chairs and Benches • Water Plants such as water lilies, water hyacinths, etc. • Grasses • Bridges • Stones or Boulders • Edgings such as bricks, slate, fieldstones, etc. 	
Maintenance	<p>Consider maintenance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have gardening or landscaping help? • Will you be the only one doing the maintenance? • How much time and energy are you willing to put into upkeep 	

You may not need to consider all of these items. It will, of course, depend on the size and style of the water garden you envision. However, by running through this sheet, you may now have a better view of what you should be thinking of and looking for when you are considering introducing a water garden or water element into your landscape.

With this sheet in hand, visit garden centers, nurseries, and water gardening specialists for inspiration and ideas before starting your water garden plan. Visit <http://www.home-decorating-room-by-room.com/water-gardening.html> for more hints and resources to help you in planning and designing your water garden.