

There are always new ideas at [the Backyard Oasis](#) for designing and enjoying your backyard. Here are a few popular backyard ideas and additions. Stop by the site often for new ideas.

Backyard Design



Backyard design is an important consideration in making your yard into an escape from today's stress and demands. With planning you can turn your outdoor living space into a backyard oasis for a variety of uses.

With most home designs and landscaping ideas, the front yard presents a welcoming appearance with more form and directs people to your front door. The backyard is the focal point for entertaining, relaxing and where you can create your own private area to relax. With economic times being strained these days and the price of transportation now is the time to design and landscape your backyard oasis.

Once you have taken in the important concerns of current trees and shrubs, walkways, utilities, and who will use the backyard: it's time to set a budget and start a few projects for your backyard design projects.

I like to make a few small changes that you see immediate results. This way, as you add your more expensive or time-consuming changes, you have immediate results that add comfort to your backyard.

One of my smaller design projects would be adding containers for plants, adding larger plants and planning for a patio garden or small space garden. The addition of plants creates a larger feeling to the backyard and gives it that backyard oasis feeling.

I would also add garden art and a small water fountain. My garden art is found at auction houses or garage sales. As for water fountains I would start small and purchase a tabletop fountain while you are planning your larger backyard design.

As you plan and take in to account space, you need to think of any walls, property lines and walkways. You could think of them as a floor plan and use that to create separate areas of the yard for recreation,

entertaining or as a hideaway. This also creates a feeling of more space in the backyard. Often times these areas are considered outdoor rooms. Your plan is to make them separate in feeling for certain uses but open and inviting as a backyard.

One other consideration to take in is what is referred to as a ceiling of a backyard. Trees and their shade and form can create this. Other homes close-by also create a wall that can add a feeling of space going up. Fencing and walls also add to a ceiling and adding raised beds and gardens near them can create another room. One other to take into consideration in a backyard ceiling is a second story balcony or decks of your home.

Balconies and decks serve as a wonderful entertainment area and can make a stunning private garden oasis. They are also versatile and can be changed for each season, which gives your backyard oasis a new and fresh look on a regular basis.

There will be many ideas for backyard design here at our backyard oasis. Many will be small projects that take a small amount of time and money. After all the main purpose of your backyard oasis is to enjoy it.



Growing Fruit in your Backyard



The Backyard garden adds one more dimension to your yard and it's surprising how the addition of plants seem to enlarge your backyard and adds to the relaxing feeling you are trying to create. Your backyard garden area should be an extension of what you like both in design, color and use.

My backyard always has a mix of flowers, vegetables and herbs. They grow in raised beds, theme gardens and hanging baskets. I guess you would call it a backyard jungle. But it's relaxing and fun. And that is what gardening should be, fun!

Flowers tend to be the easiest gardens followed by vegetables and the last garden variety that tends to be more work are fruit gardens. Fruit gardens need more maintenance to keep insects away. Insects are

attracted to the sweet in the fruit and don't like to take no for an answer

In order to make sure you have a healthy fruit crop you will have to decide if you use a chemical for insect control or use natural insect control. I always use natural pest control that I mix up using home ingredients. I also hand pick insects if necessary. I may lose a few fruits this way but it's worth it knowing I have healthy produce and have not hurt the environment.

My backyard fruit garden consists of blueberries, blackberries, raspberries and strawberries. I also grow melons in the garden area. These smaller fruits produce well and are relatively insect free. This is because I make sure I have the best-fertilized soil I can mix up and use a heavy ground cover to keep moisture in the soil. I also grow a few fruit crops in hanging baskets.

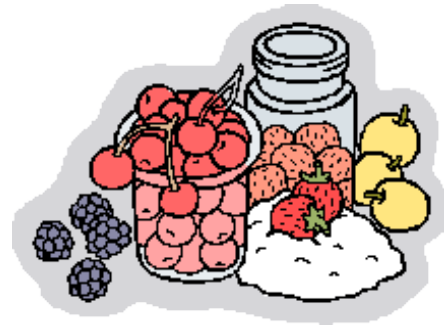
My larger fruits do include fruit trees, which is a whole other category when it comes to care.

When considering fruit trees I would carefully check your growing zone conditions and take into consideration how much space a fruit tree will take. You will also need to check and see if the fruit trees you select need another tree to help pollinate the fruit crop.

Dwarf trees or espalier trees may be a consideration. They take less space and espalier fruit trees are very pretty and often are used to help create privacy in smaller backyards.

Fruit trees need to have sun and be located in an area where the wind can move through the trees. Growing too close to a larger tree or a building that blocks sun and air current will cut back on your fruit crop. One last consideration is do you have the time to prune your trees? Fruit trees need pruning to keep the tree healthy and let the sun get to the fruit.

Growing fruit in your backyard garden oasis will add more work but there is nothing quite as nice in the morning than a fresh peach that is warmed by the sun or homemade strawberry shortcake. As with all gardening and additions to your backyard oasis you need to consider time and the additional value it adds to your property and your needs.



Backyard Pools

Backyard pools add a new dimension to your backyard living area. It gives the backyard more of an oasis or tropical feeling and will add to family entertaining events. But adding a pool will be one of the biggest decisions that you will make for your backyard oasis area. So careful consideration and care must be taken when finalizing your decision.

Swimming pools come in a variety of sizes, shapes, and designs that should accommodate your family's

needs and your backyard design and space requirements. You can choose from a built in pool or an above ground pool. You may also find out after all considerations and take into account that a small pond will serve a better purpose.

- Built in swimming pools need to be very well thought out. They become a permanent fixture in your yard. The advantage of the built in swimming pool is that it blends into your backyard design and creates a total atmosphere of relaxation. This pool will need professional advice and installation.
- The above ground pool will add more backyard entertainment possibilities for the family and are relatively easy to install and maintain. The money that your family saves with staying at home quickly covers the cost of the pool.



Considerations for Backyard Pools

1. Backyard space

Pools take room. Besides the size of the pool you will need to consider the traffic pattern it adds to your backyard and any additional pool accessories. Will you add a pool house, deck, or nearby patio for relaxation? You will need additional storage space somewhere in your yard for pool supplies. There are many sizes of pools available and one will fit your needs.

2. Backyard Design

Backyard pools will quickly become a focal point of your yard, so placement is important. The current design of your yard will also influence whether you decide on a built in pool or an above ground pool. The pool's shape will also be decided on your backyard. Round or curving edges flow more with a softer backyard design while rectangular pools blend in with a formal look. Rectangular pools are also better for those who want to use a pool for exercise and water laps.

You will also have to take into consideration the trees and shrubs in your yard. Placing a pool too close to a tree that creates a mess in the yard will mean you are cleaning out the pool on a more regular schedule.

3. Family needs

Ages of your children are a very important consideration along with any health issues of family members. Will the pool be used for family fun or will it be used for exercise and training. This is also where you will also need to consider pool safety for the family and even neighbors who may stray into your yard. Portrait

4. Cost of backyard pools

Cheaper pools have a lower durability and you may need to practice caution when using them. A pool liner can be expensive to repair or replace. But if this is your best option, just shop around for the best bargain and lay down pool rules.

The least expensive pool is an above-ground pool. This will require leveling the ground and some basic assembly. They are perfect for a small family and have the advantage of being moved later. They do tend to stand apart in the yard so it requires some backyard design planning to help them blend into the yard. Pool decks or patio are perfect for making the pool a part of the backyard.

In-ground pools are sturdier and quickly become part of your yard. They add a backyard oasis feeling and become the center of most family and entertaining function. In-ground pools are usually made of pre-molded fiberglass, which is dropped into a hole dug in your yard. They are more durable.

The gunite pool, which is reinforced with a steel frame and coated in a mixture of cement and sand, is the most expensive pool but will last with little pool repair indefinitely. These pools are built to be a permanent fixture in the backyard and are usually surrounded with concrete patios, wooden decks and terraced gardens for sunbathing or entertaining guests. These are the pools that are best for diving.

If you take all these consideration in to account when choosing and planning for your backyard pool: you will be able to select a backyard swimming pool that will fit all your families needs for years to come.

Small Space Garden Design



There are many who rent, live in cities or just do not have available space to garden or create a backyard oasis garden area. But even if you have only a small patch of soil available or a deck area you can create a private small space garden for escaping from the world.

Start by looking at the area you have and analyze the space. Do you have gardening soil space or will you plant in containers? If you add a trellis or fence you will be able to create more privacy in the yard or patio area and use them for climbing plants or to hang planters on. Hanging baskets will also make use of available space on patios, decks and near the house.

A cottage garden design works well in a small space garden. It has a casual look and the plants tumble and seem to ramble about adding color and fragrance to the entire yard. If you look carefully at most cottage gardens they are a mix of perennials, annuals and vegetables mixed in between cute fences and garden sculpture. But don't let the wild look of a cottage garden fool you. It was well planned out to get the most use of every inch of space, even in those wandering pathways, door entries and barren garage areas.



Old-fashioned perennials are a must for the main plants in small garden design. Azaleas, classic roses, lilies, peonies, nicotiana, stock, and lavender give the small backyard garden a base to work with. Add additional plants and flowers to fill the design and look out. Annual flowers work well to fill in any gaps or holes between plants. Next Door

Arbors and trellises are perfect for climbing roses; flowering vines, hanging baskets and birdhouses or bird feeders. Many people overlook the advantages of growing upward. Wire structures work well for this along with adding a trellis for additional climbing space. Flowering vines and many vegetables will thrive growing vertical. And if you have room you can add a few ornamental trees or fruit trees. Many of these trees will grow in containers and can be moved indoors in the winter if you live in a colder area.

The smallest cottage garden I saw was created along a very barren garage and pathway to the house. There may have been a 4-foot deep area to work with and possibly 15 foot long. A path had to be kept open for traffic. By including the mini deck area and entry along with the pathway they created a beautiful secret garden retreat for relaxing.



In your final planting remember to plant taller plants in the back of flowerbeds and shorter plants in front. And as your garden design winds down make sure you have included a small place to sit and relax. Even if its one chair or a bench you need to be able to sit and enjoy the garden oasis you have created in your small space garden.

Feel free to pass this PDF to friends. Just do not alter the writing in any way.

Also stop by the [Backyard Oasis](#), [The Gardener's Rake](#) and [Backyard Oasis Projects](#) for more gardening and backyard ideas.

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