

Lovescape:

Landscaping as a Perfect Getaway for Valentine's Day and Beyond

by Melanie Albright

The first thing many people think of when February rolls around—wait, it's February already?!—is usually Valentine's Day. From here we think about two things, depending on what our relationship status is: If we have a significant other (and plan on keeping him around for Valentine's Day) then our thoughts usually gear toward figuring out something nice to do for that person; if we aren't in a relationship then maybe we'll think about spending the day with other single friends or, simply, ourselves. Whichever category you fall into, the 14th of this month provides a good excuse to escape. If it is escaping away from other people to be alone with your beau or escaping from the idea of Valentine's Day altogether, a beautifully landscaped yard is the ideal setting for it.

For both the paired loved birds and les celibataires out there, a good getaway landscape would be one with a privacy fence made out of your favorite trees and bushes. This gives your property line an exotic and beautiful look while still accomplishing the basic goals that wooden privacy fences do. Not only will this make your yard a private escape, it also provides a beautiful concealer of unattractive sights that are outside of your property line.

An escape must be private, but also comfortable and safe. To make the most of your get-away, a paver deck is essential. Not only can they make an unlevel yard safe, but they can also increase the usable space in one's yard. A paver deck is a great place to put a jacuzzi, where both romance and relaxation can occur and not just on Valentine's Day. Lounge chairs go nicely on a paver deck as well, whether in addition to a jacuzzi or just alone.

If a paver deck isn't in your idea of a getaway landscape, consider a beautiful stepping stone path

leading up to a loveseat swing. This is perfect for cuddling with your beau or book.

Lighting beautifies landscaping at night in remarkable ways. When the sun goes down on Valentine's Day you can have a lovely dinner outside with your date, or just curl up with your favorite book and a glass of wine. Electrical lighting is cleverly placed so that it will be hidden during the day, but illuminate your plants at night. They can be set on an automatic timer to turn on, which is not only convenient, but is also a likely way to ward off home invaders. Tiki torches offer an exotic appeal at an economized priced and can be easily moved from place to place. They also are "green" in the sense that they use no energy.

Unlike going out to an expensive restaurant, these landscape investments will benefit you long past Valentine's Day by giving you a beautiful getaway just right outside your home and increasing the aesthetic appeal of your property. There are many options when creating a getaway landscape. Privacy fences, paver decks and lighting features are merely a few of them that offer benefits along with beauty.



*More Ideas For Your Getaway Landscape:
Water Features, like ponds with waterfalls and fountains
Tree House
Sandy Beach*

Tips and Tricks

to Optimize Your New Landscaping

1. February is fertilizer month, especially for citrus trees and gardenias. It's best to lay in a supply of what you normally use in addition to super phosphate. Be ready about mid-February to feed everything.
2. Rose bushes should receive a minimum of six hours of sunlight a day. To reduce the chance of Black Spot, plant your rose bushes in a place where the sunrise will greet them and dry dew. To further prevent this disease, avoid getting the leaves of your rose bushes wet when watering them.
3. It's a good time for sod installation. Getting your sod established early in the season will help prepare it for the hot summer.



Before



Featured Job

After



Animal Lover Section

If you are an animal lover, but don't have much time for a dog or a cat then consider this: Koi Fish are said to bring luck and prosperity. Whether or not this is the case, they are a great addition to a pond that you may have installed. They are low maintenance pets that can still offer you companionship.

Receive a Free Citrus, Azalea and Gardenia Fertilization
with the Purchase of a Landscape Clean-up.

This offer expires February 28, 2011.

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