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## Beautifying The Garden Or Yard With A Bench

By Paul Graham

Most homes have gardens or yards. Some of these can be as big as those in mansions while some

of these can be small. Despite the beauty of the flowers, trees and grass that make up the garden, the one thing that people take for granted is not being able to enjoy watching it longer. When one frequents public places such as parks, campsites, playgrounds, the zoo, one will notice that there are benches for people to stop and view what is there. It also provides a break from walking and makes someone catch ones breath. A lot of advice on making the garden look better would instruct to buy new plants or make something unique using ceramics. Just like everything else, a bench is an accessory that one must also consider. No one can appreciate the beauty of a garden and the surroundings if no one is able to sit there and appreciate it. That is where the importance of the bench comes in.

### 1. Know The Area

A garden or yard as mentioned earlier vary according to the size of the home By identifying the places where one can best appreciate the garden, one will not have a hard time buying the right bench for that particular location. The size of the area where the bench will be placed is also very important since this will determine the number of benches one may one to put this after these have been purchased.

### 2. Know The Kinds Of Benches Available

Parks usually have benches made out of wood or marble. Rest areas along the interstate or even in the zoo use those made out of wood. After identifying the locations, one can easily check out what is available in the market then see which models are suitable for the garden. Some benches have an arm and backrest. Others have a table that go with it so one can enjoy a family barbecue in the back yard. These are some examples of what are available in the market and all it takes is for one to visit the neighborhood furniture store or do some research by the Internet. There are a lot of retailers who offer the same items online and the prices of these are quite competitive. Once the person finds a good bargain, one will just have order it then wait a few days for the delivery to arrive.

### 3. High Or Low Maitenance?

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Benches like an automobile require some maintenance. If a bench is made of plastic and it gets dirty, one can simply wash off the dirt and wipe it making it good as new. Wood on the other hand requires high maintenance. To keep the varnish intact and sparkling, one would have to buy a spray and cloth to keep it in good condition. Benches made out stone or marbledon't require that much maintenance. They do not rust like benches made out of steel or aluminum though these do chip off.

### 4. Usage – The Most Important Factor!

– Read a book – Chat with the other members of the family – Enjoy the garden – Watch a sunset – Eat outdoors – Barbecue in style

### 5. An Addition To Your Home – Not Just A Bench

The best of way of buying the right bench for the yard or garden is to figure out the best possible bench

money can buy. This does not mean the most expensive but the one that is there for a purpose and not for aesthetic purposes only. The other way if getting the ideal bench will be to build one. If the person were crafty, it would be no problem to build one after buying the right materials. Some pieces of wood, a bunch of nails, and a good hammer and saw. When in doubt how to begin, one can always purchase from the local bookstore an instruction manual or book since there have been several authors who have written about woodwork that show the various designs on how to do it.

For more great garden bench related articles and resources check out

<http://gardenbenches.lawnngardens.com>

## **The Garden Bench – An Invitation**

**By Liz Norman**

There is little more welcoming in your garden than some sort of seating that invites your guest to sit down, relax and just enjoy. A simple garden bench or two does exactly that.

You can find garden benches just about anywhere in the spring and summer. Your more expensive benches are usually found in garden specialty shops. If your pocketbook can only afford a less expensive garden bench, check out the discount stores such as Wal-Mart, Kmart or Bimart. No doubt you can find a bench you like for less than \$30.

Garden benches are available in all sorts of sizes and materials. Wood, metal, vinyl, and concrete are the most popular materials used. If you decide upon a bench made of wood or metal, be aware of the future maintenance involved. Primarily, scraping and painting every year or so. White vinyl benches are a good choice providing you store them out of the weather during the wintertime. While colored vinyl benches tend to fade when placed in a sunny spot of your garden.

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The most carefree garden bench is made of unpainted concrete. Yet, as with everything else that spends the majority of it's life in the out of doors, even concrete requires some maintenance. In this case, a quick, annual pressure washing may be in order. Another thing to consider with a garden bench made of concrete is its weight. Depending upon the size you choose, it may not be easy to move. With that thought in mind, consider carefully where you place it in your yard as it's likely to become permanent.

Regardless of the materials you choose, the placement of your garden bench(es) is of some importance. The bench should not only issue an invitation to your guest to rest awhile, but also offer something to focus one's attention upon.

A bench placed near a garden fountain for instance, is ideal. Or place a few along a path that winds among flowerbeds that bloom all season. Consider purchasing a gazing globe and/or a birdbath. Bird feeders are another idea as most folks much enjoy watching our feathered friends play nearby. Last but not least, hang a melodic wind chime in a nearby tree or on a Shepard's hook for an overall restful effect.

Liz Norman is an avid gardener and a freelance writer. You can find more

<http://www.bench1000.info>

resources for garden benches here.



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