

This Free E-Book is brought to you by Natural-Aging.com.

| | |
|---|--|
| | |
| <p><u>100% Effective Natural Hormone Treatment</u> Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances Impair Healthy Healing In People Over The Age Of 30!</p> | |
| | |

Wetland Gardens

By Sandra Lawton

Wetland Gardens by Sandra Lawton

This article may be freely published so long as the author's bylines and author's resource box remain intact.

Title:Wetland Gardens
Author:Sandra Lawton
Contact:sandra@ezine-info.co.uk

Copyright:©2002 by [Your name or company name].
All rights reserved.

Wetland Gardens
by Sandra Lawton

We'd like to take a look at how to turn a waterlogged area into something beautiful!

Wetland Gardens

Where we live, in Hampshire, UK, there is a lot of clay in the soil and with our wet climate, this readily turns areas of the garden into a quagmire.

But this does not have to be a cause for despair! The best option is to accept this area as a 'wetland' and address it accordingly.

If you fancy the idea, but don't have a wetland area, you can create one artificially. More and more I'm being asked to do just that.

Wetland Gardens

There is a range of plants that can not only cope with boggy areas, but positively thrive, producing luxuriant foliage and stunning flowers.

- >Hosters
- >Lillies
- >Irises
- >Marsh Marigolds
- >Primulas
- >Ferns
- >A range of Grasses

Actually prefer these conditions alongside other trees and shrubs.

We've briefly discussed how water attracts the birds and wildlife and wetland gardens are no different. Many birds and a variety of brightly coloured insects will soon enhance your garden. Wetland Gardens really are very beautiful.

If you create these areas artificially, in order to blend it in with the environment, it is important to create an extended marginal area (the zone between wet and dry land).

Another beauty of wetland gardens is their ability to stand alone as an attractive feature, or to act as an extension to a pond or a stream.

They are inexpensive, and easy to create, so here we go, get your spade out

Creating your Wetland Garden (2m – 6ft wide)

Equipment:

- >Spade
- >Garden Fork
- >Rake
- >Scissors
- >Sheet of high density polythene 3.5m x 3.5m
- >8 x 25kg bags of 10mm shingle

How?

Mark out the area to the shape you want. Dig out a hole, to a depth of about 60cm (2ft), with sloping sides.

Remove any large or sharp stones.

Wetland Gardens

Spread the polythene over the hole and gently press it into the bottom.

Hold the edges down with bricks or heavy stones.

Pulling from the edge work around the liner flattening the creases to the sides.

Using your fork, puncture the liner, creating drainage holes over the whole area.

Spread the shingle over the bottom to a depth of 5cm (2"), using the rake. This will now form a drainage zone to prevent stagnation.

Refill the hole with the soil you removed, to about 5cm from the top.

Trim the edges of the liner and continue filling, making sure that the edges of the liner are concealed below the surface.

Firm the soil down, using your heels and rake over.

How did it go? Ok I hope!

You must keep your wetland garden well watered during dry periods, which can be done more attractively with a seeping hose (a hose with lots of holes in it). You can make your own from a piece of 2" pipe and drilling holes in it, the sort of pipe used for sink outlets is ideal.

This then gets pushed into the gravel, with the buried end blocked off. Insert your garden hose into the pipe and allow the water to trickle slowly through the holes. This method prevents puddling on the surface.

You are now ready for planting!

Using the suggestions of types of plants listed above, be sure to visit a nursery that have a good selection of marginals to choose from.

If you would like to send a photo of your completed project (or any other completed, related project), we will be more than happy to present it on our web site. We would very much like to get a readers page up and running. Email them in JPG (jpeg) if possible to:

sandra@ezine-info.co.uk

Don't forget you can also use garden lighting to enhance your plants and shrubs within this area. Take a trip to our lighting web site.

<http://www.absolutelylights.co.uk>

Wetland Gardens

"Nothing wet there. All I see is dust," my wife remarked with one of those here—we-go—again looks.

"Exactly. Dust as far as the eye can see. Our bed serves a vital role in our household ecosystem by acting as a repository for surplus dust, thereby preventing it from recirculating onto the counters, along the baseboards and into our three-bean casserole."

I could tell by the look on my wife's face that she finally understood. I had convinced her that we should not vacuum under the bed. I prepared to magnanimously accept her apology.

"Just vacuum it up," she said.

Oh, no. Another unexpected twist in the plot. I tried again. "There is nothing under the bed but dust bunnies. You would not want me to suck up cute little bunnies, would you?"

"Those are not bunnies," she replied.

"They're not?"

"No. Bunnies are small and cute. Those are big and ugly. They are dust hippos," she explained.

"Dust hippos?"

"Yes, now suck up the dust hippos," she demanded.

"They can't be hippos."

"Bunnies live in forests and grasslands. Hippos live in rivers and swamps. If that's a swamp, those are hippos," she declared. "Now suck 'em up."

"I can't do that. Hippos are an endangered species."

"What makes you say that?" my wife wanted to know.

"Well, you don't see too many of them going for second helpings at the Golden Dragon Buffet or meandering through the park on their unicycles or hailing a cab outside the train station, do you?"

My wife looked at me as if I had just said something strange. "That's because hippos live in Africa."

"Oh."

"Vacuum up the dust hippos," she added.

"But that's our swamp the dust hippos are swimming in. What about our ecosystem?"

"Swamps are wet, forests are dry," she replied.

Wetland Gardens

"What on earth does that have to do with vacuuming under the bed?"

"Just take a look under there. Dry. Dry. Dry. That's not a wetland," she answered.

"It's not?"

"No. It's like a dry forest just before the forest fire," she responded. "The forest fire your vacuum will create."

This was another unexpected twist in the plot. "You want me to set fire to the forest of our household ecosystem? That would be devastating."

"Occasional forest fires are a vital element in a healthy ecosystem, essential to the regeneration of many species of plants," she recited.

"Really?"

"Yes. It's right there on page 943 of the Household Ecosystem Analogies Management Guide."

Reluctantly, I bent down and sent the vacuum on its first sub-bed reconnaissance mission. Sigh. Who could have known that my wife had memorized the entire Household Ecosystem Analogies Management Guide?

Still, I wondered what the hippos were doing wading in our little forest.

David Leonhardt publishes The Happy Guy humor column:<http://www.thehappyguy.com/positive-thinking-free-ezine.html> And A Daily Dose of Happiness:<http://www.thehappyguy.com/daily-happiness-free-ezine.html> Read his personal growth articles at:<http://www.thehappyguy.com/self-actualization-articles.html> As well as owner of the Liquid Vitamin Supplements Store:<http://www.vitamin-supplements-store.net>

Article Submitter



This Free E-Book has been brought to you by Natural-Aging.com.

[100% Effective Natural Hormone Treatment](#)
Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances
Impair Healthy Healing In People Over The Age Of 30!