

# Create a Harmonious Backyard Garden

*Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff*



When you look out into your backyard, are you immediately transported to a more tranquil place - where the worries of the workday vanish instantly? Does your landscape have a restorative effect on you, fully awakening each of your senses? If not, you can do many small things to create outdoor living spaces that soothe your soul and reconnect you with nature.

No matter where you live, whether in a city apartment or a lavish country home, you can blend the beauty of nature with the works of man. Create tranquil outdoor spaces that take you away from it all by inviting Mother Nature into your backyard.

## Attracting Birds

Attract chirping birds or chattering animals native to your locale by providing their basic habitat, feeding, and cover requirements. Wild birds, for example, require the proper trees and shrubs for housing and cover, as well as easily accessible sources of [food](#) and [water](#). Add these elements to your backyard and wild birds will soon bring the joy of their sprightly songs along with endearing courtship, nesting, and rearing habits.

If you want wild birds as part of your restorative landscape, you will need [birdfeeders](#) or [birdbaths](#) to offer them a reason to visit your yard or patio. If you have a deck or balcony with limited space, the [Wrought Iron Deck Hanger](#) is a simple solution. You can place one of these hangers on any deck or balcony rail. On one of the mounting arms, place a generous-capacity [Triple Tube Bird Feeder](#) to



attract a wide variety of wild birds. A [window feeder](#) is another excellent option. Most window feeders mount to any window by suction cup for quick and easy installation.

To improve the overall attractiveness of any feeding station, add a small circular planting border below the station. Plant perennials, annuals, or flowering shrubs and finish this small garden with decorative stones or patio bricks. When these stones heat up in the sunshine, you may find a butterfly or two sunning on them. Also, if your flowers produce nectar, you may attract [hummingbirds](#).

### **Bring Small Wildlife to Your Yard**

If you enjoy the antics of squirrels and chipmunks out on your lawn, why not give them a [feeder](#) of their own. This way, your bird feeders will be raided less frequently and you'll invite a greater diversity of small wildlife. To attract the widest variety of species to your backyard, place several styles of feeders in varying locations and heights and offer [different types of seed](#).

Keep in mind that birds and other visitors also need fresh water everyday. A [birdbath](#) offers birds and other wildlife a source of water for bathing and drinking. To keep the water sparkling clean and healthy for them, change the water daily. You will be surprised at how easily birds can find a bath once you place one out for them.



### **Adding Fountains and Water Features**

The sound of trickling, splashing water attracts birds and other wildlife but also provides soothing and relaxing aural stimulation for humans. There are many ways to create gentle, splashing sounds of water in your backyard landscape. When space is limited, you can incorporate a small water feature inside of a birdbath. The [Water Wiggler](#) aerates the water, creates the attractive trickle bird's love, and requires only a small space within a birdbath. If you have more space and can alter your backyard landscape, a [Bird Pond Kit with 3-tier cascade](#) is a great option. Its ground-level installation attracts birds, amphibians, and other wildlife. Use additional landscape such as decorative rocks and plants for added visual appeal around your miniature pond. Another easy-to-install option is the [Lighted Fountain Birdbath](#). This self-contained fountain bath provides the luxury of a lighted fountain oasis without any yard work. It is a stunning focal point in a garden or use as an accent for an existing backyard garden or patio.

If you have a backyard pond, you can creatively heighten its appeal to both humans and visiting wildlife. Lighting systems add drama and visual appeal, transforming a pond that would otherwise be unnoticed at night into a romantic evening retreat. Fountains bring the soothing sound of splashing water while also keeping the pond water aerated, attracting wildlife, and drawing attention to your pond.

Once you've explored the many ways to attract Mother Nature's beauty to your

backyard landscape, look for ways to bring artistic man-made touches to create the perfect balance between art and nature. A wide mix of outdoor accessories, from [garden accents](#) to lighting, contributes to the overall transcending affect your backyard has on your soul and senses.

Once you've put some of these components together, you'll quickly see how your backyard can become a place that provides an escape from the mundane and a reprieve from a stressful day - all year round. Plus, you won't have to go anywhere to enjoy it; it's all within the convenient confines of your backyard!