

SOOTHING SOUND- IDEAS FOR WATER FEATURES

BY OWEN CHUBB

The soothing sound of cascading water can create a relaxing and welcome feature in any garden. With the colder months approaching, this might be a good time to prepare for the installation of a water feature to be enjoyed when spring returns.

Aside from their soothing and relaxing effects, water features introduce a dynamic dimension and can help transform an area of the garden which would be very difficult to achieve with planting alone. Because of their compelling appeal, water features are best used as discreet sculptural forms and ideally positioned within well planted areas.

From a practical point of view, any garden can be improved by the addition of a water feature, but space and maintenance requirements will usually dictate that a compact – typically 1-metre to 1.8-metre in diameter – reservoir water feature be used. The functionality of reservoir features is simplicity in itself. Water is pumped from a sunken or concealed container up through the decorative element (for example a stone boulder) to trickle over the feature and drain back into the reservoir. The process is repeated over and over again. As no running water supply is required to operate such reservoir features, these water features are virtually maintenance free, apart from an occasional top up of the water level during prolonged hot spells.

Other popular choices for the decorative element of reservoir water features are stainless steel tubes and driftwood. Despite their size limitations, reservoir water features are a compelling and visually attractive addition to any garden irrespective of style or size. The appearance of water features can also be enhanced by positioning river cobbles, ornamental grasses and low growing specimen trees nearby. Many garden enthusiasts decide to place their water feature near or on the main patio so that it can be enjoyed when dining al fresco.

Careful attention to the detailing of the water feature and a thoughtful selection of plants will result in successful compositions. Stone and water are very important elements, and no garden is complete without the sound of water gently cascading over.

Owen Chubb is Director of Owen Chubb Landscapes Limited, an established and award-winning landscaping company, offering clients a complete landscaping service including Garden Design, Construction and Planting.
E info@owenchubblandscapers.com www.owenchubblandscapers.com

