



# THE LANDSCAPE CENTER

## Get your feet wet with a container water garden

If water gardening has piqued your interest, but the thought of a crater-sized hole in your back yard is causing trepidation, start out small, experts say.

Container water gardens are great ways to experiment while doing your homework on back yard ponds, experts agree. Lined half-barrels, sealed ceramic pots or plastic containers easily transform into mini-water gardens.

Select plants according to the size of the container. Choose a spiky, erect plant (sweet flag, yellow iris), a broadleaf plant (giant arrowhead, calla lily) and a cascading plant (water mint, parrot feather). Fill pots with heavy packed clay, sand or small rocks and submerge under water. Use bricks to prop them so foliage is at water line. Finish with floating plants (water lettuce, water hyacinth).

Place in a spot that receives six hours of sun and replace water as it evaporates. When plants begin to grow, add a fertilizer tablet. If algae develop, remove plants and replace water. If mosquito larvae are found, overfill container to allow the larvae to spill out.

*Source: Carl Wilson, horticulturist,  
Denver Cooperative Extension*