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YARD 'N' GARDEN

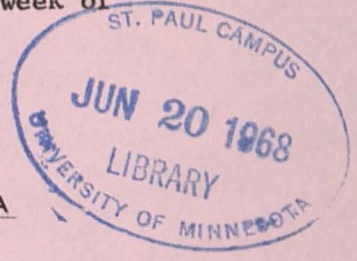
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EXTENSION
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WATER FEATURE IN THE LANDSCAPE

Any Minnesota garden can include a water feature to make the summer more pleasant, and provide a site for a collection of moisture-loving plants in a location especially selected for them. A bird bath which is filled daily may be underplanted with maidenhair fern, Siberian iris, and a ground-cover of creeping bugle, or a duga. All of these plants will appreciate being splashed with the hose or having the bath emptied over them.

Pools may be simple or elaborate, according to the resources and interest of the garden owner. Ordinary galvanized tubs or watering tanks may be painted black or dark green, sunk into the ground, and filled with the garden hose. Don't use light colored paint on metal containers or bright plastic liners. It will appear garnished and shallow if a natural effect is desired.

You can lay heavy black plastic into a depression dug out to a suitable shape and size. This will give you another summer water feature. These natural pools are most attractive under birch trees or in the edge of shrubby areas where birds may enjoy both the water and the protection of the foliage.

Garden centers offer pumps and fountains of all sizes and prices. A simple bubbling fountain in an oversized saucer of water may be exactly what a city patio needs. The cooling effect of a small spray or jet can make a summer afternoon more pleasant.

Directions for more elaborate pools constructed of reinforced concrete may be obtained in garden books at well-stocked public libraries. Hardy water lilies and native water plants may be added to these larger water features. Their care is much simpler than many of the garden plants grown in large beds and borders.

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