

FALL IS THE TIME FOR PLANTING!

If this was the year you were going to renovate your garden and you're wondering where the summer went then you'll be relieved to know that *Fall is the time for Planting!* This time of year is ideal for planting because plants will spend the fall preparing their roots and storing food so, once spring hits they'll have a surge of growth and be bigger and more beautiful than if they were planted next spring! Plus the cooler weather and rain means plants don't need to be watered as they do when they're planted in the summer months so call Falling Water Designs for your garden installation today!



A Message From Rick Perry

HGTV COMPLETED FILMING IN SEATTLE!



Falling Water Designs has had a tremendous summer!

As many of you may remember, we were approached by HGTV, a cable show that produces "Landscaper's Challenge." They filmed 2 shows here in the Seattle area and asked Falling Water Designs to create designs for both shows. We created the winning design for one of those shows and installed it while HGTV came back periodically to film the process. The garden is now complete and it is gorgeous!

For those of you not familiar with the show, the premise of Landscaper's Challenge is that a local homeowner has a landscape design challenge. Three separate design companies meet once with the homeowner and then create a design that solves the challenge. Each designer presents their solution and the homeowner chooses one winner to install their garden. The show comes back after the garden is installed so that the show can present before and after pictures.

The filming took place in mid June. One homeowner is located in West Seattle, and the other in Bellevue. Falling Water Designs was picked by one of the two families to install their garden. HGTV came back to film the progress of the garden's installation 4 times throughout July and August with the final filming of the finished garden taking place in September.

Both of our wonderful designs can be seen on HGTV's Landscaper's Challenge early next year. We don't know the exact airing dates of either show yet but as soon as we do, we will make sure you know! Catch a sneak peek of the project here and on the next page!

Let Falling Water Designs make your outdoor vision a reality. We specialize in:

Ponds, Fountains, Waterfalls, & Other Water Features

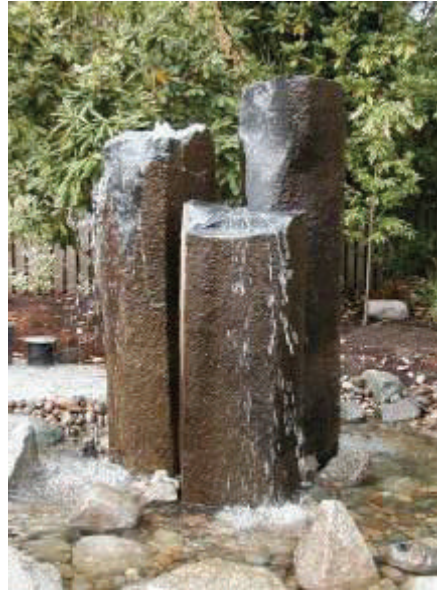
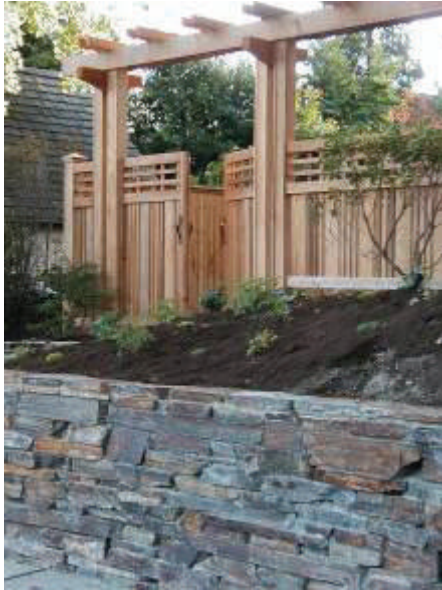
Decks, Patios, & Other Entertainment Areas

Using spectacular plants in a design that is tailor-made to your style by one of our talented designers



RECENT GARDENS DESIGNED AND BUILT BY FALLING WATER DESIGNS

HGTV Installation



*Are there still parts of your design not installed? Do you need lighting or pots on the patio or deck?
Contact us at 206.323.2873*

The winning “Landscape’s Challenge” garden was, with the exception of a few established plants, basically a “blank slate”. Robin Haglund, one of our extremely talented designers, created a garden to complement the family’s recently remodeled home that sits at the back of a large lot. The garden installation included; a beautiful stone retaining wall, a decorative cedar arbor, gate and fence, huge natural stone risers, new sod, soil, plants, trees, irrigation, low voltage lighting, a huge 3 basalt water feature, over 1100 square feet of flagstone walkways and patio, and a children’s play space that included 3 huge boulders to climb on and a pea-gravel “sandbox” .



Installed (but not designed) by Falling Water Designs, the Chen residence was a new construction home with no garden. We installed irrigation, soil, plants, trees, both sand-set and mortared in place flagstone patios and walkways, decorative fencing and privacy screens, lighting, and a vegetable and fruit garden.

Contact us at Info@FallingWaterDesigns.com or call us at 206.323.2873
Check out the website at www.FallingWaterDesigns.com

Recommend us to a Friend!

Right now, if you recommend Falling Water Designs to a friend and that friend has at least \$1000 worth of work done with us, we will give you \$100's worth of services or pond supplies-YOU Choose!

This coupon is good for \$100 worth of free service or pond supplies with Falling Water Designs

To get these services, refer us to a friend. When we get a job from your friend worth \$1000 or more, you will receive the benefit!

Tell your friend to give us your name when they contact us so we can credit your account for \$100 worth of services or pond supplies!

****Promotion expires 02/28/06**

Check out a sample of our pond supplies below to see how Falling Water Designs can take care of all your pond needs!

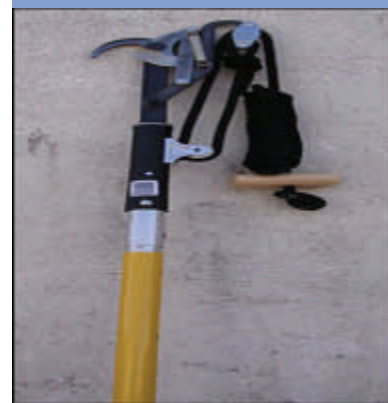


Contact Falling Water Designs to order any of the supplies you see here!

OUR FAVORITE TOOLS

POLE PRUNER

Fall is here and not only is it a great time to plant, but it's also the time to prune. Our favorite tool for pruning overhead branches is the Pole Pruner. This tool allows you to prune those branches that are just out of reach with or without a ladder. All pole pruners come with a pole attached to cutting shears. Some have a rope attached for leverage when cutting a thicker branch, others have a "trigger" you close solely with your hand strength. We would recommend the former because you don't need to have a great degree of hand strength. Pole pruners also come with attachable saws or with an engine. Although an engine cuts easier, it is heavier, so pick the right tool for you. Pole pruners can be found at good garden centers or hardware stores.



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EDIBLE PLANTS IN THE GARDEN

At Falling Water Designs, we often use ornamental plants that have multiple uses. **Highbush Blueberry** (botanical name: *Vaccinium corymbosum*) is a great example. Of course blueberry bushes provide tasty treats in the summer but did you also know that many of them have outstanding fall color? Read below to find out how to buy blueberries for your garden and a great recipe to use them in!

How to buy for good fall color and good berries:

When purchasing blueberries bushes for eating and good color, buy and plant them in fall so you ensure that you get shrubs with good fall color (some varieties have better color than others). Buy at least 1 male and 1 female plant. Unlike some fruiting trees and shrubs, blueberries need what's called "cross-pollination" between different plants to produce blueberries. Unless you happen to live near a blueberry farm, you will need multiple blueberry bushes to get any blueberries. To get even more blueberries, buy a 2nd female blueberry since females are the ones that fruit.

When purchasing your blueberries, a good practice is to try to get at least 2 different varieties of blueberries. There are several reasons for this: 1) Sometimes blueberries get a disease called Mummy Berry which ruins the fruit and make them inedible. Getting Mummy Berry resistant plants and different varieties lessens the chances of your berry bushes getting the disease and of them passing to each other. 2) Different blueberry varieties ripen at different times. If you buy 1 plant that ripens in early summer, 1 that ripens in midsummer and 1 that ripens in late summer, you will extend your blueberry season. 3) Different blueberry varieties have different attributes. Some get bigger berries but take longer to ripen, others get more berries that aren't as tasty as others, and some have tastier berries but don't produce as many, etc.

When planting blueberries, make sure to mix in a large amount of peat moss because blueberries like highly acidic soil. Finally, remember that birds like blueberries just as much as we do so make sure to put a net over your blueberries just before they ripen so you get some too!



It may seem complicated but employees at good nursery centers can help you decide what to get. Happy blueberry bush buying!

Blueberry Corn Bread

- 1 cup corn meal
- 1-1/2 cups sifted flour
- 1/4 cups sugar
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1-1/2 cups milk
- 2 beaten eggs
- 1/4 cups melted shortening
- 1 cup blueberries

Mix corn meal, flour, sugar and baking powder. Stir in remaining ingredients and mix well. Fold in blueberries. Grease electric skillet and preheat to 250 degrees. Pour in batter, cover and cook with vent open for 25 minutes.



Cool plant of the month

Swiss Chard (*Beta vulgaris*) 'Bright Lights'

Our favorite plant for this season is the beautiful multi-color Swiss Chard. This cool season plant thrives throughout our northwest winters and provides great color and a wonderful change of texture in the garden. In addition, it's mild tasting and nutritious stalks are edible. Use raw, steamed or stir-fried as you would regular Swiss Chard. Plant in sun or light shade in a moist spot. They make a perfect border in your garden beds and do well in containers. Combine these versatile annuals with other cool weather lovers like asters, chrysanthemums, pansies, and kale.



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Preparing your pond for winter

Towards the end of October as the water temperature drops to 50 degrees your biological filter stops functioning as the bacteria dies off, and your aquatic plants start to die back. Dead organic matter dropping to the bottom of the pond creates an anaerobic situation and releases gasses that can become toxic to fish. Your fish can no longer digest high protein food and should be fed either cool weather food, or not fed at all. Your UV sterilizer should be turned off and your skimmer cleaned more frequently. To ensure better water quality and preserve your investment certain tasks need to be done.

Fall maintenance tasks include the following:

- Protect your fish health by changing to cool season food.
- Cut back aquatic plants, clip and trim dead plant material, remove annuals like hyacinth and lettuce, prepare plants for winter.
- Check the pump and clean the volute
- Check the skimmer frequently during fall leaf drop and winter winds.
- Clean the biological filter, drain and store for winter
- Turn off the UV Sterilizer and (when practical) drain and store.
- Skim the pond and remove as much dead organic plant material as possible.
- Lift the pump to winter height (When practical)
- Net the pond to collect falling leaves. (When practical)

(Because every pond or water feature is unique you may not have all of the items listed.)

Fish Health: As the water temperature cools fish cannot digest their food as efficiently. High protein Summer food can actually rot in their gut and cause abscesses. As the water temperature drops below 60 degrees you should switch to a cool season, or Spring/Fall food that has more wheat germ which is easier for your fish to digest. When the temperature drops below 50 you should stop feeding your fish entirely until Spring.

Plant material: When the water temperature drops plants start to die back. Cut back plant material that is decomposing and dropping to the bottom of the pond. Dispose of annual plants before they can sink to the bottom. Don't cut back anything that is evergreen.

Pumps: Two common problems shorten the life of your pump, (and void your warranty). First, never pull your pump up using the cord. Stretching the cord can weaken connections within the pump or cause a leak in the seal around the cord. Either problem will cause the pump to start shorting out your GFI and you'll need a new pump. Pump manufactures exclude cord problems from their warranty, so never let anyone pull your pump by the cord!

Another pump problem is gunk clogging the inlets. Even clients who have a skimmer need to periodically close the door to the skimmer and let the pump empty the skimmer box. Then look in the back of the skimmer box where the pump is, and make sure no pine needles, or other gunk has gotten back there. If you don't have a skimmer you must be even more diligent in checking your pump. If you ever notice a reduced volume of water coming out of the pump it is a sign that something is blocking the inlets to the pump. Most pumps are water cooled. If the inlet to the pump is blocked it works harder to pump. As it works harder, it heats up internally. Eventually the pump gets so hot that the seal keeping the water out fails. Once this happens your GFI start shorting out. Failure to keep the pump inlets clear voids your warranty and shortens the life of your pump, so make it a habit to check the inlets periodically, especially in the fall when the wind starts to knock all the needles out of your Douglas fir.

Buy your Fall bulbs Now!



Falling Water Designs is offering a wide selection of crocus, daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths available for purchase.

Go to our bulb web page at:
www.fallingwaterdesigns.com/html/bulbs/index.html

We've tried to include a variety of colors and bloom times to fit most gardens. You can purchase bulbs **until October 10th** and we'll deliver them to your door! If you'd like we'll even plant them for you.





Preparing your pond for winter (continued)

Skimmer: As the leaves and needles start to fall it is important to clean your skimmer more frequently. Once the leaves have all fallen you can clean it less often through the winter. Remember that you must periodically pull the filter matting out of your skimmer and hose it off very well to clear it of the needles.

UV Sterilizer: As the water temperature approaches 40 degrees algae growth becomes less prevalent. We suggest that you turn your UV sterilizer off by unplugging it on or about October 15th. If you turn it on in April and turn it off in October you can use the UV bulbs for two full seasons and replace the bulbs every third year. If you don't turn off the UV by unplugging it, then you should replace your UV bulbs every season. If you keep your pump running all winter then you don't usually have to drain your UV. If you plan on turning the pump off during the winter then the UV sterilizer valve should be closed and the UV drained to protect it from freezing.

Falling Water Designs suggests that you run your pump all year long because moving water almost never freezes and your pond will be healthier if you keep the pump running.

Biological Filter: Those clients who have a biological filter (which is not the up-flow filter that many have at the top of their waterfall), can clean and drain it for the winter.

Once the water temperature drops to 40 degrees the beneficial bacteria in the filter die and quit working. Cleaning and draining the biological filter will prolong the life of the filter media.

Finally, if this all seems like too much work, Falling Water Designs offers Fall Prep as part of our Maintenance Plan. Just give us a call to schedule your prep for Fall.

