

Timeline for Floral Explosion

Build the deck first. That will give you a pleasant place to enjoy the outdoors and to rest while you're building your garden.

The second thing to do is lay out where your beds will go. Outline them with rope, rocks, or paint on the lawn. Make sure everything has gentle curves like the plan. Also, test drive the edges with your lawn mower to ensure you don't end up with awkward corners to mow.

Probably the hardest work comes next; (We would hire someone to do it!) that is, bringing in a lot of dirt and compost to build raised beds. Buy it by the dump truck load. Hopefully, they can dump it in your backyard. If not, use a bobcat to cart it into your yard and dump it where needed. Also, use the bobcat to mix the dirt and compost together for nice, healthy, rich soil. Add about three inches of mulch on top of your soil. To allow for settling, build your beds three inches higher than you want them to ultimately end up.

Why go to this work and expense? Raised beds are much easier to plant in, especially if you have clay or rocky ground. They drain better, add a nice height dimension to your garden, and added compost will help your plants to thrive.

If you are going to build a pond, now would be a good time. You can use the dirt from the pond to build beds around the pond. For future reference, make sure to photograph and map any electrical and pipes around the pond.

You can use gravel, mulch, or pavers for the path around the pond. If you use pavers, remember – you (or your contractor) should remove eight inches of dirt from under the pavers for a solid base of gravel and sand. This is a lot of dirt that can also be used for your beds in the area. Be careful when building your path that you don't create a low spot that will hold water.

If you want a sprinkler system, put it in now. You will thank yourself later!



Timeline for Floral Explosion (continued)

Install your fence now.

You can put in your pergola at anytime. This garden could be very enjoyable for years without it, but it would be a good idea to build the paver patio for it to sit on now. You'll have a lot of dirt and mess you won't want later.

Items like the wishing well, main fountain, little bridge, and birdbaths can be added after your plants. It's just a little easier to do them before your plants are in.

For a fun weekend project, build your bridge and entrance Rose arbors from a kit.

Start planting trees. Put in the big trees first to get them growing. Then, plant the trees around the pond and on each side of your path. Put in your ornamental trees and understory trees. Shrubs are next, including all of your evergreen, creeping shrubs for ground covers. Plus, plant the Boxwood hedge along the deck. Plant your Clematis Vines, Roses on the arbors and trellises, and your perennials. Finish up with flowering annuals and ground covers.

Another nice weekend project would be to lay the pavers in your vegetable/cutting flower garden. Dig out eight inches deep, add four inches of gravel, compact it, add four inches of sand, level it, then lay the pavers. Use a metal edging strip to keep them from moving. Mix compost into the removed dirt for your beds.

Your lawn will probably be pretty beat up from all the work rolled over it. It would be a good idea to aerate and reseed in the fall. By the way, when you reseed, use a drop spreader on a very calm day to keep grass seed out of your beds!

You will love Floral Explosion for years to come!

