

Timeline for Garden Party

Your pond has to go in first. It will take large trucks to dig the hole and bring in the boulders for around the pond. It's very important to show your pond builder this plan. Also, be sure to take extensive photos and measurements of where all the pipes and electrical are buried. Don't forget the boulders in the rose garden!

With the pond complete and the boulders in place, pour your patio. Two important things to do here: 1) Pour right up to the boulders next to the pond. The boulders are there so guests can sit and dangle their feet in the water. 2) Pour footings under where the fireplace will go for structural support. This will help to keep the patio from cracking. A patterned and/or stained concrete patio would look great.

Next, get the rose garden gazebo in place. Use crushed gravel and blocks for a very flat base. Use the same contractors to build your pond bridge and the pond viewing deck, too.

When you dig the pond, and dig out for the stone patio under the picnic bench, you will have a lot of dirt. Use this dirt, mixed with lots of compost and composted manure, to build raised beds for your rose garden.

Build your fireplace and cooking counter next because the stone masons will need room to work, and will make a mess. While they are building, start planting your evergreens and trees around your fire pit. By the way, have the stone masons build that for you, too, while they are there. Make sure your grates and grills, etc. are on site for them.

Lay out where your mulch paths will go to the fire pit and in your rose garden. Use rope or paint on the grass. Then cover the area with four to five sheets of newspaper for weed control and put about three to four inches of shredded mulch on top of it. Lay some pipes under your paths for sprinkler system lines.



Timeline for Garden Party (continued)

Install a sprinkler system now, if desired. Sod or seed your lawn.

Get planting! Start with large trees, small trees, and shrubs. Follow your plan for placement.

Laying the rock under the picnic bench would be a nice weekend project to do now. Dig out eight inches deep, put in four inches of gravel, compact it, add four inches of sand, level it, and lay your rocks on top. A metal edging around the perimeter will keep the rocks from moving.

Your dining pergola can be built at any time.

You can start planting Roses anytime now. You will find the best selection at nurseries in the spring. You will find the best prices on leftovers in the fall. Installing a drip irrigation system to water your Roses would be a good idea. Notice we use two different colors of mulch in the Rose garden; one for the path and one for the beds. Notice also, we suggest a Japanese Maple collection between the patio and your Rose garden. You could use mulch, but raked stones under them would give an Asian look of tranquility.

Well...

...plant, plant, plant! You will love your Garden Party!

