

Timeline for Love in Bloom

Without question the first thing to be done is build the wall. You really can't do anything else without it in place. We suggest hiring masons to do it right. You definitely should pour a concrete footing under it for long-term stability. Once your wall is built you can bring in good soil and compost to build raised beds all around the wall. Add about 3 inches of mulch on top of your beds. Then, let them settle awhile before you plant. Don't forget to build the wall around your hot tub room at the same time!

You can add the pond anytime, but now would be the best time to keep your lawn from being destroyed later. Be sure to photograph and measure where all the buried electrical and pipes are for future reference.

Build your deck and fence.

Next, do the paver and stone patios under the swing, under the two chairs by the shrub roses, and in the hot tub room. The dirt you get when you dig out these areas can be used for raising the beds around the perimeter. Be sure to mix in compost and manure, then mulch.

The hot tub room would be perfect to do next because you will have a great place to relax and rest tired muscles from the rest of your planting!

Install your sprinkler system now if you want one.

The three big arched arbors would make a fun weekend project. Set them in concrete to avoid rot and to add stability.

You can make the swing or buy one pre-made or in a kit.

Sod or seed the lawn to get it going.

Let's do some planting!



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Timeline for Love in Bloom (continued)

This garden doesn't have many trees so let's start with them. Plant the evergreens for privacy around your hot tub room and in the other front corner. These will give you privacy on your deck.

Plant all the tall Crape Myrtles, then the Japanese Maples around the inside of your circle.

Start the Climbing Roses up over your swing.

The evergreens can be next – the Blue Rug Junipers in the front corner under the Crape Myrtles and in the inner circle, and the Yews around the outer circle. Plant the hammock shrubs in one project - the Hydrangeas, Beauty Bush, and Rhododendrons. Then plant all the Shrub Roses and Nandinas in the other corner. By the way, if you use Knockout Shrub Roses, plant them about 6 feet apart, center to center. We have some that are now 7 feet tall by 8 feet wide! Plant your Altheas, Variegated Hydrangeas, and Rhododendrons around the outside circle. Finish around your hot tub room by planting the Barberries and Sweetspire.

Next, add that fountain next to your deck. Plant all the Crape Myrtles around it.

Now plant your Rose garden!

Every year, plant your bulbs and annuals.

Love will bloom in Love in Bloom!

