

The Magic of Water Gardens

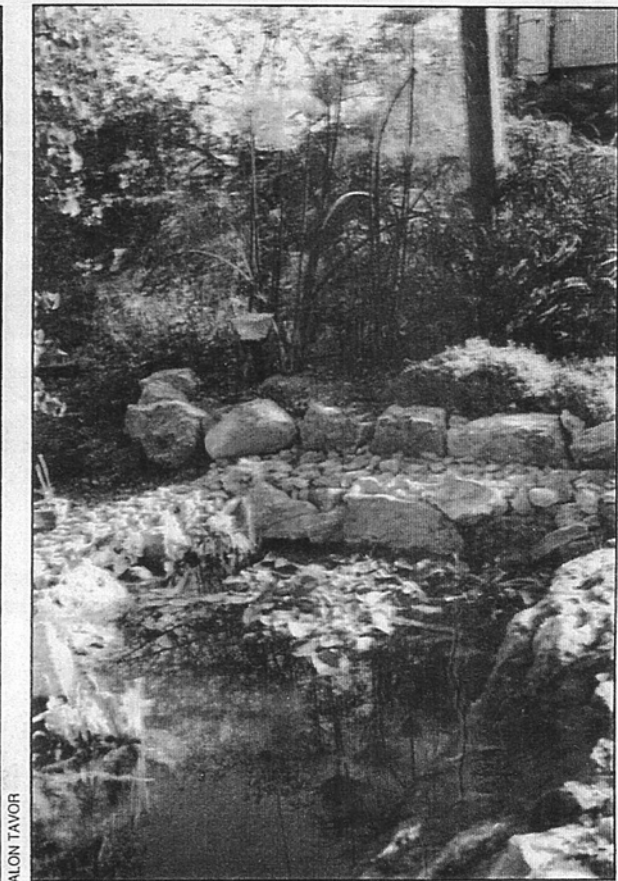
Naomi Tavor

MURMURING WATERS "entice the dewy-feather'd sleep," wrote John Milton. Henry David Thoreau called water "liquid joy". Whatever calming spell a bubbling brook or a serene pond cast on Milton and Thoreau, it is no less true today.

We've all experienced the refreshing sprinkle of a water fountain or the cooling splash of a tumbling cascade. There's nothing quite like it. Worries seem to wash away; we feel relaxed, renewed, and on a hot midsummer day, cool. The sight and sound of moving water add considerably to the attraction and pleasure of your garden. Whether you have several dunams or a small balcony, you can enjoy the physical and metaphysical rewards of water gardening.

Interest in water gardening is on the rise. Local Jerusalem nurseries display models of small fish ponds, sprinkling fountains and even mini bridges. "Home gardening has become much more sophisticated in the past 10 years," notes Jon Goldberg of Greenscapes. Qualified and experienced in landscaping and design, Goldberg says: "Once gardeners have established and developed their gardens, the next logical step is specialty gardening such as water gardens or small greenhouses."

Avner Tulchinsky of Ginat



ALON TAVOR

ALON TAVOR

Two examples of water gardens

Tamar in Baka agrees. "There's been a definite growth of interest in water gardens in the past five years. Actually, we should call it a renewed interest. During the days of the Ottoman Empire, water gardens, especially fountains, were very common," he explains. "Relative to western countries such as the United States where

there are nurseries that specialize in water gardening, Israel is still in its commercial infancy," says Goldberg. "But everything is available that a beginning water gardener needs, and each year, as the interest grows, so does the supply."

* Besides the obvious aesthetics of water gardening, an extremely

important benefit is the psychological aspect. "The sight and sound of water has a calming, quieting, centering effect," explains Reuven Applebaum, professional landscaper and designer, with extensive experience (over 300 gardens) in Boston, Japan and Jerusalem. "In a hot, desert climate, the mere

sound of water has a cooling effect. If you live in a crowded apartment complex, water has a relaxing sound, and can be an unusual but pleasant means to help muffle noise pollution. The turbulence of falling water can also create a sense of privacy. For many who live in apartments, this can add tremendously to emo-