



# Landscaping by the Acre

Acreage projects are landscapes for properties of

an acre or more. Acreage landscaping involves more than just filling a yard with grass and a few bushes.

How will the landscaper deal with drainage on the property? What sort of plant life will he use? How will decorative elements echo a central theme?

One ranch style home in Loveland provides a recent example of this type of project. Landscaper Alan Horne of Yard Elves, Inc. designed and implemented a plan for more than an acre of residential landscaping. Beginning with the front yard, Horne landscaped around a circular driveway to create a dramatic entry-way. The use of an old wooden cherry sorter as a planter, accents the walkway to the front door.

The back yard continued Horne's creative approach. He bracketed the irregularly shaped lawn spaces with gravel, stone and rural design elements. Horne says, "I had an opportunity to create natural, rustic scenes because the project property backs to a farm." Horne incorporated xeriscaping, enabling the homeowner to manage water use on the property thanks to a combination of native plants, rock and imaginative design.

Horne created three separate scenes, all visible from the rear porch. On the left, Horne placed an antique manure spreader among the mulched wildflowers and boulder accents. Horne imbedded the spreader's metal wheels and spokes in the ground, helping to meld the scene to the natural landscape. In the center, flagstone steps lead to a raised garden, topped by a burst of colored wildflowers.



On the right, Horne placed a decorative waterfall. Water tumbles from flat-stacked boulders into a five-foot deep pond. Boulder accents, driftwood, a metal wagon wheel and a variety of Northern Colorado plants decorate the scene. Nearby, creeping plants spill from stacked, old-fashioned barrels, echoing the actions of the waterfall. A sign dedicating the pond to the homeowner's wife is a final, distinctive touch.

The xeriscaped portion of the acreage mimics natural shapes, including rock outcroppings and a dry creek bed. Horne achieved that effect using several different sizes of gravel and the eye of an artist.

Yard Elves designs and installs acreage projects from a half-acre and up. Horne's work results in effective water use, proper soil conservation—and a beautiful landscape that is guaranteed to be functional but more importantly, unique!