



melinda myers

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## **HIRING A PROFESSIONAL TO BEAUTIFY YOUR LANDSCAPE MEANS MORE TIME TO ENJOY SUMMER, BARBECUES AND OUTDOOR FUN**

**June 25, 2010** – Summer is well under way and your list of things to do is much longer than the time, energy or ability you have to get things done. Consider hiring a landscape professional to help you safely get the job and keep your landscape looking its best.

“Green industry professionals have the training and equipment needed to get the job done in a timely fashion,” explains gardening expert and author Melinda Myers. “That means more time for you to enjoy your summer or focus on the gardening tasks you enjoy.”

Even professionals call on colleagues for help. “I called in a landscape contractor when I had the walk and steps at the front entrance of my home paved,” said Myers. “Yes, I could have laid the pavers, but the expertise and experience of the professionals I hired assured a job well done. They installed the pavers on a solid foundation for long-lasting sound results. They worked efficiently and completed the job in the allotted time. Had I tried to do the job myself, there would still be a pile of pavers in my backyard waiting to be installed.”

So where do you start? Here are a few tips that Myers suggests:

A call to a friend or family member or a scan of the yellow pages or internet is where many start. Consider starting with green industry professional groups. The Wisconsin Green Industry Federation has a website, <http://www.wgif.net/> that lists members for hire. This group is made up of professionals who do everything from growing the plants, designing the landscape, installing and maintaining it.

Professionals that spend the time and money to be involved with their professional organizations are usually up to date on the latest trends and techniques. Ask the company about the training and certifications of their employees. The Professional Landscape Network (PLANET) Landscape Industry Certified Technicians and Landscape Industry Certified Professionals have undergone extensive testing to certify their expertise. Certified arborists have completed a written test to be a part of the International Society of Arboriculture Certification Program. All must participate in continuing education to keep their certification current.

Then ask for references. Companies with satisfied customers will have portfolios of completed jobs, testimonials from clients and some may have clients willing to speak to prospective clients. Make sure the company is insured.

And, when comparing bids, make sure the companies are equally qualified and providing all the same services in the bid. The cheapest bid may not give you the results you want or it could even end up costing you more in the long run.

So, take a bit of time to check their credentials and make sure your landscape goals and their mission match. If so, you have found yourself a professional. Now it is time to fire up the grill and start enjoying your summer.

If you'd like to schedule an interview with Melinda Myers to discuss this or other gardening topics, please contact Diana Paul at 414-771-1888 or [dianapaul@wi.rr.com](mailto:dianapaul@wi.rr.com)

Gardening expert Melinda Myers has 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including **Can't Miss Small Space Gardening**. She hosts the nationally syndicated "**Melinda's Garden Moment**" television segments which air on network TV stations throughout the U.S. and "**Great Lakes Gardener**" seen on **PBS** stations throughout the country. In 2010, Myers launched **Melinda's Garden Moments** for radio. Melinda also appears regularly as a guest expert on various national and local television and radio shows. She writes the twice monthly "**Gardeners' Questions**" newspaper column and is a contributing editor and columnist for **Birds & Blooms** magazine. Melinda has also been a contributing editor and columnist for **Backyard Living** magazine and has written articles for **Better Homes and Gardens** and **Fine Gardening** magazines. Additionally, she hosted "The Plant Doctor" radio program for over 20 years. Myers' web site is [www.melindamyers.com](http://www.melindamyers.com).

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