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Adding Artful Beauty and Value to your Outdoor Spaces



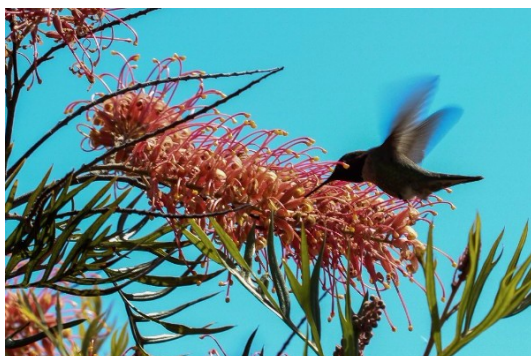
Around The Garden Spring Newsletter

Welcome back friends!

Wow, what a wet winter/spring we are having. Especially after 7 years of drought. The hills up and down the state are bursting with wildflowers this season and everyone's gardens are ready to pop with all the moisture they have received.

We will most certainly have more dry periods ahead though so I encourage everyone to continue their water conserving habits. I still see my skills focused on designing lush spaces that are also water wise. I love to use a mix of our California natives, some Australian and South African plants. Our Mediterranean climate encompasses all of these regions and allows me to pick the best, most garden-worthy plants, all gathered together artfully highlighting each plant in all seasons. We are so lucky to have such a wide variety of botanicals to choose from!

I hope you are getting out and enjoying our local nature in our parks and trails. If not, let's bring some nature to your garden spaces. In addition to keeping water use in mind, I'm all about creating spaces with plantings that bloom at different times through out the seasons and attract beautiful and beneficial wildlife. You can then enjoy the birds, bees and butterflies and create places for them to feed, play or nest in your own back yard where you can observe them up close and personal.





One more point before you go! I'm humbled to have been nominated once more in the category of "Best Landscaping Service" in our local Pleasanton Weekly series: Readers Choice. I would like to ask you to spare a moment if you could and vote for me before time expires. I would be very appreciative. Here is the link....https://www.pleasantonweekly.com/best_of/voting/form.php or you can click on the image.

Thanking you in advance and enjoy some beautiful spring weather!

-Lynda

Check out my latest video about my favorite step in the design process... planting!
Just click the image below to view it.



April Garden Tips and To Do's

- Colorful Annuals that can be planted now for a splash are Snapdragons, Stock, Poppies, Impatiens, Petunias, Marigolds, Cosmo's and Zinnias
- Select and plant Dahlia tubers. Add plenty of compost and plant deeply. You will be rewarded in summer by some spectacular blooms. You may have to stake but it is sure worth the beauty of this species!! There are a variety of heights, flower shapes and bloom sizes...singles or doubles, huge blooms such as the Dinner Plate varieties or try the Pompons for a small perfectly shaped ball.
- Roses are blooming now and it's a great time to select ones for color and fragrance.
- The selection of vegetables is great this month. Some ideas to grow are Beans, Peppers, Corn, Cucumber, Eggplant, Lettuce, Onions, Peas, Squash, and Tomatoes. It is a fabulous idea if you have children, as they get to grow their own edibles and may eat more vegetables if they are excited about the whole growing experience. And there is nothing like eating something freshly picked, the taste does not compare to anything from the store!
- The snails come out after the rains. Bait for them or your new vegetable seedlings will be gone almost overnight. Use That's It or Sluggo for areas where pets or children play. Another organic solution is Copper Tape found at most nurseries, this is good for containers also.
- Prune spring blooming trees and shrubs after flowering
- Prune Fuchsias heavily to encourage new flowering wood. Fertilize with Fish Emulsion.
- Prune Clematis and Wisteria Vines after blooming to shape and keep in bounds.
- Control aphids with Safer's Insecticidal Soap or ladybug's for a softer less toxic way.
- Apply Ironite to your Azaleas, Camellias and Gardenias if the leaves are yellowing.
- Feed your citrus. They are heavy feeders.

[Download to do's for April](#)

May Garden Tips and To Do's

- Still time to get your vegetables garden started. I can't stress enough, that starting with great soil will result in a great crop of summer vegetables.....chose a spot that gets 6-8 hours of sun a day, amend your spaces with bags of good organic soil, till into the top 8"-10" of your beds and happy planting.
- Blueberries can be planted now. These are full of anti-oxidants and are one of the best fruits for us. They are so tasty picked fresh at their peak, they may not make it to the table.....
- Aphids are very problematic this month, very attracted to the first buds of roses! You can spray, but a better, greener way is to release Lady Bugs (bought at any good nursery) after watering your plants, and in the evening

hours. You will have very happy, hungry lady bugs and eliminate the aphids using no chemicals!!

- Thin your Fruit crops if necessary. If too much fruit has set on your apple, peach or nectarine branches, thin out some. You get less but bigger, juicier fruit with less chance of branches breaking due to being too heavy.
- Raise your mower height to 2 ½" -3" for the summer months. Taller grass survives hot temperatures better and helps shade out weed invaders.
- Start a regular feeding schedule for your citrus. A good quality citrus food plus iron chelate when yellow, every month. Citrus are heavy feeders!
- Controlling lawn grubs now is important or you will have varmints, like raccoons, ripping up the lawn looking for these in the fall. You can buy chemicals for this but a natural, organic way to control, is buying live nematodes in the garden nursery of your choice. Especially important if you have kids or dogs playing on the lawn.

[Download to do's for May](#)



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