



Adding Artful Beauty and Value to your Outdoor Spaces



## Around the Garden

Hello and welcome to this edition of my Around the Garden newsletter. If you are new to the list, I hope you enjoy these tips and suggestions designed to inspire you and help you care for your garden throughout the year. Please feel free to forward to others who may want this information.



Summer for me started off with an amazing family trip back home to Australia to celebrate my mother's 80th birthday. It certainly was nice to return and see friends, family and the places I love as it has been many years since I was there. I also made a priority to visit the Botanic Gardens in each city that I visited, so I have many new and wonderful Australian plants that I will introduce to my repertoire. I've included some photos of the plants I saw. Since the Australian climate is similar to our own Bay Area climate, these plants thrive in the heat of our summers and require less water which is perfect especially in this drought.

We are in the throngs of one of the worst droughts in recent times. I recently spoke to The Drought Hotline through the City of Pleasanton's Water Conservation program and they are offering a [free](#) service to all homeowners. They will come and look over your irrigation controller, see if you are making the most efficient use of your allotted watering days, check for any leaks and basically help sustain your existing landscaping. Other local communities may offer a similar service. You might want to check with your city water department.

Here is the link for more info.

<http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/services/utility/Rebates.html>

You also might want to check out this [great article](#) about amending soil and proper watering that I found on the Alden Lane Nursery site.

I've been busy helping my clients transition their current gardens to be more drought resistant. More and more, I'm reducing the size of lawns and larger planting beds containing low water plants and such things as pathways, seating areas, dry creek beds, etc. I'm happy to help you too. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you have regarding your outdoor spaces.



Botanic Gardens Australia



Australian low water plant



## Garden Tips

### August To Do

- Apply "Cloud Cover" to Japanese Maples for protection if they are burning up due to hot drying winds and afternoon sun.
- Plant seeds for Sweet Peas now, you'll get a nice bouquet of flowers for the fall.
- Feed Fuchsia's w/a 0-10-10 fertilizer and prune to shape if needed.
- Fertilize all your indoor houseplants this month. If you bring some outside for a little "vacation" make sure they are in a shady spot.
- Deep water and fertilize fruit and shade trees.
- Fertilize your Roses. 1 "recipe" is 1/2 cup 12-12-12 fertilizer, 1/2 cup bone meal, 1/2 cup sulfur, 2 tbs Epsom salts and a sprinkle of chicken fertilizer.
- Deadhead fading blooms in general, this keeps the plants in bloom longer.
- Crape Myrtle trees should be in their full glory now so it's a great time to select your favorite shade. They come in varying shades of pinks/purples/white and red's and bloom summer through the fall season.

## Video Tip

Here is a video I created in March about how to create and maintain a low water garden.

### September To Do

- Don't let your herbs flower. Pinch off any blooms to encourage fresh growth.
- If your gardeners have blown most of your mulch away, you may want to renew a 2"-3" layer over your soil this month. This keeps soil cool around the roots, prevents weeds and is good for the long term health of the soil. Keep the mulch from piling up around the crown or trunk of the plants, they need to breathe just like we do!
- Sow seeds now for a winter harvest. Try Collards, Kale or Swiss Chard. Other choices are Radishes, Carrots, Broccoli, Cauliflower or Lettuce varieties. Get the kids involved!
- Feed Azalea's/Rhododendrons and Camellia's w/a 0-10-10 fertilizer for larger blooms in spring.
- Divide Bearded Iris. Dig up old clumps and divide the rhizomes with a sharp knife. Discard woody centers, trim leaves to 6" and replant in a spot with new amended soil.
- Prune dead, diseased or damaged limbs from trees and shrubs before winter winds.
- Feed your citrus now to strengthen for cold winter days ahead.
- Cleanup and harvest fruit and vegetable crops.

### October To Do

- If you haven't started your fall garden from seeds, now is the time to purchase seedlings from your local nursery. Ideal are root vegetables like Carrots, Beets, Onions, etc.. Keep in mind all these need rich, well drained soil.
- Plant winter annuals for a splash of color; such as Pansies, Primroses, Stock, Snapdragons, Cyclamen and Iceland Poppy.
- Buy your bulbs now for a fabulous spring display. Remember Tulips and Hyacinths require a 6-8 week chill in the fridge for best production.
- Forcing bulbs for an indoor display is a fun thing to do. Paperwhites in a low bowl with either sand or pebbles done now will be a fragrant, white display in 6 weeks.
- Planting trees, shrubs, perennials and ground covers in the fall ensures some strong root growth with winter rains and some healthy plants by next spring.
- Dividing crowded perennials will help produce healthier plants before winter rains.
- Feed your lawn monthly with a fall/winter fertilize



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