



Around the Garden

Welcome to this edition of Around the Garden. In each issue, I try to fill my newsletter with information and tips that are valuable and inspiring. It is my goal to get you excited about spending time in your outdoor spaces.

I had the opportunity to attend the Nor Cal Landscape and Nursery show last week. This is a venue where all the nursery growers, hardscape companies, statuary and irrigation manufacturers come together yearly to show off their new plants and products.

It's very exciting for landscape designers like me to get a sneak peek at the new plants and products that will soon become available.. Here are a few of the plants I discovered that I can't wait to get my hands on and start using in my designs: Yellow foliage dwarf Ligustrum, variegated Lavender, dense shiny Holly and much more...oh my!

Even though we have had a few rain storms, we are still in a severe drought. I have been busy converting front and back yards that were once large flat surfaces of lawns, into serene family friendly spaces, that can be shared with humans, animals and wildlife alike. Please take a look at this month's video to see one of my transformations in progress.

You can call or email me if you would like any help or advice in updating your gardens and thank you for your continued support.



Garden Tips

February To Do List

- Divide overcrowded perennials this month
- Prune fruit trees and roses if not done so last month. Also prune deciduous trees and shrubs, while the leaves are off and you can see the structure of the plant.
- Apply chelated iron to Azaleas, Citrus and Gardenias if yellowing. This helps them green up for spring.
- Apply the 3rd and last dormant spray on fruit trees at the "pink-bud" stage. This controls the Peach –Leaf Curl that Peach and Nectarine trees are likely to get.
- This month there is a good selection of bare root fruit trees, grapes, and berries at your local nurseries, and also roses at a lower cost to you than later when they can be bought in bloom.
- Summer blooming bulbs can be purchased and planted now. Asiatic Lilies, Gladiolus, Dahlias, Canna Lilies and Tuberous Begonias are just some of the choices.

April To Do List

- Colorful Annuals that can be planted now for a splash are Snapdragons, Stock, Poppies, Impatiens, Petunias, Marigolds, Cosmos and Zinnias
- Roses will be 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. Your choice will reflect on what you and your family enjoy eating. This 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 flowering trees and shrubs after blooming
- 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.

Video Tip

In this month's video, I will walk you through a transformation in progress.

March To Do List

- Feed Fuchsias with a fertilizer, 0-10-10 ratio.
- To restore a lawn after winter rains, can aerate and/or thatch then fertilize with a high nitrogen feed to restore nutrients again.
- Control snails and slugs. They love the tender new growth of a variety of plants in your garden. A great natural way to rid these hungry critters is to pour out some beer in a low flat dish. The smell attracts them, they crawl in and drown! OR SLUGGO is a good choice for use around pets.
- Feed Azaleas, Camellias, and Rhododendrons with a high nitrogen acid fertilizer and Ironite after blooms are done.
- Feed citrus with a good citrus food from your local nursery. Add a little chelated iron if still yellow.
- Feed fruit trees and berries with a good all-purpose fertilizer, such as 12-12-12 ratio, and a super phosphate such as 0-20-0, to increase fruit production.
- It is good to add to your existing layer of mulch in your gardens. I tend to like a dark black micro bark that can be purchased in bulk or in bags. A deep 2"-3" layer is best as this helps keep weeds to a minimum, helps keep in the moisture in the heat of summer. One word of caution, when adding your mulch, keep a little away from the crown of each plant. They need to breathe just like we do, so don't crowd them.
- Now is the time to work some aluminum sulfate into your soil around your Hydrangeas if you want that intense blue. There are several brands on the market at your local nurseries.
- Plant Dahlias this year!! They can be purchased now as tubers. Plant Dahlias in a sunny spot, add plenty of compost and plant deep (6"). You will be rewarded with a spectacular display from summer into fall.



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