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Adding Artful Beauty
and Value to your Outdoor Spaces



See the video below on turning unused sections of your yard into beautiful inviting spaces.

Happy spring my friends. We have had our much needed rains but now the sun is out and your plants should be ready to start their cycles of blooms once again. If you had a winter vegetable bed you should be coming to the end of the season soon. This is a 4'x4' bed in which I have harvested sugar snap peas/chard/baby carrots and the onions and beets are almost ready to pick. I hope those of you that tried a winter veggie patch were highly successful. If you are not attempting it on your own there may be local farms where you can place a weekly or bi-weekly order to be delivered straight to your door. Or we have the advantage of the fabulous farmers markets each week.

Please enjoy these recipes I found using the winter harvest.



[Chard and Onion Omelette](#)

[Braised Spring Onion with Swiss Chard](#)

Garden Tour Save the Date

I wanted to be sure to let you know about a fabulous garden tour that benefits the Valley Humane Society on May 20th right here in Pleasanton. It is a self-guided tour of 10 unique gardens. So don't miss out on a chance for a lovely day full of inspiration! Check out all the information [here](#).



How Can I Help?

Need a garden tune-up, pruning or a garden evaluation? I'm here to help, so please call or email. Also please share this newsletter with friends that may need help or advise or who may appreciate the tips. Happy spring!



Garden To Do List

April

- Plant a splash of color with annuals like Snapdragons, Stock, Poppies, Impatiens, Petunias, Marigolds, Cosmo's and Zinnias
- Select and plant Dahlia tubers. Add plenty of compost and plant deeply. You may have to stake but you will be rewarded in summer by some spectacular blooms. There are a variety of heights, flower shapes and bloom sizes
- 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,



Transforming an Outdoor Space

Video Tip

In this month's video I'll show you a spot in a backyard that I transformed from dirt and some tomato plants to a lovely seating area with plants and a curved bench.

Garden To Do List

May

- There is still time to get your vegetable garden started. Be sure to start with great soil in a spot that gets 6 to 8 hours of sun a day. Amend the soil by tilling organic soil into the top 8" to 10".

Lettuce, Onions, Peas, Squash, and Tomatoes. 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 are out in force this year 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.
- 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.
- Aphids can be problematic. They love new rose buds. Fight them off the green way by releasing ladybugs instead of chemicals. Do it after an evening water. Also Safer's Insecticidal soap is another green option.
- Apply Ironite to your Azaleas, Camellias and Gardenias if the leaves are yellowing.
- Feed your citrus now and next month.

- Be sure to start with great soil in a spot that gets 6 to 8 hours of sun a day.
- Blueberries can be planted now. They are so tasty and full of anti-oxidants.
- Thin your fruit crops for less stress on the branches and it helps to produce larger fruit.
- Raise your mower height to 2.5" to 3" for the summer months.
- Controlling lawn grubs is important or you will have varmants ripping up the lawn looking for them in the fall. You can buy chemicals for this but a natural way to control is buying live nematodes at the nursery. This is especially important if you have kids or dogs playing on the lawn.

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