



Adding Artful Beauty
and Value to your Outdoor Spaces

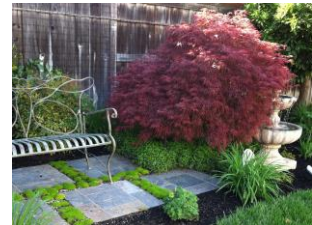
Around the Garden



Hello and welcome to spring, my favorite season! The flowering Cherry Trees have been spectacular in the last few weeks, bulbs have done their thing for the season and the cycle starts anew.

This months video is about foliage and the variations of color and texture that can be added to the garden. Don't miss it!

A garden can be interesting just with contrasting color, texture and shape of leaves without relying only on blooming flowers. A bold textured leaf can add drama when positioned beside fine-leaved ones. Add burgundy, yellow and bronze



accents to all that green and if you have the space layer these plants from taller in back to lower in front. This will give you the appearance of more depth.

Vegetable seedlings should be going in soon for your summer harvest, check the list in 'Garden Tips' section as to which ones you can grow for this season.

I also want to mention that this years Garden Tour put on by Valley Humane Society is this May 19th, so be sure to save the date and get your tickets prior to the event. It's a fun day with some beautiful local gardens on show and it is one of the main fund raisers for the homeless animals they place all year. I have 2 gardens on the tour this year that I have helped create.....check them out! <http://valleyhumane.org/events2/garden-tour/>

Enjoy the spring and be sure to call me if you need any help with your own garden spaces or feel free to pass on this newsletter to people who might benefit.



April and May Garden Tips

April Tips

- Colorful Annuals that can be planted now for a splash are Snapdragons, Stock, Poppies, Impatiens, Petunias, Marigolds, Cosmos and Zinnias
- Select and plant Dahlia tubers. Add plenty of compost and plant deeply. You will be rewarded in summer with 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 Pompoms for a small perfectly shaped ball.
- 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 what



Video Tip

Choosing Foliage

This month's video give you ideas about how to choose foliage. Foliage is an important component to a garden providing color and texture all year round.

May Tips

- You still have time to get your vegetable garden started. Starting with great soil will result in a great crop of summer vegetables. Choose 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.
- Blueberries can be planted now. These berries are full of anti-oxidants and are the one of the healthiest fruits.
- Aphids are very problematic this month. They love the first buds of roses! You can spray but a better, greener way to control aphids is to release Lady Bugs (bought at any good nursery) after watering your plants, and in the evening hours. The result is happy Lady Bugs that eliminate aphids using no chemicals!

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 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.
- Thin your fruit crops if necessary. If too much fruit has set on your branches, thin it out some. You will get less fruit but it will be bigger and more juicy and put less stress on the branches which can get too heavy.
- Raise our mower height to 2.5 to 3 inches 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 leaves yellow. 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. This is especially important if you have kids or dogs playing on the lawn.



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