



Adding Artful Beauty  
and Value to your Outdoor Spaces



## Around the Garden



Hi and welcome to another newsletter full of helpful tips and inspiring photos.

For me, when I'm designing any outdoor spaces for my clients, plants are the 'icing on the cake'.

This means that the bones to any yard is usually the hardscap



es, patios, arbors, retaining walls and pathways that once installed are constant. Plants and their foliage are another key element that creates the framework and structure of any garden.



Foliage texture and color are important in creating an interesting garden. So rather than relying on blooming plants alone, also think about using foliage with varying leaf sizes and complementing combinations of fine and bold textures.

Once you have a variety of foliage in place, make the most of them by adding accent lighting. People overlook the impact adding lighting makes to the overall look and feel of your garden. Lighting not only adds a security element, it makes your garden enjoyable day and night and is

perfect for entertaining.

Creating depth, dimension, texture and detail is so important in your placement of lighting fixtures. Remember that landscape lighting should be about the effect it creates and not the fixtures themselves!

Don't forget to look over the latest video and finish up all your pruning this month. Please

call me if I can help you further or feel free to forward this email onto someone that may need my services.  
Happy gardening!



## February & March Garden Tips

### February Tips

- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



## Video Tip Pruning Lavatera

This month's video shows you how to best prune a lavatera for a full lush look through the summer months.

### March Tips

- 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 who love new tender growth. For a natural approach, 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. 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.
- Add to your existing layer of mulch. I tend to like a dark black micro bark that can be purchased in bulk or in bags. A deep 2”-3”

Tuberous Begonias are just some of the choices



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layer is advised to keep weeds to a minimum, keep in the moisture in the heat of summer, and lastly when it does break down it helps keep heavy soils loose and light. 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, looking like a sweet potato. There are many varieties coming in many colors to choose from. 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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