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Garden Happenings

Garden Happenings:

Last month I talked about the finishing touches to a garden space...the art or whimsy in a garden.

The Dirt on a Great Garden.

This month I want to talk about making a garden sing with plants by working the soil. Soil can get tired out and lack the nutrients plants need to do their best, especially around older established trees. You must give back to the earth with compost and amendments on a regular basis, that means each time we plant put lots of compost mixed in with our native soil; about a 50:50 mix. Even around existing plants, you can top dress the soil, or mix the compost into and around a plant. If you keep this up each season, in a very short time, you'll have fabulous healthy soil for our plants to thrive.

Here is a before and after photo of an old tired back yard in need of a face lift.

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February Garden Tips From Your Garden Coach

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!

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



Before



After

The homeowner liked the informality of a tumbled paver patio, the seat wall gives structure to the space and is great for extra seating when entertaining and the fountain adds ambiance and hides the street noise behind the sound wall!

So clean up and pruning should be done early this month then enjoy your spring garden!!

NEW VIDEO TIPS

Each month we will post a helpful garden tip video. Have a garden how-to that you would like to see? Send me a note and I'll see if I can cover it.

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 advised, as this helps keep weeds to a minimum, helps keep in the moisture in the heat of summer, and lastly when it does break down eventually it helps keep our 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. This can be bought at your local nursery under the brand name 'Hydra Blue' or 'True Blue' or others.

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

This month's tip is about fertilizing hydrangeas to bring out a deep blue bloom. Enjoy!



compost and plant deep (6"). You will be rewarded with a spectacular display from summer into fall.

Don't forget to email me your gardening questions. I will be answering them on facebook.

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