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Garden Happenings



A Client emailed me yesterday and told me how much fun she had releasing ladybugs into her garden. She released them in her garden in in early evening and by the next day they were



all over her roses helping to eradicate her

Aphids. How cool is that!

All successful gardens start with healthy soil. Let me repeat that... all successful gardens start with healthy soil. This is true in your vegetable garden as well as your planting beds. After a few years and especially if you have large, mature trees, the nutrients get depleted from soil and the plants you have may not be thriving as well as they should. Buy bags of good amendments, or have compost delivered by the yard. It's cheaper that way if you have large areas to cover. Dig into and around your existing plants. Adding natural enzymes and beneficial bacteria will improve the soil structure and promote a healthier root zone. At

OUTERVISIONSDESIGN.COM

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May Garden Tips From Your Garden Coach

> Still time to get your vegetable gardens started. Choose a spot that gets 6-8 hours of sun a day, amend your spaces with bags of good organic compost, dig into the top 8"-10" of your beds and happy planting. See this month's video for tips on planting tomatoes!

> Blueberries can be planted now. These are full of antioxidants and are one of the best fruits for us. They are so tasty picked fresh at their peak, they may not make it to the table.

> Aphids are very problematic this month, very attracted to the first buds of roses! You can spray, but a better, greener way is to release Lady Bugs (bought at any good nursery) after watering your plants, and the same time, adding some slow release fertilizer would also help. Doing this when needed will continue to keep your plants looking and producing at their peak.

NATURAL PRUNING

Power tools have become gardener's pruning tool of choice. It's quick and easy. Your shrubs may look like this...



and that same shrub could look like this...

Every week the blooms are sheared off and you don't get to enjoy their natural shape and bloom time.

Taking a little more time to prune with hand pruners



Which would you prefer?

MAY VIDEO TIP

This month's video will help you get the most out or your tomato plants.

in the evening hours. You will have very happy, hungry lady bugs and eliminate the aphids using no chemicals!

> Thin your Fruit crops if necessary. If too much fruit has set on your apple, peach or nectarine branches, thin out some. You get less but bigger, juicier fruit with less chance of branches breaking due to being too heavy.

Raise your mower height to 2
'2" -3" for the summer months.

> Start a regular feeding schedule for your citrus. A good quality citrus food plus iron chelate when yellow, every month. Citrus are heavy feeders!

> Controlling lawn grubs now is important or you will have varmints, like raccoons, ripping up the lawn. You can buy chemicals for this but a natural, organic way to control, is buying live nematodes at the garden nursery of your choice. Especially important if you have kids or dogs playing on the lawn.

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

Also you can follow me on Twitter @outervisionslandscaping



GARDEN TOUR

Help support the Valley Humane Society and get inspiration on the annual Garden Tour on May 15th.<u>Tickets</u> can be purchased thru website and some local nurseries.

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