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Adding Artful Beauty
and Value to your Outdoor Spaces



Around the Garden

I hope all of you had some great adventures this summer!

The kids are back in school and most of you are back to somewhat of a regular schedule I should think. This month is a great time to plant new trees, shrubs and perennials in our mild fall weather here in northern California. With the soil still warm and the winter rains just around the corner, plantings now will be able to establish a healthy root system and be fabulous by next spring!

Now is a great time to think about your overall garden design. Ask yourself these questions: Where are the empty spaces

that need filling? What additional color is needed? Do I need additional hardscapes like a patio, an arbor, a firepit, a seatwall? Would night lighting be a good addition? If you need to ask an expert about next steps, I can come out and give you some advice.

This month is also the transition from the summer annuals to the winter annuals that are making their way to the nurseries. I don't know about you, but I thought the tomato harvest was great this year! Summer vegetable gardens are winding down, transitioning soon to the winter plantings. The winter seedlings may not be available just yet at your local nurseries but many veggies can be started from seed now.

Please see this month's video, I am talking about fertilizers available and the N-P-K ratio and what it all really means!

Have a wonderful month in your gardens now, as it is not so beastly hot. Please feel free to call me or pass my name on to any avid gardeners you may know. See you next month!



September Garden Tips

- Keep annuals well fed and well watered to maintain health and blooms.
- Don't let your herbs flower. Pinch off any blooms to encourage fresh growth in the foliage, which is the part you want to harvest!
- If your gardeners have blown most of your mulch away, you may want to renew a 2"-3" layer over your soil this month. This keeps soil cool around the roots, prevents weeds and is good for the long term health of the soil when it does break down. Just remember to keep the mulch from piling up around the crown or trunk of the plants, they need to breathe just like we do!
- Sow seeds now for a winter harvest. Try Collards, Kale or Swiss Chard for something different, other choices are Radishes, Carrots, Broccoli, Cauliflower or many varieties of Lettuce are available in seeds. Get the kids involved!
- Feed Azalea's/Rhododendrons and Camellia's w/a 0-10-10 fertilizer for larger blooms in spring.



Video Tip

Fertilizers 101

This month I visit our local Armstrong nursery and demystify fertilizers. It can be confusing to figure out which fertilizer is best for your garden and plants. I explain what the numbers mean on the fertilizer containers and how to choose the one that is right for foliage, blooms, roots and overall health.

Did you know that I do consultations? If you need some advice about how to choose plants, update an outdated space, brighten up a walkway with pots... I can help with all things outdoors.

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Your Garden Coach

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- Divide Bearded Iris. Dig up old clumps and divide the rhizomes with a sharp knife. Discard woody centers, trim leaves to 6" and replant in a spot with new amended soil.
- Prune out dead, diseased or damaged limbs from trees and shrubs before winter winds.
- Feed your citrus now to strengthen for cold winter days ahead.
- Cleanup and harvest fruit and vegetable crops.

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