



Around the Garden

Hello and welcome to this edition of my *Around the Garden* newsletter. It has been an amazing summer of work!

The drought has certainly affected my industry and has changed how we are all thinking about landscaping in California. While I am still installing beautiful gardens, I'm careful to design spaces that are water efficient and include drought resistant plantings especially here in the Pleasanton / Livermore area.

Most homeowners are aware of the need to decrease water usage so I have been super busy with redesigning spaces where I eliminate lawns altogether or shrink green areas down considerably. Big lawns require a lot of water, mowing and feeding. Landscapes that are mostly lawn can also be pretty boring. Landscaping that incorporates natural forms like boulders, stone walls and flagstone as well as, smart plantings can be far more appealing. Adding plants that bloom at different times of the year is an integral part of my designs and invites birds, bees and butterflies into the garden.

A low water garden does not mean rocks and cactus! Take a look at these before and after images from a Fremont redesign. The homeowners love walking around daily and seeing what's blooming, as do all the neighbors who now stop them frequently to tell them how much they are enjoying watching the new garden evolve!



If you are growing a winter vegetable garden, now is the month to get it planted. There are a lot of options in the nurseries right now to choose from. I can help get your gardens ready for spring so contact me if you need clean up, pruning, or fertilizing of plants. Thanks for spending your time with me. Happy Gardening!



Garden Tips

November To Do

- Prune top heavy trees to reduce wind resistance.
- Plant your fall/winter crop of vegetables – Cauliflower, Cabbage, Broccoli, Lettuce, Spinach, Swiss Chard, Celery, and Peas: English, Sugar Snap and Snow Peas and Radishes.
- Plant bare root onions and garlic.
- Fertilize fruit and nut trees with ammonium phosphate.
- Bare root fruit and vegetables are available in nurseries now; such as Berries, Artichoke, Asparagus and Strawberries.
- Apply winter lawn food with a fertilizer ratio close to 20-6-7.
- Feed your Azaleas, Rhododendrons and Camellias again with a fertilizer, ratio 0-10-10 and top-dress with forest mulch.
- Force a second batch of indoor bulbs, such as paper whites or hyacinths for a continual display in your home for the holidays.
- Plant winter annuals for a splash of color; such as Pansies, Primroses, Stock, Snapdragons, Cyclamen and Iceland Poppy.
- Apply your 1st dormant spray to fruit trees and roses with a lime, sulfur and oil spray. Only apricot trees cannot take sulfur only copper. Clean all debris under plants to avoid spread of any disease.
- Feed Citrus well this month. A healthy well-watered plant resists any frost damage.
- If a frost is approaching spray with a product called Cloud Cover on Citrus, Ferns, Fuchsia's and Bougainvillea to help protect from cold nights.
- Plant bulbs now for a stunning display in the spring. Tulips, Daffodils, Crocus, Alliums, Fritillaria and Hyacinths are only a few choices.
- Camellia Sasanqua's are in bloom this month. Select one for a morning sun afternoon shade location.

Video Tip

This video is all about adding art to your garden.

December To Do

- Apply a second application of dormant spray to your fruit trees and roses.
- On cold nights, make sure plants are well watered, especially the ones under the eaves, that don't get any rain all season. Plants that are too dry are susceptible to more cold damage.
- Spray frost tender plants, such as Citrus, Ferns, Cymbidium Orchids and Bougainvillea with 'Cloud Cover' purchased at any nursery or hardware store. On very chilly nights, you can also cover your tenders with a breathable landscape fabric for added protection.
- Prune any dormant trees now if not done so already.
- Now is a great time to transplant any trees or shrubs that are dormant. Doing it now will ensure the greatest success with a minimum amount of transplant shock.
- Clean up under your shrubs and trees, dead leaves can harbor overwintering insects and/or diseases.
- Bring some color to your garden beds and/or pots this month by adding annuals. Cyclamen, Primroses, Pansy's and Viola's, Iceland Poppies and Stock make a nice splash of color now.
- Feed your lawns again with a winter food and a crabgrass control if you see any signs of this invasive weed.

January To Do

- Feed the lawn monthly even during cold winter months to maintain its green color and minimize rust disease. Choose a fall and winter fertilizer especially formulated for the season and our area.
- Feed your Camellias/Rhododendrons, Azaleas and even Roses and Lilac with a ratio fertilizer of 0-10-10. This helps feed the plant for better bloom production.
- Spray for Peach Leaf Curl and a dormant spray on roses and fruit trees.
- Spray 'Cloud Cover' on your tender plants, such as ferns and citrus when a bad frost is expected at night.
- Annuals for early spring color can still be planted now. Primroses, Pansies, Violas, Iceland Poppies, Snapdragons and Stock can give some much needed early spring color.
- If you haven't pruned your fruit trees and roses, now is the month. Roses need to have a dormant (sleep) period to rejuvenate for the next season, so it is helpful to actually pick all the leaves off the plant and help them have their rest period.
- Don't prune your spring blooming shrubs/trees, such as Lilac or Quince; you'll be cutting off this year's buds. Wait till after they bloom, and then cut back.
- If you are interested in Strawberries, Rhubarb and any of the Berries, now is the time to get these at the nursery.
- January and February are prime Camellia time! Pick your favorite color, either single or double blooming, and enjoy these beauties in your garden when not much else is blooming this time of year.



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