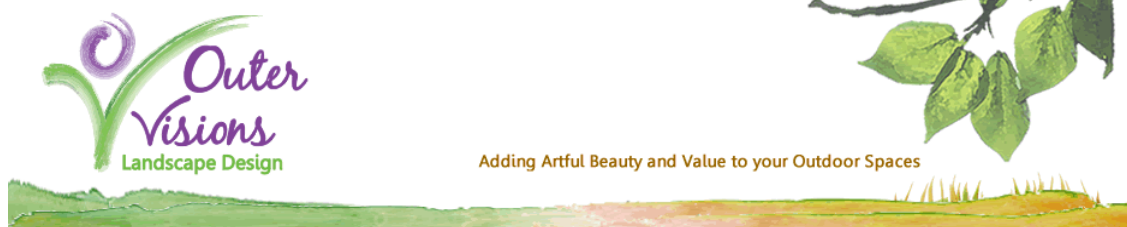


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## Around The Garden Summer Newsletter

Hello friends and thanks for joining me for my tips and information designed to help you create and maintain successful gardens!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you that voted for my company, Outer Visions Landscape Design, in the Pleasanton Weekly's Best of Series. I'm thrilled to have won in the Best of Landscape service for the third year in a row! I love what I do and it is gratifying to see that others support my work. Thank you all for this honor.

We have had some scorching hot days this summer. My vegetable garden is struggling a bit, as it is situated in a little micro climate of intense afternoon heat. To best combat the intense summer sun and keep your garden healthy, spend some time deeply watering your crops. You can keep the harvest coming by picking early and often.

Spiders seem very active right now. I'm noticing webs everywhere. I like to take a hose and clean off the leaves of plants when needed with a strong spray. This helps keep away many critters such as white fly, ants and aphids to name a few, as well as helping clear the spider webs off of the foliage. Keeping the foliage clean helps the plant breathe.

Deadheading, which is cutting off the old blooms down to healthy foliage, will keep the plants happy and helps it produce more blooms throughout the season. Salvia's, Penstemmon, Butterfly Bush all will give you blooms till fall if you deadhead and it doesn't take too much time if you stay on top of it. I find it quite therapeutic. Try it and see for yourselves!

Also make sure you deep water your trees when it is this hot. I have seen properties where homeowners have turned off their irrigation system because of the drought, but forgot to water the trees that are near their dead lawns. Many trees have died because of this practice since they are no longer getting water through their shallow root zone.



Before this pool area redo, the plants behind the pool were beyond their prime.



I added color and texture behind the pool that can be enjoyed both from the outside and from the kitchen and dining room.



I added lovely blue pots that created a nice focal point and a splash of color.



The pots blend nicely with the new outdoor pillows.

This small refresh shows that it doesn't take much time or money to modernize and brighten up an area.

Stay cool and enjoy the rest of your summer!

-Lynda



# Thank you!

## July Garden Tips and To Do's

- Pruning Annuals and Perennials by dead-heading, pinching off the spent blooms, keeps new blooms coming all season. Fertilizing will also keep the blooms coming.
- Plant some heat loving annuals for a splash of color in the hot days of summer. Zinnias look their best in temperatures over 90 degrees and will bloom until late September, longer if we have an Indian Summer. Annual Verbena is also a great choice and it comes in glorious deep saturated colors.
- Feed Citrus with a citrus food and chelated iron if the leaves are yellowing.
- Control budworm with BT caterpillar killer, as it's safe in the vegetable garden.
- Keep up the vegetable production with a good organic food
- Pick vegetables while they are young. This will give you tender vegetables and keep the flowers and production high throughout the summer months.
- Deep root water and fertilize your roses this month.

[Download to do's for July](#)

## August Garden Tips and To Do's

- Apply "Cloud Cover" to Japanese Maples for protection if they are burning up due to hot drying winds and afternoon sun.
- Start feeding Azaleas/Rhododendrons and Camellias with a 0-10-10 fertilizer to stimulate bud set and root growth.
- Plant seeds for Sweet Peas now, you'll get a nice bouquet of flowers for the fall.
- Feed Fuchsia's w/a 0-10-10 fertilizer and prune to shape if needed.
- Fertilize all your indoor houseplants this month. If you bring some outside for a little "vacation" make sure they are in a shady spot, no afternoon sun!
- Deep water and fertilize fruit and shade trees.
- Fertilize your Roses. 1 "recipe" is ½ cup 12-12-12 fertilizer, 1/2 cup bone meal, 1/2 cup sulfur, 2 tbs Epsom salts and a sprinkle of chicken fertilizer.
- Deadhead fading blooms in general, this keeps the plants in bloom longer.
- If you plan on a cool-season Vegetable garden, you can start germinating seeds, such as lettuce, peas, radishes, carrots.
- Crape Myrtle trees should be in their full glory now, a great time to select your favorites. They come in varying shades of pinks/purples/white and red's and bloom summer through the fall season.

[Download to do's for August](#)



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