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Hello to my fellow gardeners, clients, and friends.

I hope you all are enjoying these beautiful spring days. For those with kids in school, spring break is over and you're heading into the end of year wind down.

We've just completed Easter and Passover festivities and I hope you all enjoyed time with family and friends. I know I sure did.

## TRANSFORMATION

Below are some new photos of an update I have just completed to a local property that was a little uninspiring and overgrown. I added natural stone steps leading to a flagstone seating area to reduce the size of the lawn.



Next, I added new stone walls for a little natural structure. I was then able to add some good planting soil in front of a hedge of Oleanders at the property line, in order to include some lower shrubs and some perennial Coral Bells that shine in spring.



And lastly, the large porch which was plain grey concrete got an overlay with a natural flagstone called 'Cameron Dark'. I used the clients existing pots, planted them up freshly and brought them out to the front of the porch for some more interest. There is still enough room for a bistro table and chairs or a nice bench, to add to the charm. (click on any of the pics to see them larger)



I do have a request to make. It's time to vote for the **Pleasanton Weekly's Best of Series**, specifically Best Landscaping service. I would very much appreciate your vote! One more win would put me in the Hall of Fame which would be amazing. Please click on this [link](https://mailchi.mp/617bc635c7d7/e76g2ign3c-2955437?e=[UNIQID]) or the image below and vote for me. They ask for you to vote for 5 categories, then confirm with an email. Thank you!







Enjoy this beautiful season and remember to stop and smell the roses, they are about to burst into bloom any day now!

Your Garden Coach,  
Lynda

### April Tips and To Do's

- Colorful Annuals that can be planted now for a splash are Snapdragons, Stock, Poppies, Impatiens, Petunias, Marigolds, Cosmo's and Zinnias
- Select and plant Dahlia tubers. Add plenty of compost and plant deeply. You will be rewarded in the summer by some spectacular blooms. You may have to stake but it is sure worth the beauty of this species!! There are a variety of heights, flower shapes and bloom sizes.....singles or doubles, huge blooms such as the Dinner Plate varieties or try the Pompons for a small perfectly shaped ball.
- Roses will be blooming now and it's a great time to select ones for color and fragrance.
- The selection of vegetables is great this month. Some ideas to grow are Beans, Peppers, Corn, Cucumber, Eggplant, Lettuce, Onions, Peas, Squash, and Tomatoes. Your choice will reflect on what you and your family enjoy eating. This is a fabulous idea if you have children, as they get to grow their own edibles and may eat more vegetables if they are excited about the whole growing experience. And there is nothing like eating something freshly picked, the taste does not compare to anything from the store!!!
- The snails come out after the rains. Bait for them or your new vegetable seedlings will be gone almost overnight. Use That's It or Sluggo for areas where pets or children play. Another organic solution is Copper Tape found at most nurseries; this is good for containers also.
- Prune spring blooming trees and shrubs after flowering
- Prune Fuchsias heavily to encourage new flowering wood. Fertilize with Fish Emulsion.
- Prune Clematis and Wisteria Vines after blooming to shape and keep in bounds.
- Control aphids with Safer's Insecticidal Soap or ladybugs for a softer less toxic way.

- Apply Ironite to your Azaleas, Camellias, and Gardenias if the leaves are yellowing.
- Feed your citrus. They are heavy feeders.

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### May Tips and To Do's

- There is still time to get your vegetable garden started. I can't stress enough, that starting with great soil will result in a great crop of summer vegetables.....chose a spot that gets 6-8 hours of sun a day, amend your spaces with bags of good organic soil, till into the top 8"-10" of your beds and happy planting.
- Blueberries can be planted now. These are full of anti-oxidants 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 in the evening hours. You will have happy, hungry ladybugs 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 ½" -3" for the summer months. Taller grass survives hot temperatures better and helps shade out weed invaders.
- 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 looking for these in the fall. You can buy chemicals for this but a natural, organic way to control, is buying live nematodes in the garden nursery of your choice. Especially important if you have kids or dogs playing on the lawn.

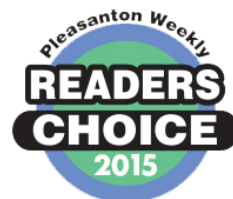
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