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## Around The Garden Newsletter

*“Every plant has its fitness and must be placed in the right place in its proper surroundings so as to bring out its full beauty. Therein lies the art of landscaping.”*

*Jens Jensen (1860 – 1951)*

Hi everyone,

I hope you are all having a fabulous summer and are able to take some time to enjoy these hot summer nights!

We are so lucky here in California to be able to live outside for much of the year. Some elements that enhance that outdoor living are fire features, such as a built-in firepit or fireplace, or even a portable fire table that uses a propane tank.

Another element that can certainly add a lot of enjoyment is a water feature. Water features come in many varieties and can range from a fountain purchased ready to plug in, a colorful pot turned into a fountain or a custom built-in rock/boulder water fall with several drops ending in either a pond or a pond less a gravel base that recirculates with filters and a pump. Visit my [portfolio](#) for more inspiration and ideas.

Adding a collection of pots, such as these glazed containers on this large deck, adds color, foliage and several focal points. I really enjoy taking a homeowners piece of prized art or whatever they have and picking a color, such as this blue and playing it up by tying in the colored pots to create vignettes.

**Click on the images to see them larger**



It's summer and the tomatoes are ripening on the vine. That is, if you got your plants in on time!

These cool raised beds are made with corten steel and can be created in any shape you can imagine. I sketched out an idea and the contractor did a fabulous job with these. I planted them with summer vegetables. Now if I can only keep the deer out of them, these veggies might have a chance!



Here is one more before and after of a back yard that I have just completed. The original deck really chopped up the yard. Now with this new paver patio, a secondary seating area for the BBQ and a new spa has been created and there is a much nicer flow for this family of four.





Lastly, I am so excited to announce that I have won the Pleasanton Weekly Readers Choice for Best Landscaping Service for the 4th year in a row! I am very appreciative for vote of confidence. Thank you!

A vertical graphic with a light green background. At the top, the text 'Thank you' is written in a large, elegant green cursive font. Below it, in purple, is 'for voting us Best Landscaping Service for the 4th year in a row!'. Further down, in purple, is 'We are proud to create outdoor spaces that add beauty and value to homes in the Tri-Valley for over 20 years.' On the right side, there is a vertical purple ribbon containing four award logos: 'READERS CHOICE 2015', '2016 PLEASANTON WEEKLY Readers Choice', '2017 PLEASANTON WEEKLY Readers Choice', and '2018 PLEASANTON WEEKLY Readers Choice'. At the bottom of the graphic is a photograph of a woman with curly blonde hair, wearing a pink shirt, smiling. She is standing in front of a well-landscaped garden with a path, rocks, and various plants.

### August Tips and To Do's

- Apply "Cloud Cover" to Japanese Maples for protection if they are burning up due to drying winds.

- 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!!
- Keep your flower beds neat and producing new blooms. Deadhead (removing all old blooms) keeps your plants healthy and happy. If they are getting 'leggy', prune back somewhat.

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

September Garden Tips and To Do's

- Keep annuals well fed and well watered to maintain health and blooms.
- Feed Azalea's/Rhododendrons and Camellia's w/a 0-10-10 fertilizer for larger blooms in spring.
- 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.

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



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