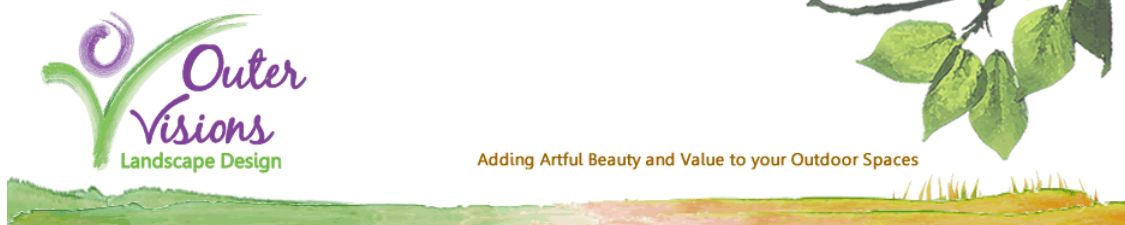


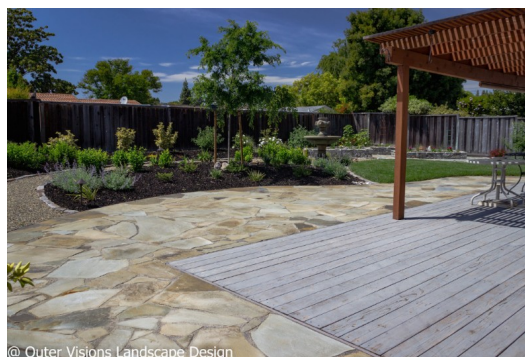
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Around The Garden Newsletter

Hello and welcome to a fabulous spring! I love this season as it is such a time of renewal. I'm especially thankful for the winter rains, after another long parched summer.

I wanted to share two before / after photos from two client updates that I'm rather proud of. One client loves traveling around France and had requested a very French Country feel. With an extension to their existing deck using flagstones, gravel pathways, raised natural stone vegetable beds and a Mediterranean style fountain, I think the result was lovely.

Click on the images to see them larger.



This redesign features a new larger paver patio for entertaining, incorporating a glazed self-contained fountain as a focal point, a secondary seating area using flagstones to blend in with the pavers and a new wooden arbor for shade. I loved using these low glazed bowls as a novel idea for an herb garden, and they match the fountain color.



Here's a great way to liven up a porch using decorative tile, pots, urns and plants.



Once again, I would like to humbly ask for your support to vote for me as Best Landscaping Service through the 'Best Of Series' in the Pleasanton Weekly. I've been honored to have been selected the past three years in a row and it would be so great to continue the trend!

Please click on the link [here](#) and take a few minutes to VOTE FOR ME. You do have to vote for a total of 5 businesses to make it count. I would very much appreciate your vote!

We are so fortunate to live in this lovely area and I love sharing new ideas for

comfortable outdoor living all year.

Remember to plant your summer vegetables...It's fun to grow your own food, maybe get the kids involved! There is no better feeling than eating freshly picked veggies that are organic, nutritious and grown with your own hands!

Enjoy the season and thanks for your business. It means the world to me.

May Tips and To Do's

- There is still time to get your vegetables garden started. I can't stress enough, that starting with great soil will result in a great crop of summer vegetables. Choose 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. 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!
- 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 ladybugs (bought at any good nursery) after watering your plants, and in the evening hours. You will have very 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. Apply 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 varmants, like raccoons, ripping up the lawn looking for these in the fall. You can buy chemicals, but a natural, organic way to control, is buying live nematodes in the garden nursery of your choice. This is especially important if you have kids or dogs playing on the lawn.

[Download to do's for May.](#)

June Garden Tips and To Do's

- Mulch, Mulch, Mulch. Add a 3"-4" layer of micro bark to your gardens, being careful not to put right up to the roots of existing plants, as they need to breathe. This helps on weed prevention, helps keep the water in as we heat up in the summer months and eventually will break down and help build up a good soil texture. Every few years just replenish the mulch and very soon you will have great soil in which to plant.
- Last chance to sow seeds of beans, corn and squash.
- Plant Basil seeds every three to four weeks for a steady supply all summer.
- Don't cut your lawns shorter than 2"-3" in height.
- Remove spent blooms on roses, cut just above a leaf with 5 or more leaflets, at an angle so the water runs off it.
- Feed Azaleas, Rhododendron's and Camellia's with an acid fertilizer
- Feed fruit trees with Ammonium Sulphate, a ratio of 11-21-0.
- Feed your citrus monthly with regular light citrus fertilizers and quarterly with Iron Sulfate when they yellow.
- Protect earwigs from damaging your flowers by keeping the garden clean of weeds and debris.

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



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