



Hello and happy spring!

In these extremely stressful times, with most of us sheltering in place, I wanted to give you all some information and suggestions to help you cultivate your gardens. Tending a garden and being surrounded by thriving plants can be a stress reliever in these uncertain times.

Your yoga classes, meetings, and concerts are canceled. The kids are out of school and you're being told to stay home. We can still go outside and enjoy the sunshine in the privacy and safety of our backyards. Here are a few suggestions to cultivate something good.

1. Start some seeds. There are many good sources online to order like this one <https://www.reneesgarden.com/>

Nothing is more life-affirming than checking each morning to see if something sprouted.

2. Plan a vegetable / herb garden.

Plan an herb garden to use in your cooking. Nothing beats fresh oregano, thyme, chives or parsley to jazz up your meal. Get the kids involved, make it a family activity.



3. Give your indoor plants a spring cleaning.

Keep your indoor plants healthy by grooming them, repotting them if necessary, take them out and hose them off. Be careful not to leave them outside yet overnight since they will not be used to the chill. Houseplants help clean the air inside your homes, and if you are like me, they make you happy.

4. Take a walk in nature.

Follow the social distancing guideline and take a walk in a local park or recreation area. This will connect you to nature and feed your soul.

TRANSFORMATION

Here are some pics of a job I just installed for a client. She had a sunny but awkward little area on the back and side of the property. We built 2 corten steel raised vegetable beds and used the client's existing containers to plant blueberries. Blueberries thrive in acidic soil, with a pH between 5-6 and well-drained conditions. This is sometimes hard to control when planted in our clay soils. I used an acid soil mix and Cottonseed Meal, which is a slow-release fertilizer that lowers PH and helps the plants receive important elements, such as Iron and Magnesium. Receiving a good amount of full sun, blueberries can handle some afternoon shade, so this should be a perfect spot for these. (Click on images to enlarge)



I wanted to share with you this winter garden, which is a little over 2 years old. It was cleared of everything when they first called me into the project. By adding some berms/mounds to make a flat space more interesting, adding boulders and making the planting spaces larger to reduce the size of the front lawn, I began the plant selection.

The client loves roses, so within this front yard planting are 7-8 different varieties and colors of roses. But as you know, they are pretty much sticks in the winter, as they should be cut back quite a bit to perform their best by January/February timeframe. So while the roses sleep, this garden still shines with some other cool plants. (Click on images to enlarge)





The other amazing plant is a Lavender which is fairly new to the industry. This variegated Lavender is called 'Meerlo' and is a Sunset Western Garden Collection plant. Learn [more](#).



The Grevillea 'Scarlet Sprite' is in all its glory, when I took this photo in February. Read more about it [here](#).

I want you to know I'm here for you, please call, text or email with any questions and I'll help you as much as I can virtually.

Listen to the experts and please stay safe my friends.

Happy Gardening
Your Garden Coach,

Lynda

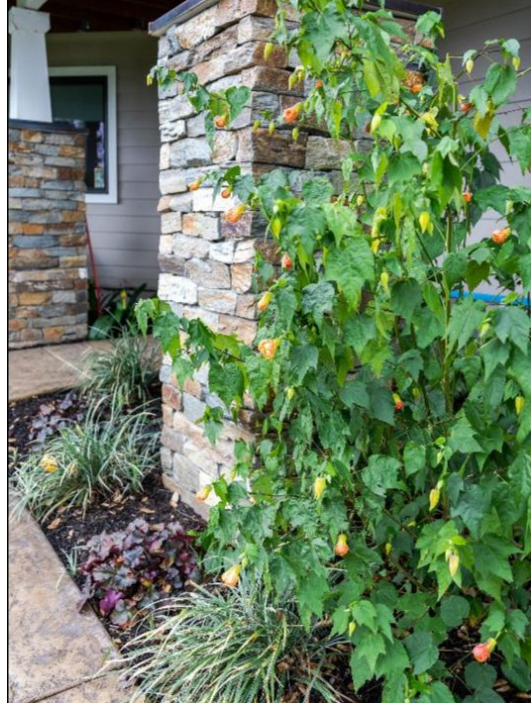
Due to nurseries being temporarily closed, you may need to spend some of your time planning versus purchasing plants for your garden right now.

March Tips and To Do's

- Feed Fuchsias with a fertilizer, 0-10-10 ratio.
- To restore a lawn after winter rains, can aerate and/or thatch then fertilize with a high nitrogen feed to restore nutrients again.

- Control snails and slugs. They love the tender new growth of a variety of plants in your garden. A great natural way to rid these hungry critters is to pour out some beer in a low flat dish. The smell attracts them, they crawl in and drown! OR SLUGGO is a good choice for use around pets.
- Feed Azaleas, Camellias, and Rhododendrons with a high nitrogen acid fertilizer and Ironite after blooms are done.
- Feed citrus with good citrus food from your local nursery. Add a little chelated iron if still yellow.
- Combat Citrus Leaf miner organically. You will see shallow tunnels running throughout the leaves, this is caused by the feeding larvae. Hang traps, purchased from a nursery, in your citrus to catch the flying adults before they lay eggs. This will help reduce damage to the new growth in all your citrus.
- Feed fruit trees and berries with a good all-purpose fertilizer, such as 12-12-12 ratio, and superphosphate such as 0-20-0, to increase fruit production.
- It is good to add to your existing layer of mulch in your gardens. I tend to like a dark black micro bark that can be purchased in bulk or in bags. A deep 2"-3" layer is advised, as this helps keep weeds to a minimum, helps keep in the moisture in the heat of summer, and lastly when it does break down eventually, it helps keep our heavy soils loose and light. One word of caution, when adding your mulch keep a little away from the crown of each plant. They need to breathe just like we do, so don't crowd them.
- Now is the time to work some aluminum sulfate into your soil around your Hydrangeas if you want that intense blue. There are several brands on the market at your local nurseries.
- Plant Dahlias this year!! They can be purchased now as tubers, looking like a sweet potato. There are many varieties coming in many colors to choose from. Plant Dahlias in a sunny spot, add plenty of compost and plant deep (6"). You will be rewarded with a spectacular display from summer into fall.
- Don't forget to water your plants under eaves. They don't get the water when it rains, your irrigation is turned off, so they will dry out if not hand watered!
- You can start annual Morning Glories from seed this month. They will produce large blooms in blues, purples or pink and are a stunning old-fashioned garden flower.

[Download To Do List](#)



April Tips and To Do's

- Colorful Annuals that can be planted now for a splash are Snapdragons, Stock, Poppies, Impatiens, Petunias, and Marigolds.
- 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 ladybug's 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.

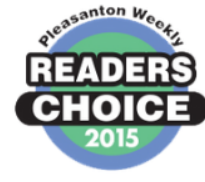
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