



A big hello to all my clients and friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families in good health and spirits. It is such an uncertain and scary time right now. During these many weeks of shelter in place, I hope you have been able to spend time in and enjoy your outdoor spaces.

Since most of us are not traveling, our gardens can act as a lovely and inviting 'staycation'. Spring blooms, colorful plantings, sunshine, songbirds, and maybe a cocktail can transport you to a splendid vacation at home :-).

I am so happy to say that I'm getting back to work and have just started meeting clients again. I'm taking all the necessary precautions by meetings outside for now with all wearing masks. This is certainly a new normal so I'll keep working with nurseries that have put good safety measures in place, which is most of them.

For this newsletter, I'd like to focus on lawn replacements, both front and back yards. I've talked about this previously, but since we are heading into summer and drought always being a possibility, I thought a refresh was in order.

I have recently been visiting gardens that were projects I completed 3 to 5 years ago to see how the areas are filling out, once we took out the client's lawns. The clients all are very much enjoying the changes of seasons in the plantings and blooms throughout the year. Many clients tell me how much they are enjoying the number of birds, butterflies, and bees that visit their gardens now, and just how much more interesting their space is after taking away the lawn.

Please enjoy some Before and After pics.

(Click on the pictures to see them larger)

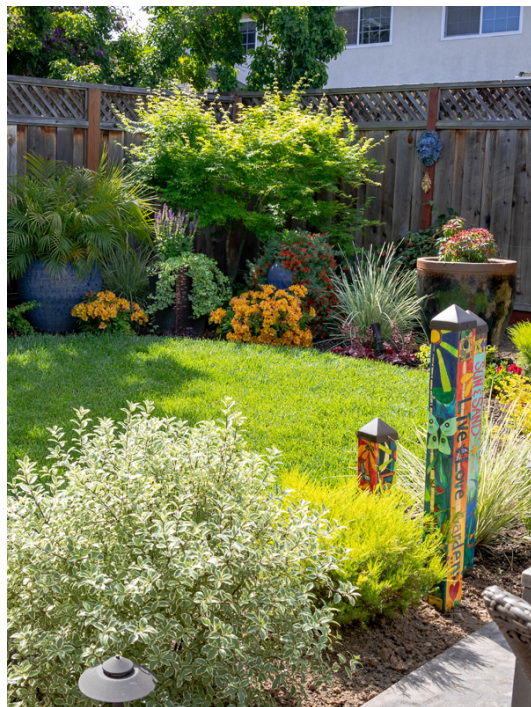
## TRANSFORMATIONS







I completely understand that starting a large project may be out of the question right now. There are alternate and inexpensive ways to update and add a fresh look to your space. Introducing some large colorful glazed pots is an easy addition that can make a big difference! When adding some fresh plants, be sure to mix in some compost/amendments to the existing soil. The addition of a few boulders can also give you a new look and feel to your garden and really frame your property. I'm always available to help you with improvements large and small.







BEFORE: Homeowner hated the drab gray gravel and sparse plantings.



AFTER: The gravel was replaced with mulch and reused to create a pathway then some mounds, boulders and new plants were added.

Take care and remember if you need anything, please email or call, and I'll do my best to help.

Happy Gardening  
Your Garden Coach,  
Lynda

### 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. 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.
- Blueberries can be planted now. These are full of antioxidants 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 since they are 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 them 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.

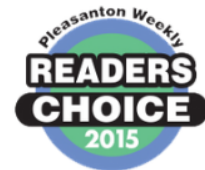
[Download To Do List](#)

## June 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.
- Do not 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.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after their bloom is past.
- Warm-season annuals such as Zinnia, Cosmos, Portulaca, Begonia's, and Coleus should all be available now.
- Plant herbs now for use in the kitchen garden or very easily in containers within easy reach while cooking. There is nothing like fresh herbs and they are so easy, even for the beginner gardener!

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**Lynda Meikle**  
**Your Garden Coach**  
**Contact: (925) 462-1484**  
[outervisionsdesign.com](http://outervisionsdesign.com)  
**Email: [outervisions@comcast.net](mailto:outervisions@comcast.net)**



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