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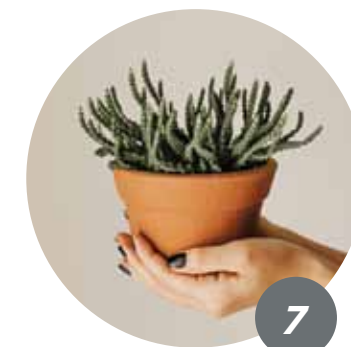
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ADVICE
FOR SETTING
UP YOUR

Wine Cellar

Are you a *wine lover*? Do you want to create a space in which to store your favorite bottles? Before getting started, you should know that many elements must be considered in order to preserve your best vintages. Here are five recommendations for setting up the perfect wine cellar.

KEEP OPTIMAL TEMPERATURE
Your wine cellar shouldn't be too cold or too hot. Ideally, the temperature should be kept between 51 and 57 °F. Otherwise, your wine runs the risk of premature aging.

INDIVIDUAL COMPARTMENTS
To avoid having to move your bottles around too frequently, store them horizontally in individual compartments. Wine doesn't respond well to being moved around, so storing each bottle in its own compartment is the best way to preserve its flavor.

KEEP STRONG SMELLS AWAY
Avoid storing or using strong-smelling products in your cellar, because the smells could eventually get through the cork and alter the taste of the wine.

MANAGE HUMIDITY LEVELS
The ideal humidity level for a wine cellar is usually between 60 and 80 percent. If it's too high, the corks could get moldy; too low, and the wine's quality could be affected.

AVOID STRONG LIGHTING
Since wine is very sensitive to light, it's best to store it in a dark place. Choose a low-intensity light source for when you need to see what you're doing.

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LOW-MAINTENANCE

succulents



MAKE WATERING A BREEZE

By LEE REICH, Associated Press

Looking for an easy plant to care for? Try a succulent. Any plant with fleshy stems or leaves is called a succulent. Aside from cacti, only a few other plant families have succulent members. All these succulents, cactus or not, are low-maintenance.

SOME NON-CACTUS SUCCULENTS

One family of non-cactus succulents is Crassulaceae, which counts among its members the familiar jade plant, which has thick stems and shiny green, fleshy, spoon-shaped leaves. After years of selective stem cutting, my jade plant has developed two thick trunks that give it the appearance of a venerable tree in miniature.

Kalanchoe is another family member, notable for the small plantlets that grow along the edges of its leaves and periodically drop off to give rise to new plants. Hence its other name: mother-of-thousands. Shortening daylight hours in fall coax out this plant's salmon-red or apricot-orange flowers, which contrast nicely with the bluish cast of the green leaves.

Sedums are yet another Crassulaceae. My burro's tail (Sedum morganianum) has braids of thick, fleshy leaves that hide its stems as they cascade over the edges of its hanging, coconut planter.

Moving on to another family of succulents brings us to the Euphorbiaceae. Milk-striped euphorbia is named for the milky line down its stem, but I think the Latin name, Euphorbia pseudocactus, is more descriptive. With thorns and upright stems off which branch "arms," the plant could easily be mistaken for a cactus.

CONTINUED >>>



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LOW-MAINTENANCE SUCCULENTS

Crown-of-thorns, aside from its beautiful pink flowers, is another Euphorbia species, this one armed with spines as fierce as those of any cactus. Not all Euphorbiaceae are succulent; poinsettia is one that's not.

The lily family, Liliaceae, is a third plant family with many succulent members. Aloe is most famous as an ingredient of hand lotions and shampoos, but the plant itself is attractive and care-free — mine has gone whole winters without watering! Over time, it has filled its pot with whorls of thick, fleshy, lance-shaped leaves.

Sansevieria is a succulent lily with an unflattering common name: mother-in-law's tongue. Unflattering to mothers-in-law, that is, because the plant is a cluster of long, sharp leaves speckled like snakeskin.

WATERING: LESS IS MORE



An advantage and a disadvantage of succulents as houseplants is their adaptation to survive without water. If you remember to water your plants only when you're driving in your car, or if you want a living plant that needs water only slightly more often than a plastic plant, then grow succulents.

On the other hand, if you tip a glass of water on your plants every time you walk past them, you'll soon transform any succulent houseplant into a mass of brown rot. The key to caring for succulents is to hardly ever water them. Once every couple of months in winter, and a couple of times a month in summer, is sufficient. More generally, let the soil dry out between waterings.

When repotting is needed for any succulent plant, use a potting soil that drains water quickly, made so by adding equal volumes of sand or perlite to any mix used for other types of plants.

Besides their ease of care, succulents are easy to propagate. Use the leaves, stems or offshoots, letting any of these plant parts dry and heal for a few day before potting them up. Leaves that occasionally drop off my jade plant often take root just sitting on the soil. ●



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AVANT-garden

Gardening trends for 2020:
Think unconventional, sustainable
By DEAN FOSDICK, *Associated Press*

Gardeners in 2020 will veer from the beaten path, opting for unconventional varieties and eco-conscious surroundings, according to a plant trends study by horticulturalists with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS).

Their forecast is based largely on market observations and feedback from people seeking information from Extension offices.

Interest is strong for native plants, dwarf hybrids, "re-wilding" gardens, edible settings, wildlife-friendly landscapes, dark foliage, succulents, novel greens, landscaping for natural disasters, and softer, leafier floral arrangements, the horticulturalists said.

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GARDENING TRENDS

"More and more folks are wanting to think about sustainability," said Mark Tancig, a UF/IFAS agent based in Leon County.

"They're wanting to plant things that don't require as much water or fertilizer," he said. "Plants that resist disease and insects. Plants that provide for wildlife use and need less maintenance and input. That not only saves money but it looks good, too. It's restorative to the environment."

Breaking down the study's trending Top 10:

--Native Plants. These plants original to a specific place generally are lower maintenance, requiring less water, pruning and fertilizer.

--Dwarf Hybrids. Gardeners without a lot of living space increasingly are choosing the dwarf varieties of their favorite plants. They also require less pruning.

--Re-Wilding Gardens. To encourage beneficial insects and the health of your garden, allow shrubs to return to their natural shapes, let grass grow longer and permit a few weeds to flower, said Theresa Badurek, horticulture agent for Pinellas County. "Some of those volunteer weeds may be great wildflowers."

--Edible Settings. Fruit-bearing plants, ornamental vegetables and edible flowers do double duty, adding beauty as well as nutrition to the home landscape.

--Plants for Wildlife. "Most contemporary landscapes lack diversity, so gardeners should choose a variety of plants that flower and fruit," Badurek said. Plants with berries attract birds, and layering plants of varying heights provides hiding places for other species.

--Dark Foliage. Plants with red, purple or black leaves are striking additions to any landscape, making them attractive to gardeners looking for something new in 2020, said Marguerite Beckford, a horticulture agent in Sarasota County.

--Succulents. People are reaching out for lesser-known succulents that offer interesting shapes, textures and growth habits, the University of Florida horticulturists say.

--Novel Greens. Vegetable gardeners will be looking to diversify their harvests with leafy greens generally grown outside the United States — bok choy, mizuna and komatsuna among them, according to the horticulturists.



--Landscaping for Natural Disasters. "Storms are becoming more erratic and more feared," Tancig said. "Plant the kinds of trees around your home that reduce risk."

--Softer, Leafier Floral Arrangements. Flowers combined with foliage are gaining in popularity. "We are going away from the bundle bouquet of solitary flower blooms to the soft, organic feel of greenery," said Karen Stauderman, an Extension horticulture agent for Volusia County. ●



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Native Plant Sale offers plants, books, t-shirts & hats for sale.

Wildlife Center & Pond Exploration with Outdoor Education Adventures provides a hands-on experience where kids can examine their specimen under a microscope.

Paper Making is a very popular, hands-on experience. Educators from **Talk About Trees** teach the art of paper making and kids can make their own paper. (Photo →)

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If you'd like to know more about the KonMari Method, pick up the book at your local bookstore or library, or watch the television series of the same name.



In the best-selling book *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, Japanese author and expert organizer Marie Kondo outlines her technique for turning a cluttered home into a tidy and peaceful place.

The KonMari Method differs from other decluttering methods in that it recommends cleaning by category rather than room by room. There is an order to "Kondoing" your home:

1. Commit to tidying up the whole home within a timeframe of a few weeks.
2. Tidy by category, not by room. The categories are clothes, books, paper, komono (miscellaneous goods) and sentimental items. It might help to try and imagine your ideal lifestyle.

CONTINUED >>>

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TIDYING UP WITH KONMARI



3. Touch each item and ask yourself if it *sparks joy*. The answer will help you determine whether you should keep it.



4. Discard items before beginning to organize what's left.



The third step may be confusing to people who are just starting with the KonMari Method. Kondo herself admits that this can be awkward at first, but that people get used to it quickly. Think of it as choosing what to keep instead of choosing what to discard.

In addition to outlining a way of decluttering your home, Marie Kondo also advocates new ways of organizing and storing what you've kept, including her own techniques for folding clothes. ●

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flowers & floral design are
abloom

By KATHERINE ROTH, *Associated Press*

In lighting fixtures, wallpapers, bedding and wall art, flowers are coming up all over in 2020. Along with floral design in furnishings, there's also renewed interest in actual flowers: floral arranging and floral-inspired table settings.

"Flowers have always made people feel happy. They can be feminine but they can also be used in a maximalist style," says Christin Geall, author of the new "Cultivated: The Elements of Floral Style" (Princeton Architectural Press). "As we move away from beige interiors, flowers are a great way to liven things up."

Aimee Lagos, co-founder of Hygge & West, which sells a range of wallpapers and home goods, concurs: "Floral decor is having a major moment in 2020, especially wallpaper."

“florals create a lively energy in the home which is both beautiful and powerful”



Floral patterns bring a touch of nature and an organic element into a room, she says, noting the popularity this spring of bold, large-scale floral murals. "While floral patterns are nothing new, we're seeing modernized versions that appeal to people who in the past may have shied away from florals as being too fussy or old-fashioned," Lagos says.

At Hudson Valley Lighting, floral offerings include chandeliers with bouquets of crystal flowers, a wall fixture with lights surrounded by delicate petal shapes, and a variety of ceiling lamps and sconces reminiscent of leaves, buds and blossoming flowers. Ben Marshall, Hudson Valley Lighting Group's creative director, says florals create "a lively energy in the home which is both beautiful and powerful."

"Florals are about nature, but they're also about culture, and bringing plants and plant imagery into the domestic sphere," says Geall.

In her book, she offers practical advice on flower arranging, as well as floral style.

"Somewhere along the line, floral design got divorced from the idea of home gardening," says Geall. "My focus is on the basics. And understanding the principles will help you adapt to what's around you." Foraged branches, twigs, invasive species, and even fruits and vegetables can be made into stunning arrangements, she says. Some of the arrangements featured in her book include tiny yellow tomatoes mixed with flowers. Grapes and berries are also fair game.

"Just because it's edible doesn't mean it can't be beautiful," she says.

In their new "Gathering: Setting the Natural Table" (Rizzoli International Publications), authors Kristen Caissie and Jessica Hundley explore ways to marry flowers and handmade objects into table designs. Photographed by Gemma and Andrew Ingalls, the table settings include ceramics with floral patterns, colors and designs inspired by nature, and natural-looking floral arrangements.

"When life gets overwhelming, I try to find my way back to my original love of flowers," says Caissie, a floral designer at Moon Canyon, in Los Angeles. ●

RECIPES

EGG-CELLENT BRUNCH IDEAS

Quiche Lorraine

INGREDIENTS (CRUST)

- 1-½ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ tablespoon salt
- ½ tablespoon baking powder
- ½ cup cold, unsalted butter, cubed
- 1 egg, beaten
- 5 teaspoons ice water

FILLING

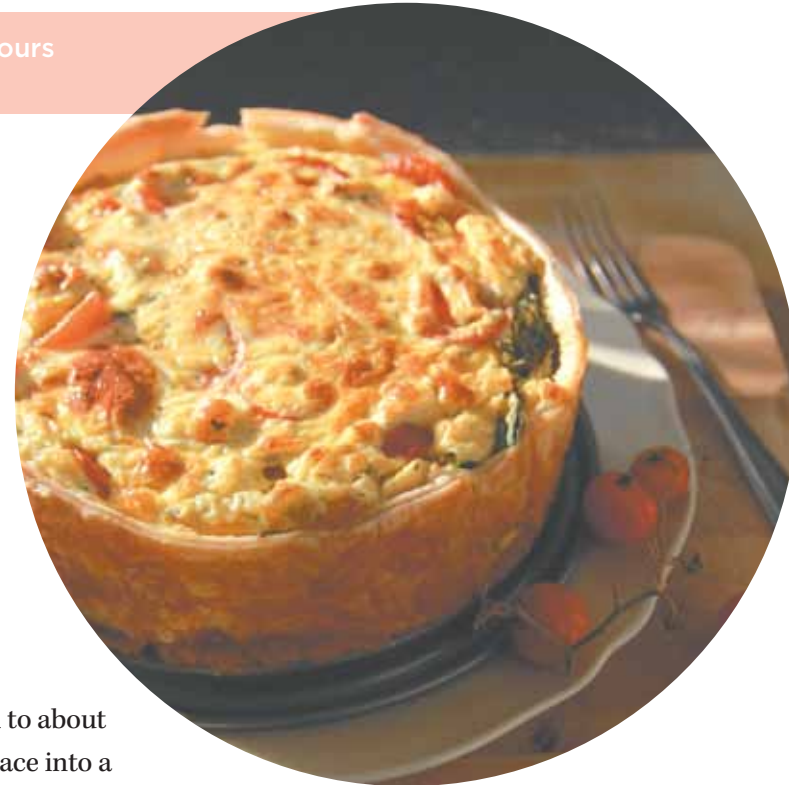
- 2 French shallots, finely chopped
- ½ lb. thick cut bacon or ham, cubed
- 3 eggs
- ¾ cup 35% cream
- ¼ cup 2% milk
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1-½ cups gruyere cheese, grated

DIRECTIONS (FILLING)

1. In a pan, sauté the French shallots and bacon or ham until golden. Set aside.
2. In a bowl, whisk the eggs, cream, milk, salt and pepper. Add French shallots, bacon and grated cheese. Carefully pour mixture into crust.
3. Bake on the middle rack for 40 minutes or until firm. Let cool 15 to 20 minutes before serving.

This delicious quiche is perfect to serve to a crowd at an Easter brunch or potluck.

Start to finish: 4 hours
Servings: 6



DIRECTIONS (CRUST)

1. In a food processor, combine the flour, salt and baking powder. Add cubes of butter and mix until pea-sized chunks are formed.
2. Add the egg and water. Mix again until dough begins to form. Add more water if necessary.
3. Remove dough, shape into a ball and cover with plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 2 to 24 hours.
4. Preheat the oven to 400 °F.
5. On a floured surface, roll the dough to about 1/8 of an inch thick and carefully place into a 9-inch pie pan. Lightly press on the bottom and sides so the dough takes the form of the pan. Remove excess dough and create waves around the edge with your fingers. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.
6. Remove from refrigerator and prick holes on the bottom with a fork. Cover with parchment paper and place pie weights on top (a heavy plate works too). Bake on the lowest rack for 25 minutes, or until crust is slightly golden. Remove from oven and set aside.
7. Reduce oven temperature to 325 °F.

Start to finish: 1.5 hours | Serves 6-8 people

Rosemary Chicken

INGREDIENTS

- 4.5 lbs. chicken pieces
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1/3 cup liquid honey
- 3 tbsp butter
- 3 tbsp vegetable oil
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1 tsp dried rosemary
- Salt and pepper

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 325°F.
2. Melt butter and oil in large ovenproof pan.
3. Sauté onion without letting it brown, then brown chicken pieces on all sides. Add salt and pepper.
4. Meanwhile, in small saucepan, bring honey, lemon juice and rosemary to a light boil.
5. Using a knife, score the top of the cheese to create a checkered pattern.
6. Top with walnuts, honey and rosemary and bake for 10 minutes or until the cheese is just starting to melt.
7. Pour honey mixture over chicken and bake covered. After an hour of cooking, turn chicken pieces and cook uncovered for 30 minutes.

Asparagus & Gruyere Puff Pastry Bundles

Start to finish: 40 minutes | Servings: 8

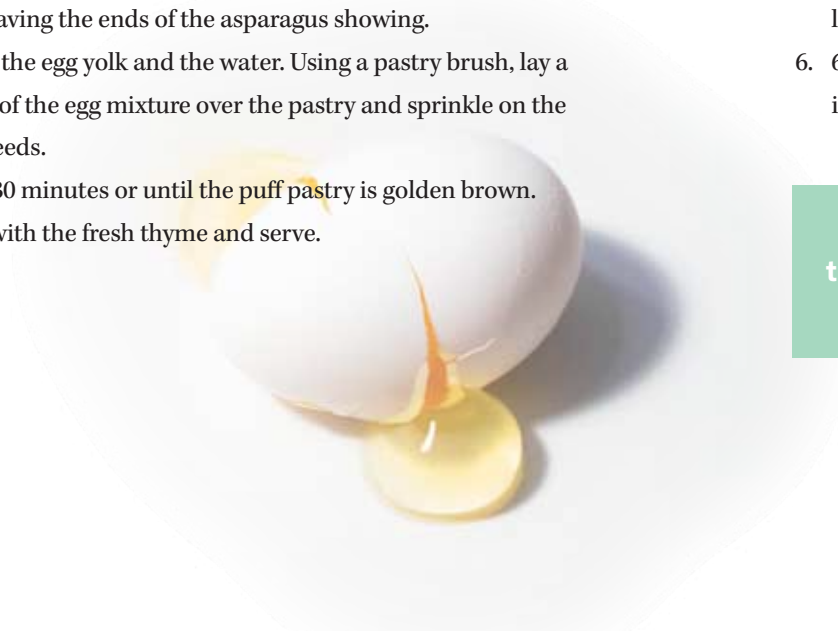
INGREDIENTS

- 24 fresh asparagus spears
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- 1 14-ounce package puff pastry
- 16 thin slices of Gruyere cheese
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 egg yolk, beaten
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1/4 cup sesame seeds
- Fresh thyme sprigs, to garnish



DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set it aside.
2. Trim the bottoms from the asparagus spears. Coat the asparagus with the olive oil. Salt and pepper to taste.
3. Roll the puff pastry dough until it's about half an inch thick. Cut it into 8 equal-sized squares.
4. Diagonally across each puff pastry square, place 1 slice of Gruyere, 3 asparagus spears, 1 more slice of Gruyere and 1 tablespoon of grated Parmesan. Join the two opposite corners of the pastry dough, leaving the ends of the asparagus showing.
5. Combine the egg yolk and the water. Using a pastry brush, lay a thin coat of the egg mixture over the pastry and sprinkle on the sesame seeds.
6. Bake for 30 minutes or until the puff pastry is golden brown.
7. Garnish with the fresh thyme and serve.



Classic Fettuccine Carbonara

Start to finish: 20 minutes | Servings: 4

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound fettuccine
- 8 ounces thick-cut bacon or pancetta, cut into cubes or small strips
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Salt and pepper
- Fresh parsley, to garnish



DIRECTIONS

1. Bring a large pot of water to a boil and cook the fettuccine according to the package instructions.
2. Meanwhile, in a large pan over high heat, brown the meat. Lower the heat, add the onions and cook until softened. Add the garlic and cook until golden. Turn off the burner but leave the pan on the element to preserve the heat.
3. Beat the eggs, add the cheese and stir to combine.
4. Drain the pasta, reserving 1 cup of cooking water.
5. Add the pasta to the pan with the meat and add the eggs. Using tongs, toss to combine and cook the eggs. Add a little bit of cooking water to loosen the sauce if necessary.
6. Salt and pepper to taste, garnish with fresh parsley and serve immediately.

Using the heat of the pasta to cook the eggs gives this classic dish a creamy consistency. It's the perfect dish to serve for an easy lunch or dinner.

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Cute Bungalow!

Cute 2BR, 1 BA home. One bedroom non conforming. Kitchen and bath remodeled. Fridge, portable dishwasher and curtains included. Tile and laminate flooring. 2 storage sheds. Private, fenced backyard and covered patio. Mature plantings and yard art enhance the yard. Established neighborhood. Walking distance to downtown. Buyer to complete due diligence. **MLS#20369454**



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\$449,900 Lafayette




Exceptional Lafayette Home With Pool Access

A grand entry opens to living + family rooms, and large kitchen with Quartz counters, tile backsplash, stainless refrigerator & gas range. 4 sizable BRs, 2.5 BAs, a home office, and fun loft space. Beautiful wide-plank engineered hard wood floors + newer carpet. Master suite has a fireplace, double sinks, jetted tub, and walk-in closet. Upstairs laundry room. 3-CAR GARAGE, covered patio, sprinklers, & landscaped yard. Awesome community pool, gym, & clubhouse! **MLS#20152002**




Lacey Summers
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\$495,000 McMinnville



One of a Kind!

4 BR, 2.5 BA home w/spacious main level living & possible multi-family living! Vaulted LR w/ fireplace, open to DR & access to back covered deck w/views of nature! Kitchen:chef's dream w/ ss appliances, quartz, storage & nook! Master suite on main is spacious w/beautifully updated modern bathroom, shower, free-standing tub, quartz! Downstairs has fireplace in FR, 2 BRs, 4th/ bonus, utility & updated full bath. **MLS#20422403**



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\$649,900 McMinnville



Beautiful Views!

Minutes from McMinnville with beautiful views and serene setting. 4 BR, 3 BA home. Main floor offers spacious master suite, living room with custom rock fireplace open to the dining. Kitchen with eating bar and desk, family room, two BRs, bathroom and utility. Dual living w/lower level full kitchen, bed, bath, family room, patio, and its own entrance. Livestock barn, 2 detached garages with endless storage and hobby opportunities. **MLS#20406914**



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\$650,000 McMinnville



Main Floor Living!

4 BR, 3.5 BA home w/ loads of details & room to spread out! Large living space w/amazing beams & picture windows open to dining room & kitchen. Main floor master suite w/2 closets, private patio, amazing arched windows, suite w/ jetted tub & shower. 2 more BRs on the main w/full bath & utility. Upstairs has open loft w/tons of light, theater room, bedroom & full bath. Garden shed, covered patio, pergola! **MLS#19024493**



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\$299,000 Amity



Look No Further!

Hard to find 4 bedroom, 3 bath home in Amity! This home has been nicely updated throughout with vinyl windows, kitchen and bathroom remodels and large bonus room upstairs. Fenced yard, herb garden and fruit trees. Walking distance to downtown and schools. **MLS#20017050**



Robin Martsoff-Hubbard,
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\$340,000 McMinnville



Great One Level Home!

3BR, 2BA home w/vaulted open living room with arched windows. Dining room open to kitchen and slider to back yard. Two guest BRs and shared guest bath. Master suite with updated bath and slider to private hot tub area. Updates include: hardi-plank siding w/ noise deafening, vinyl windows, full length back patio, master bathroom, freshened up guest bath, laminate flooring in hall, dining & kitchen. **MLS#20109144**



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\$415,000 McMinnville



Completely Updated!

1845 sq ft w/3 beds + home office, high ceilings, exquisite stacked stone fireplace, built-ins, & wired for Dolby Atmos. Kitchen has granite counters, island, stainless appliances, gas stove, & soft-close hinges. 4 bedrooms upstairs PLUS a main level office with closet and french doors (possible 5th bed). Many EXTRAS! Custom light fixtures, blinds, an adorable covered deck, and finished 3-car garage! Raised beds, berries, and 21 vines Chardonnay. **MLS#20246040**



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\$427,500 McMinnville



Multiple Offers & Pending in 3 Days

Like new home blocks from a fantastic park. Open great room with gas fireplace, built-ins, & wired for Dolby Atmos. Kitchen has granite counters, island, stainless appliances, gas stove, & soft-close hinges. 4 bedrooms upstairs PLUS a main level office with closet and french doors (possible 5th bed). Many EXTRAS! Custom light fixtures, blinds, an adorable covered deck, and finished 3-car garage! Raised beds, berries, and 21 vines Chardonnay. **MLS#20614283**



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\$675,000 McMinnville



Beautiful Craftsman Home!

Lovingly restored 4BR, 2.5BA home w/refinished original wood floors, stunning entry & living room. Impressive dining room w/ box beam ceilings & large window seat! Updated kitchen w/copper counters & new ss appliances! Master suite on main w/bay window & bathroom w/walk-in shower. Upper floor w/3 bedrooms, office & 1/2 bath. Finished attic & unfinished basement! **MLS#19640351**



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\$689,900 McMinnville




Looking for Privacy and Serenity?

This custom built home has floor to ceiling windows to take in the breathtaking views of Mt. Hood and the valley! Over 2500sf w/3 spacious BRs and 2 1/2 BAs. Remodeled kitchen w/quartz counter tops and high-end appliances. Master is on the main floor and offers the views as well. Dbl closets, jetted tub and separate shower. Two BRs upstairs w/a Jack and Jill bath. Huge bonus room over the garage. Shop w/220 power. **MLS#19224943**



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GREEN IDEAS

Adopting sustainable design practices is a key component in fighting climate change. Here's how the average homeowner can make their renovation projects greener.

WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DESIGN?

The guiding principle behind sustainable design is that the negative environmental impacts of erecting and maintaining modern buildings can be minimized by implementing certain practices. These include curtailing waste, reducing the consumption of non-renewable resources, conserving water and creating healthy, functional spaces.

Building an energy efficient home with recycled materials is a prime example of how sustainable design methods can be used to construct residential buildings.

HOW CAN I APPLY THESE PRINCIPLES?

Homeowners who are renovating can implement sustainable design practices in a number of ways. Here are some ideas:

Flooring options. Reclaimed wood, such as from scaffolds, is a great way to revamp your floors. Plus, they're pre-seasoned and won't warp once installed.

Paint options. Eco-friendly paints, which contain no volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are a good option. For an even greener choice, seek out retailers who sell recycled paint.

Surface options. Countertops made from recycled materials are increasingly popular and vastly more sustainable than those made from man-made materials such as engineered



Sustainable Design for Home Renovation Projects

stone. Some companies also offer ceramic tiles made from recycled television screens.

Plumbing options. If updating a bathroom, opt for low-flow toilets, faucets and showers.

Furniture options. Consider looking for reclaimed furniture, or furniture built from recycled and upcycled materials.

WHERE CAN I FIND SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS?

Most hardware stores carry at least some of these materials. Low-flow fixtures, for instance, are readily available. In addition, there are suppliers and artisans who specialize in offering sustainable and recycled products.

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