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Elevate your outdoor living space!



2 | News-Register | ROOTS TO ROOFS

SUMMER 2023

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ROOTS TO ROOFS

PUBLISHER JEB BLADINE

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER OSSIE BLADINE

STACY HEATHERINGTON

BONNIE GEORGE KATHIE STAMPER CODY COTTINGHAM

COORDINATOR MICAH DAHLVIG

PRODUCTION ARTISTS

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ROOTS^{TO}**ROOFS**

CONTENTS

GREENIDEAS

Ecological gardening	Н	ζ.



4 | News-Register | ROOTS TO ROOFS

SUMMER 2023

SUMMER 2023







Neutral colors, like gray, black and brown, remain a winning choice for outdoor materials and furniture. Add personality to your deck with accessories like lanterns and LED lights.

Landscaping

Elevate your outdoor living space!

Deck trends in 2023

Warmer days are here. Are you dreaming of renovating or decorating your deck? Here are five trends that may inspire you.

1. Indoor furniture. Outdoor furniture is becoming increasingly similar to what you'd find in your home. The main difference is its ability to withstand the elements.

2. Fun textiles. Decorate with various fabrics and textiles, using cushions, rugs, sunshades, throws and hammocks to optimize your comfort.

3. Plants, plants, plants. Bring your deck to life with greenery. Choose hardy plants that will beautify your yard — and make you feel like you're on a tropical holiday.

4. Modular furniture. Many garden furniture retailers sell sofas and tables that you can configure in multiple ways, so you can readily adapt your deck to your needs and desires.

5. Eco-responsible materials. Recycled and environmentally sustainable fabrics, wood and other building materials are always in style.

Elevate your outdoor living space!

How to keep your lawn healthy



Do you want your lawn to look great all summer? Adopt these practices.

Sharpen your lawnmower blades. Clean-cut grass grows back faster than grass that's been ripped or torn.

Leave the clippings on the ground. They'll slowly release nitrogen. However, avoid leaving a layer thicker than one-quarter of an inch. This will smother the grass.

Mow more often but leave it longer. Cutting your grass to a height of two to three inches promotes root development and grass density. It also makes the grass less vulnerable to drought.

Aerate soil at the end of summer. This will improve water and nutrient circulation to the roots.

Water only as needed. Water your grass to a depth of about one inch a week, including rainfall. Water in the morning to limit evaporation.

Apply compost. This provides essential nutrients, stimulates root growth and increases resistance to diseases and pests.

Overseed. Apply grass seed to vour lawn between late summer and early autumn to ensure lush growth.





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Debunking 3 gardening myths

Are you new to gardening? If so, you've probably heard all types of advice floating around. To ensure you start out on the right foot, here are three common gardening myths debunked.

1. "Coffee grounds do wonders for the garden"

Have you been told coffee grounds can chase away slugs or unwanted insects, enrich the soil or act as mulch? The truth is that sprinkling this organic waste around the base of your plants doesn't really do anything. It can even prevent water and air circulation. Simply add it to your compost.

2. "Potted plants should always have a drainage layer"

You don't need a base layer of small rocks or clay balls if you're planting vegetables or flowering plants in containers with drainage holes. To prevent soil from coming out of the holes after watering, line the bottom of the container with old newspaper or a coffee filter.

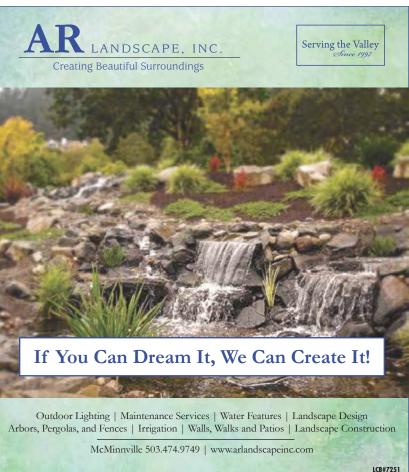
3. "Never put rhubarb leaves in the compost"

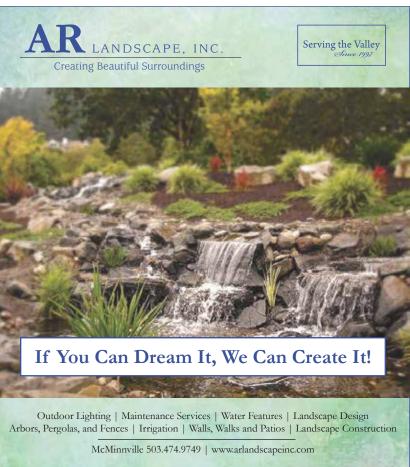
This misconception stems from the fact that rhubarb leaves are slightly toxic and unsafe to consume. However, don't hesitate to add them to your compost bin. The oxalic acid they contain quickly transforms into a harmless substance during the decomposition process.

Trust the horticultural experts for accurate and reliable information on the best gardening practices.



SUMMER 2023











Which flowers can you grow in direct sunlight?

All flower species have specific sunlight requirements. For example, too little or too much light can delay blooms or cause premature death. Do you have a bright, sunny patch in your yard and want to show it off with a flash of colorful flowers? Here are some tips and suggestions to guide your selection.

Critical criteria

The species you choose must be suited to the space where you want them to grow. They must be able to handle direct and prolonged sunlight or at least be able to tolerate it. It's also important to account for other criteria, such as the plant's water needs, ideal soil type and the hardiness zone you live in.

Favorable flowers

There are plenty of flowers that thrive in direct sunlight. The following list is just a sample:

- Echinacea
- Oxeye sunflower
- Iris
- Marguerite daisy
- Peony
- Tulip

- Poppy
- Geranium
- Gladiolus
- Lilv
- Petunia
- Sunflower

If you decide to combine several flower species in your garden, ensure neighboring plants are compatible and have the space they need to thrive.

Plan a trip to your local garden center to select the flowers you want to grow in full sunlight.

Elevate your outdoor living space!

Patio furniture: 5 criteria to make the right choice



Are you looking for the perfect patio set? To make the best choice for your needs, consider the following criteria when purchasing your furniture and accessories.

1. Use. Determine how you'll use your patio set. For example, a comfortable armchair is a must if you want a spot to read and sunbathe, but you probably don't need a large table. Ensure your setup has some side tables, chests or ottomans where you can put down a book or glass.

2. Comfort. Don't hesitate to try out the chairs in the store. The presence or absence of armrests, the height of the chairs relative to the table, the number of possible adjustments and the depth of the seat are all characteristics that'll influence your comfort level.

3. Available space. If your patio is small, choose chairs that can slide under the table or be folded or stacked. Multifunctional furniture, such as a storage bench or table with an extension leaf, is also a good choice.

4. **Quality.** Choose high-quality pieces that can withstand the whims of Mother Nature. For instance, ensure the cushions are UV and mold resistant. Looking for a set with an umbrella? Make sure the base won't get carried away by the wind.

5. Materials. Wrought iron, aluminum, steel, wood, composite, synthetic rattan – the list goes on. Find out the advantages and disadvantages of each to make an informed decision. Weight, durability, style, maintenance, cost and weather resistance are some of the factors to consider.

Ornamental plants: 3 tips for choosing your potting soil

Potting soil is a growing medium used by many gardeners, both in the garden and for potted plants. However, the choice of which one to use shouldn't be left to chance. Here are some tips to help guide your purchase.

1. Consider how you'll use it

The type of potting soil you use depends on where your decorative plants will grow. If you're using it outdoors, it's best not to use soil intended for indoor plants. Opt for black earth and garden soil.

2. Consider the needs of your plants

Certain plants have specific needs. For example, orchids, cacti, succulents and epiphytes need well-draining soil. Acidophilic plants like azaleas, on the other hand, require very acidic soil to ensure they bloom.



3. Choose a quality product

Choose homogeneous potting soils without poorly decomposed components. Take the time to read the label and analyze the ingredients. Certain materials, such as manure or organic fertilizers, should catch your attention.

Highlight your favorite landscape elements with outdoor lighting

Do you long to admire your garden day and night? You can! Highlight your landscaping with strategically placed light fixtures throughout your yard. Once lit, your plants, your pathways and even your pool will give your garden a magical feel after sundown.

A well-integrated landscape lighting system will allow you to create the atmosphere you desire, whether you wish to relax in a peaceful oasis, entertain in an enchanting atmosphere or impress your guests with the fanciest of backyards.

A few tips

Lighting vertical surfaces such as tall trees or fences will make your yard seem bigger.

Combine function and form by lighting up your pathways, entrance and outdoor kitchen. Don't overdo it, though: the goal is to be able to move around safely, not to see as if it were daylight.

Finally, shine the spotlight on the main features of your landscaping. You could use projectors to make your pool or water fountain shimmer. Other options include illuminating flowerbeds, shrubs or your deck.



You may need to do some pruning to keep your plants healthy or change their appearance. If so, you'll need a good pair of pruning shears. Equipped with a sharp convex blade and a concave support blade, they're a must-have tool for every gardener.



Call in the pros to design an outdoor lighting system that's as functional as it is beautiful.

How to choose a pair of pruning shears

Features

Pruning shears come in several types, with prices ranging from \$20 to over \$100. The blades are typically made of stainless steel. However, the shape can vary depending on the type of plant you're cutting. First, determine the diameter of the branches or stems you'll be trimming. This will allow you to narrow down your choices. The cutting capacity is usually indicated on the product packaging.

You'll notice that most pruning shears have springs between the handles to reduce the workload and minimize hand fatigue.



Many models also have safety latches to lock the blade when the tool isn't in use. This mechanism is essential if you have young children.

Some models have nonslip handles, which reduce the risk of injury when you're cutting, especially if the plants are wet. If you have arthritis or compromised fine motor skills, look for an ergonomic model to prevent discomfort while you're gardening.

eats and summer henc

Beet and orange salad with goat cheese

This colorful salad is a mouth-watering summer treat that makes the perfect starter or side dish.

Servings: 4

INGREDIENTS

- For the vinaigrette:
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1/4 cup olive oil • 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon grainy mustard
- Salt and pepper, to taste

For the salad:

- 2 oranges • 2 cooked beets
- A handful of pomegranate seeds • 2 cups of greens of your choice
- (e.g., mesclun or spring mix)
- 7 ounces goat cheese

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Combine all the dressing ingredients. Set aside.
- 2. Trim the oranges to remove the segments. 3. Cut the cooked beets into pieces of similar size
- to the orange segments.
- 4. Arrange the beets, orange segments, pomegranate seeds
- and greens on four small plates.
- 5. Crumble a guarter of the goat cheese over each serving.
- 6. Drizzle with vinaigrette and serve.

Use a sharp knife to remove the orange segments. Remove the peel and white membrane from each wedge, leaving only the flesh.

Servings: 6 DIRECTIONS INGREDIENTS 6 soft tortillas • 3 tablespoons mayonnaise • 2 tablespoons plain yogurt or sour cream • 1 tablespoon hot sauce (e.g., Tabasco) • 2 teaspoons cayenne pepper • 1 teaspoon garlic powder • 1 tablespoon flour • 16 ounces medium shrimp, peeled and deveined charred • 2 tablespoons vegetable oil • 2 cups shredded cabbage (green, Savoy or Chinese) • 1 red onion, thinly sliced • 1 avocado, thinly sliced

Do you love to grill? Use your BBQ to make this recipe



- Looking for delicious, easy-to-make dinners for those low-energy evenings or when you want to make the most of the sunshine? These eight ideas will surely find a place on your meal plan this summer.
- **1. BLT pizza.** Decadent bacon, crisp lettuce and juicy cherry tomatoes give this meal a summery feel. Plus, you barely have to use the oven.
- 2.Tofu quesadillas. Tortillas, vege-5. Halloumi cheese and grilled tables, shredded Tex-Mex cheese, a tofu vegetables. Grill these tasty inspread and less than 10 minutes in the gredients on the barbecue to oven are all you need to cook this dinner. bring out the fresh flavors.

How to choose a barbecue

Do you dream of cooking meals on the grill in your backyard or balcony but don't yet have a barbecue? Here are some tips for choosing the right one.

TYPE

Propane barbecues are versatile, easy to use and guick to heat up. Charcoal or wood-burning barbecues impart delicious flavor but are more difficult to light and take longer to reach an optimal temperature. On the other hand, electric barbecues offer even heat distribution, except at low temperatures.

MATERIAL

Certain materials, like stainless steel, will ensure your barbecue has a long service life. If the appliance's firebox is made of enamelled cast iron, it should be at least an eighth of an inch thick. Remember that metal or porcelain-coated steel grates are generally more difficult to clean.

COOKING SURFACE

The size of the barbecue and the number of burners you need largely depend on what you'll be grilling and how much of it. The larger the barbecue, the more energy it needs to reach the desired heat. If you often cook fish or white meat, it's a good idea to look for a model with at least two independent burners. This gives you the option of not cooking directly over the flame.

ACCESSORIES

Some models come with additional accessories, such as a side burner (similar to a cooker), a sear burner (perfect for blue steaks) and a rotisserie for cooking on a spit.

The many criteria you consider when looking for the perfect barbecue are chiefly about how you plan to use the grill. Other elements to consider include your budget, the number of wheels, the ignition system and whether it has a built-in thermometer.



Shrimp tacos

Packed with fresh, crisp ingredients, these tacos conjure memories of a seaside holiday.

- 1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
- 2. Wrap the tortillas in aluminum foil and place them in the oven for 10 minutes before serving.
- 3. In a small bowl, combine the mayonnaise, yogurt and hot sauce. Set aside.
- 4. In another small bowl, combine the cayenne, garlic powder and flour.
- 5. Place the shrimp in a medium bowl and sprinkle with the flour mixture, ensuring every piece is evenly coated. 6. Heat the oil in a large cast iron or non-stick skillet over
- Add the shrimp and cook on both sides until slightly
- 7. Lay the warm tortillas out on a clean work surface. Add a tablespoon of hot sauce to each tortilla. Then, divide the cabbage, onion slices, avocado slices and shrimp evenly among the tortillas. Serve immediately.

Blueberry crisp

Blueberry crisp is a classic summer dessert. When blueberry season is in full swing, make the most of it with this "berry" delicious antioxidant-packed treat.

Servings: 8

INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups fresh (or thawed) whole blueberries
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 1 cup and 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup oatmeal
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- A pinch of salt
- 3/4 cup melted butter
- 1/2 cup almonds, coarsely chopped

For garnish (optional)

- A few mint leaves
- 1/2 cup whole almonds
- 1/2 cup fresh blueberries

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Preheat the oven to 375 F.
- 2. Place the blueberries in a large bowl and add the lemon juice. Sprinkle the mixture with the sugar and 2 tablespoons of flour. Mix well.
- 3. Divide the mixture among 8 small ramekins or pour into a regular pie dish.
- 4. In the same bowl, combine the cup of flour, oats, brown sugar and salt.
- 5. Slowly pour in the melted butter to moisten all the ingredients. Then, spread the mixture evenly over the blueberries.
- 6. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until the topping is golden brown.
- 7. Meanwhile, lightly toast the chopped almonds in a pan.
- 8. Remove the crisp(s) from the oven and let sit for 10 minutes before serving. Divide the toasted almonds among the crisp(s) and garnish with the other toppings, if desired.



8 quick and simple recipes to add to your summer meal plan

- 3. Moroccan couscous. Seasoned with garam masala and mint leaves, this couscous is a perfect match for ground lamb and Asian-style vegetables.
- 4. Pasta salad with pesto and prosciutto. Garnish it with chunks of cheese and fresh tomatoes, and this salad will have it all.
- 6. Spring rolls. Assemble the rolls at the table so everyone can create their own combinations.
- 7. Creamy coleslaw. This salad is a great opportunity to use your cooked broccoli stalks. Thinly slice them and let them macerate for a few minutes in the creamy dressing.
- 8. Shredded turkey or crab rolls. Easy to eat on the go, these classic rolls are endlessly customizable!



EVERYTHING HOME

5 ideas for a functional, attractive kitchen island



Do you need an additional work surface **3. Don't forget trim** or more storage space in your kitchen? Installing an island is a great solution. On top of simplifying food prep, it can also serve as a gathering place for family and friends. Here are five ways to make your island functional and beautiful.

1. Consider built-ins

Depending on how you use your kitchen, vou can add a built-in herb station, compost bin, microwave oven, sink, hotplate or even a small pantry.

2. Add shelves

Place your favorite cookbooks on the shelves so they're always within reach. You could also use the shelf space to display a few practical and decorative items.

Depending on your style, wood or metal trim, for example, can give your kitchen a warm, rustic, chic or industrial look.

4. Play with contrast

In addition to matching your island to the rest of your kitchen, consider adding a contrasting element, whether it's a countertop in a different material or cabinets painted in a contrasting color.

5. Include electrical outlets

Outlets are handy for using small appliances during food prep or for charging electronic devices.



Do you want to change the decor of your bedroom to give it a more elegant atmosphere? Here are six themes to inspire you.

poster bed.

on the wall.

3. Bohemian. Install long, sheer curtains on the windows or hang them directly from the ceiling with soft backlighting. Add a pop of color to the room by filling the bed with cozy cushions.



4. Urban. Create a brick accent wall - real or faux - and adorn it with metallic accessories. Choose dark tones like black and gray for an extra touch of chic.

5. Scandinavian. Combine elements like natural wood, rope and wool. Keep things simple in white and black to create a clean, warm atmosphere. Focus on a few decorative, functional objects.

6. Zen. Paint the walls a soft color and fill the space with plants, simple furniture and varied light sources. Your serene space will surely be conducive to relaxation.

Are you short on creativity or confidence? Team up with an interior designer to help you create the space of your dreams.



6 decorating themes for an elegant bedroom

1. Romantic. Combine shades of white and pale pink to add softness to the room. Install moldings along the walls to create a sense of grandeur. Complete the space with a faux fur rug and a four-

2. Adventurer. Play around with earth tones and decorate the room with elements that evoke images of worldwide travel. Want to make an impression? Display a large map of the ancient world

How to choose a bath



Do you need to replace your bathtub and want to take the opportunity to try out a brand-new model? Discover the different types of baths to find one that suits you best.

1. Corner. Ideal for small spaces or those with large windows, corner tubs can typically accommodate one or two people.

2. Freestanding. Designed to stand independently anywhere in the room, freestanding tubs have a contemporary look. They're best suited to a more spacious room and require extra planning for water supply and drainage.

3. Clawfoot. Made of acrylic or cast iron, clawfoot tubs are valued for their depth. These tubs have exposed pipes and long backrests for optimal relaxation.

4. Whirlpool. Often available in platform models, whirlpool tubs have a pump that propels air to circulate the water and give you a relaxing massage.

5. Alcove. Designed to fit into a recessed three-wall nook, alcove tubs are affordable and can easily be configured to incorporate a shower. You can give it an updated look with a pre-formed acrylic insert.

6. Drop-in. These tubs are designed to be dropped into a prebuilt deck or surrounding walls. The rim is usually covered with ceramic, stone or wood. Drop-in tubs come in many styles and offer versatile faucet placement possibilities.

7. Walk-in. Easily accessible for people with reduced mobility, walk-in tubs consist of a watertight door that opens near floor level, a bench and safety bars.

Carefully compare the prices, quotes, warranties and after-sales services of the bath companies you're interested in before making your decision.

EVERYTHING HOME

Revive your kitchen: resurface your cabinets



Are you looking for a way to refresh the look of your kitchen without completely gutting it? Resurfacing your cabinets might be the perfect solution.

What is it?

Resurfacing, as the name suggests, involves giving the surface of your kitchen cabinets a makeover. Unlike a complete remodel, this process allows you to keep your existing cabinetry by updating its look. For example, you can apply a decorative veneer to the doors, remove them to expose your dishes or replace them entirely.

The advantages

Since resurfacing allows you to change the style of your kitchen by reusing the existing cabinetry, it creates less waste and is, therefore, an environmentally friendly choice. It's ideal if you like the layout of your cabinets but no longer like how they look. Finally, resurfacing is affordable since the work is less labor-intensive and quick to complete.

You can also resurface cabinets in other rooms, such as the bathroom. Ask a company specializing in this type of work about how you can improve the appearance of your home.

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Have you always dreamt of building a workshop dedicated to your practical or creative projects? If you have an unused area in your garage, turn it into a DIY space.

Make a plan

Create a plan that includes the dimensions of each item you own or plan to build to give you an idea of how to organize the space. Maximize your storage space by incorporating cabinets under the workbench or adding shelves and hooks. Draw up some plans to explore different layout options.

Focus on practicality

Make the most of your workspace by installing lockable castors under your worktable. This will allow you to move it to the middle of the garage when your vehicle isn't parked inside and reposition it near the wall when your project is finished.

Think about comfort

cooling system.

Don't overlook safety

Power tools pose a hazard, especially to young children. Make sure they're stored in a locked cabinet or placed high enough to limit access.

Expert tips for creating a workshop space in your garage

Personalize your space by adding a radio or Bluetooth speaker to listen to some tunes while you work. Want to tinker in every season? Add insulation and contact an expert to install a heating or

RFNOS

3 elements to consider when choosing a contractor

Whether you want to install new flooring, knock down a wall or finish your basement, choosing a competent and trustworthy contractor is essential to get the job done right. Here are three crucial elements to look for when choosing a contractor.

1. License

The contractor you choose should be licensed, bonded and insured, ensuring they've met critical training and skill-testing prerequisites. These credentials can give you confidence that they'll provide high-quality work that meets all current building codes and standards. Failing to take this precaution can be a safety risk.

2. Contract

It's essential to sign a contract that includes details like applicable standards, insurance and warranties. If a contractor refuses to sign an agreement or doesn't take the job seriously, you can legitimately doubt their professionalism.

3. Invoice

A detailed invoice will be essential should you file a complaint or take legal ac tion. If you don't have one, it won't be easy to prove the work was completed and, therefore, to receive compensation.



These three elements will help protect you if there's a problem like an accident or faulty installation - research several contractors before entrusting one with your renovation project.

THE REAL ESTATE MARKET



What does it mean to have good credit for buying a house?



If you're planning on buying a home, you'll likely need to obtain a mortgage. Do you think having a good credit score is all you need? Think again!

The importance of a good credit score

Your credit score serves as a risk indicator for lenders. If your score is below 650, this could limit your pool of potential lenders. Conversely, if your score exceeds 720, financial institutions will be more likely to trust you and give you a better rate.



Credit report

In addition to your credit score, your credit report includes essential information about your credit history, including data about various types of credit, such as lines of credit and revolving credit.

Getting a loan

Every financial institution has a process for assessing your creditworthiness. They usually check your credit rating, income, down payment, mortgage stress-test score and other elements.

Contact a financial advisor or mortgage broker to find out about your financial and credit situation.

3 elements to consider when buying a waterfront property

Do you want to buy a home near the sea, close to a river or on a lake? Whether you're considering building or buying an existing home, there are several things you need to know before moving near water.

1. High price tag

Homes with direct access to the water usually have a high price tag. For example, maintaining a dock or seawall adds to the total cost of the property. You don't get that same easy access with a water-view property and may have to rent a space for your boat if you enjoy water activities.

2. Increased risk

Although properties near water offer beautiful scenery, they come with added risks, including frequent repairs due to wind and possible flooding. Moreover, your insurance premium will likely increase and should be factored into your budget.

3. Proximity to services

Not all properties near water have the same access to certain services, such as drinking water, electricity, internet and local shops. Additionally, being close to the water doesn't necessarily mean you'll be able to use a boat. Some areas prohibit gaspowered watercraft because of noise and safety concerns.

Are you looking forward to owning a waterfront property? Contact a real estate broker or contractor to help you find your dream home.



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GREENIDEAS The golden rules of ecological gardening

Do you dream of having beautiful flowerbeds, a lush lawn and a large vegetable garden overflowing with healthy foods and fragrant herbs? Here are some basic gardening rules that won't harm the environment.

• **Don't use pesticides.** These chemical substances are used to kill harmful insects and weeds. However, they're bad for your health and that of the planet. Fortunately, there are eco-friendly alternatives, such as crushed eggshells and pyrethrin.

• Use natural fertilizers. Although fertilizers are meant to help plants grow, they can pollute the water table and deplete the soil of vital nutrients. Look for natural fertilizers that will achieve the same results.

• Avoid unnecessary watering. Water is a precious resource that must be used thoughtfully. Avoid watering shallowly or when the sun is bright; the water will evaporate too quickly. Instead, water close to the ground and store rainwater whenever possible. You can find containers designed for this purpose in shops selling gardening accessories.

• **Encourage biodiversity.** Mixing plant species makes your garden more resistant to threats like pests and extreme weather conditions.



To support biodiversity, ensure you include native plants essential for wildlife survival.

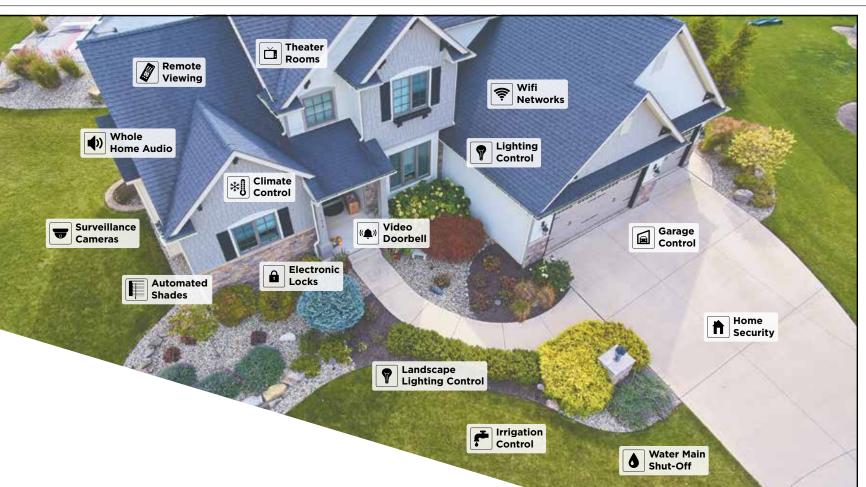
Visit your local garden store or nursery to stock up on accessories and get professional advice to help you create the garden of your dreams.



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