

The Scoop from the Soil Up

January-February 2014 Edition

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When it comes to your garden, the possibilities aren't limited to the ground. Additionally, as Florida residents, new plant additions aren't limited to certain times of year either. For your late wintertime additions, start with a selection of your favorite flowers, using creative consideration of where to plant them to lift your garden's focal point. Plant containers are a great way to achieve this. Moreover, undertaking your plant container project can also turn into family fun.

Pots can elevate your garden into the third dimension while underscoring your personal style. Likewise, hanging planters not only elevate your garden, but bring it closer to your home. Visiting your local garden supply to see the latest selections of clay decorative pots and multi-styled hanging options can give you inspiration on how plant containers can offer a special touch to your outdoor living space.

Larger structures, such as trellises, pergolas and arbors can also act as great plant containers while providing homeowners with relaxing sights and sitting areas. Often homeowners can work with their landscaping company to create structures that are custom designed to accommodate hanging planters or built-in pots, matching their style and goals exactly, as a little imagination can go a long way towards generating beautiful and unique scenes.

You may even choose to create your own personalized and timeless plant containers to add extra flair to your garden while emphasizing your favorite theme. It's also a fun

way to repurpose or 'upcycle' items that are no longer in use. You could, for example, create a rustic look by using a wooden wheelbarrow or canoe as a container. With bounties of multi-colored flowers overflowing from such a unique plant pot, the effect will be whimsical yet elegant.

An idea that the kids may enjoy is painting an old bicycle a beautiful deep blue or rose pink color. The bicycle's woven baskets would act as suitable planters since they already have appropriate drainage properties. The finished product could act as a complementing piece within your garden or a centerpiece, standing alone to catch guests' eyes and smiles. Likewise, tires can come in handy as great plant containers with a youthful charm. Painting them in bright neon colors complements the blooms they hold. You could arrange them alone on the ground or stacked like a pyramid to draw gazes upwards.

Whichever display you decide on, there are some key aspects to consider when starting a container garden. Firstly, the containers you use should have holes at the bottom to enable the soil to drain freely so that the plant roots have an adequate air supply. You'll also need to use potting soil rather than the soil in your ground-based garden. Potting soil is well aerated, sterile and lightweight. Moreover, it has the proper balance of organic material and mineral particles to sustain your plant life. Finally, there is no need to fill an entire container with soil; the amount you should use will depend upon the types of plants that it will house. A trick to use less soil, and help the environment, is to put empty plastic bottles in the bottom thirds of each container. This will also enable the containers to be lighter and easier to move.

Plant containers can result in the perfect addition to your garden, acting as conversation starters and pieces to admire as you relax and soak up the Florida sun. The benefits of creating your own plant containers range from fun to educational since doing so is a great opportunity

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Featured Job

Complete Landscape Makeover

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Before



After



(Continuing from previous page.)

for family interaction, getting the kids to use their creativity while learning about gardening, which studies have shown to be tremendously beneficial to their cognitive development. If you're interested in container gardening but none of the pots in the store fit your fancy, creating your own containers may be a good project for you. ■

Tip Tuesday Highlights from our Facebook and Twitter pages:

Recycling yard waste, whether it is from mowing, pruning or raking, has many benefits. Using compost as a soil additive for your plants, for example, not only enriches your yard but saves money as well.

If you haven't already done so, now is a great time to fertilize your established fruit trees. Need specific advice? Give us a call on [\(727\) 526-8835](tel:727-526-8835) and we'll talk you through the best care for them.

Be sure to consider the many elements of your yard when choosing the right plants for your landscaping project, including its soil, drainage properties, sun exposure and structural limitations. Keep in mind that these conditions may differ at various points throughout your yard.

Landscaping is a great investment to make for your property monetarily, but be careful not to overlook the lifestyle benefits it can have. Exercising your imagination when undertaking a landscape makeover can help you to get the most out of your outdoor space and be excited about the end product.



Dear Reader,

The Scoop from the Soil Up wishes our readers a happy and prosperous New Year. 2013 proved to be eventful for Albright Landscaping. We're happy to have gotten the chance to work with so many new and previous clients.

This year, we hope to continue to help you uncover the ideal landscapes that you may have buried in your imaginations. If you fancy stepping into 2014 on the right foot, sans unrealistic resolutions, consider minor updates to your landscaping in January and February to prepare your soil for major ones in the spring while avoiding those few freeze warnings that may rear their heads in the coming weeks.

With Best Wishes,
the family of

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