

GARDENS Four Seasons

GARDENDESIGN - DECEMBER 2016

“The perfect Christmas tree? All Christmas trees are perfect!”

- Charles N. Barnard



DECOR - how to use it in a garden

This time of year, the most celebrated & decorated tree ever, makes it's appearance inside (& outside) our homes as well as many public spaces. We are so fortunate to be able to use a touch of nature to help celebrate Christmas & it brings to mind the Decor we can add to our outdoor spaces all year 'round. Let's take a look at what Garden Decor is, where it can be used & where to obtain it.

Decor, strategically placed, softens the landscape & add touches of interest, texture & colour. It can also contrast or complement nearby plants or simply add a touch of whimsy.



So my interpretation of what qualifies as Decor is very broad - anything that reflects your tastes & personality - or that makes you smile every time you see it, whatever the season. It can be functional or it can be simply ornamental. It may be an item specifically designed for garden use such as a bench or a bit of wrought iron adornment picked up from a yard sale.



- someday I will have a bench such as this to grace my own yard.....

I do have a number of smaller items like a cast iron frog & some silver gazing balls that I store in my garage for the winter - mostly because they aren't visible once we get snow cover. Ideally however,

it should be able to withstand being outside all year. Things like a bistro table & chairs or some form of statuary beg to be cloaked in snow or frost & should be placed where the sight can be enjoyed from not only outside but inside too.



- magnificent Winter vignette

Garden Decor can make an appearance anywhere - an artful mailbox, intricately patterned gate or privacy screen. Of course Fairy Gardens are quintessential Decor but so is any sort of water feature be it a pond or recirculating water feature. Nature creates many of her own delightful pieces - interesting rocks or boulders, & of course driftwood. Don't forget about Bird Houses & Wind Chimes either!



Make use of it in unexpected places like a gargoyle peering down at you from a rooftop or fence.



- Gargoyle - fence hanger - I WANT!

Maybe hide, camouflage or otherwise take attention away from something unsightly like a gas meter or a glimpse of the neighbour's dog house.



- remarkable use of an old door

Plump up any spots where plants haven't filled in completely or have failed. Use it to enhance the look of a particular plant or bed such as a mixed perennial border with Dwarf Daylily fringing the base of an ornate Bird Bath - memorable!



- excellent example of 'Spade Art'

Position it up close to where you sit or relax outside or where it can be easily enjoyed as you come & go. Just don't forget to remember scale & proportion when deciding placement. for example an adorable life size chickadee statue would be lost in a distant view - so use something more sizeable - it'll be much more visible.



- you just *CAN'T* miss these house numbers doubling as Decor - imaginative!

Here are some Sources for decorative delights - you might even be able to grab something for a last minute Christmas gift!

- Kijiji
- Flea Markets & Yard Sales
- Antique Shops
- Dollar Stores (yes - surprisingly you can pick up some cool stuff!)
- Home Building centres & Big Box stores
- Early's Farm & Garden
- Any of the large greenhouses that stay open year 'round.



There is only one DON'T you might want to consider - don't overuse! Too many items can vie for attention visually so for the best effect keep it subtle. However, also keep in mind that your yard *is* your domain & should reflect what brings you happiness - so if a lot of decor is what you crave, who am I to say it is not right? ;)



- a local yard where the homeowner clearly loves handmaking his own embellishments!

Interpretations of what is Garden Decor are infinite. I encourage you to use your imagination, have fun with it & make it your own!



I invite everyone to take a peek at the boards on my **PINTEREST** site for scads more DECOR ideas. ***OODLES of Inspiration!***

Go to my website - www.gardensfourseasons.com & click on the



icon & voila !

OR Just click the following link :

<https://www.pinterest.com/gardens4seasons/boards/>



PLANT OF THE MONTH

ROSEMARY- '*Rosmarinus officinalis*'

Why, of all times. would I discuss Rosemary in December? Well, because it is an amazingly tactile memory of the green gardens we all enjoyed a few months back (or was is only a few weeks ago?) Plus they are often for sale in the shape of a mini-Christmas tree right about now. You might have to visit a greenhouse or two to find one but some growers will have potted Rosemary in a decorative container & sheared it into a cone or maybe another shape. Also reminiscent of a conifer is it's strongly fragrant needle shaped foliage. Triple whammy!



I consider it one of my ‘must-have’ plants for each & every Summer. I grow some from seed or sometimes I just purchase one or two as bedding plants. Then I have it on hand in case I hear of any cooks in need ;) (it dries & stores quite nicely) But truthfully I love it because of the incredibly pungent aroma it emits when touched or rubbed against. It comes from the Mediterranean & so luxuriates in the heat & sun. They sometimes will offer up tiny lavender tinted blooms but it is the Rosemary’s scent that makes it so remarkable.



& Hey! So much nicer than a small plastic tree or the extra work setting up a full size one. I find myself smiling whenever I can just reach over & touch one. They make amazing hostess gifts
& Dang! I just talked myself into finding one - let me think - should I check out a greenhouse, florist shop or maybe the flower department of my grocery store. Perhaps I can set it in a sunny kitchen window & overwinter it until Spring - hmmm - maybe a topiary ball shape.....
.....done & done!



- *Rosemary Topiary - a very sophisticated, classy look, non? ;)*



DESIGN BRILLIANCE

Now HERE is a multifunctional bit of Garden Accoutrement!

Use it as a conversation piece in your Summer garden - grow cucumbers or sweet peas over it as a trellis - use it as a stunning winter setting when the frost & snow transform it - magical!



GARDENDESIGN in 2017 will allow me to elaborate on many more of my favourite topics.

Please don't be shy to suggest anything you would like me to cover!

Meantime - I wish all my wonderful Readers a very Holly, Jolly Christmas & an amazing New Year!

Missed the **BACK ISSUES** on

PLANTS as DECOR

or **FENCE & WALL ART**

or **FAIRY GARDENS?**



Well, TODAY is your lucky day! Shoot me a request for ANY or ALL of these topics & you will have them delivered to YOUR Inbox lickadeesplit!



DID YOU KNOW? - I never, Ever, EVER share my email list - EVER! :)

* to UNSUBSCRIBE from GARDENDESIGN please reply to this email with NO THANKS!