

GARDENS Four Seasons

GARDENDESIGN - JULY/AUGUST 2017

“Once we become interested in the progress of the plants in our care, their development becomes a part of the rhythm of our own lives & we are refreshed by it.”

- Thalassa Cruso

(I could NOT have expressed it better!)

IS IT TIME FOR A CRITICAL REVIEW OF YOUR YARD?

If you are a regular reader of GARDENDESIGN - you'll know that in this edition I was going to be discussing BALCONY GARDENS.

Instead, I decided to break from the norm & offer a great little article written by a local Saskatoon gardener - Erl Svendsen.

He writes regularly for the Saskatoon Perennial Society & I thoroughly enjoy his way of thinking about yards. So he's given me permission to reprint a recent article of his. I find his advice to be appropriate Spring thru' Winter & yes, you can trim trees & bushes this time of year too!

So read on & BALCONY GARDENS will be covered in the Sept/Oct. GARDENDESIGN!



It's time to give your yard a critical review: what to remove, what to fix, what to keep. After all, your yard is supposed to enhance your quality of life & your property value.

Start by getting rid of the unwanted by throwing out, recycling or donating old boards, tomato cages, leaky hoses, unused composters, garden tools, empty pots, bicycle tires, extra lawnmower, etc. You think you've cleverly hidden them out-of-sight under your deck, behind an old spruce or alongside your house. You're not fooling anyone.

Next, deal with the weeds in your lawn, in your planting beds, in the gravel along that one side of your house & in the expansion joints in your driveway & sidewalks. You can dig them out or carefully spray them with an appropriate herbicide. To reduce future problems in your beds, add 3-4 inches of organic mulch to smother seedlings.

Next, look at your trees. Have any outgrown their purpose /space? My neighbour just removed a white spruce planted too close to his house & our common fence. Now he has more light in his dining room & we have a better view.

If you have less than 30% deadwood, prune your tree back into shape. Unless it's top-dieback like most paper birches eventually develop (caused by bronze birch borer) – then remove & replace. If there's 30-50% deadwood, you may be able to save it, but think about why there's so much: not hardy (e.g. purple leaved Norway maple=replace); wrong location (too wet=improve drainage; too dry=increase irrigation; too much traffic=reduce foot & vehicle traffic); or it's susceptible to pests & diseases (control pests or replace with a resistant species/specimen)

Also think about how long it will take the tree to recover. If there is more than 50% deadwood, there's something seriously wrong & it's time to replace with a more suitable specimen.

Shrubs are more amenable to pruning & shaping than trees, & can recover from more dieback than trees... to a point. If a shrub has outgrown its space or has developed an unattractive shape you have a few options.

Renewal prune: remove 1/3 of the oldest branches each year for three years. More drastic: prune over-mature shrubs to the ground to stimulate new growth. Or maybe it's time for something different. With less than 50% deadwood, you can prune to improve its appearance. With more than 50%, you can still prune, but think about why there's so much (as above for trees).

It is also possible that last fall or winter was unusual in some way causing more than normal dieback. This spring, all my 'Mini Sunglow' spireas in the front yard are 90-100% dead. This, after eight years without skipping a beat. I'm blaming it on the ice/snow storm in early October. I think I'll chance it & replace them with the same.

Finally, evaluate your perennials. Divide perennials that have outgrown their space. Too aggressive or expansive? Remove & replace with something better behaved. Perennials with more than 50% winter dieback? Consider as above reasons why. As with my spireas, all my blue oatgrass & blue fescue are complete write-offs. Again, I'm blaming the unusual fall. But here I'm seeing an opportunity to try something new.

- Erl Svendsen - June 2017

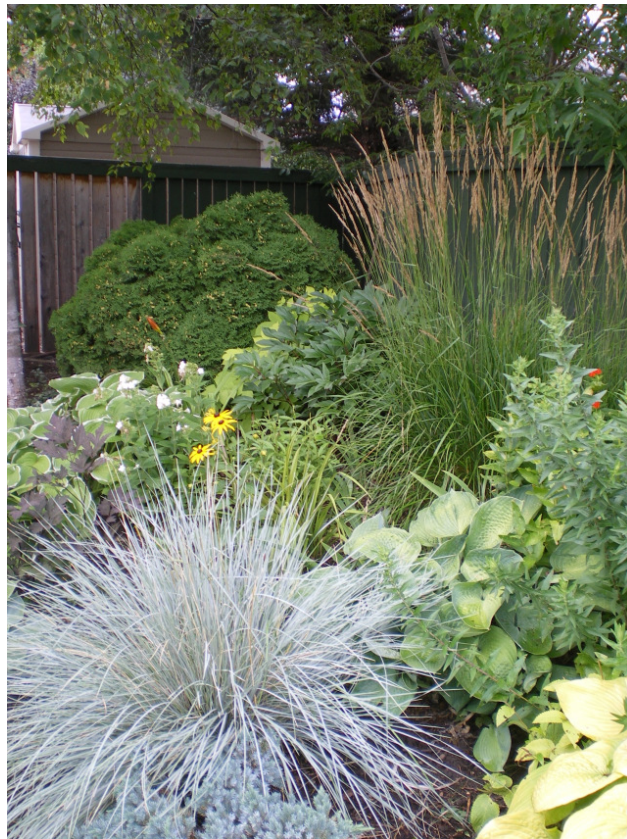


UPCOMING EVENTS

NEST SECRET GARDEN TOUR

(my all-time favourite, must experience, GARDEN TOUR that fundraises to help settle refugee women & their families in Saskatoon!)

Mark your Calendars Everyone! - Sunday July 30, 2017 1pm



This year's self-guided tour features a wonderful variety of gardens located in Montgomery Place, Riversdale & Varsity View. Included is a rooftop garden at the U of S, as well as gardens with decorative metal work & water installations. Two of the gardens featured on previous Nest garden tours are back by popular demand. Further info at

www.https://nestsaskatoon.net

Tickets are only \$15 & are available from Anthology, Dutch Growers & McNally Robinson

SASKATOON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY PASSPORT TOUR



**SASKATOON
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Celebrating Our 104th Year!
'Live and Grow Together'

On **July 29, from 1-4pm**, treat yourself to a self-guided tour of some of Saskatoon's finest gardens. There will be a limit of only 250 people - \$15 per person. The Passport will reveal information on yard locations, along with the winning garden in SHS Home Grounds Award Competition.

There is also a bus option with only 35 spots available!
Bus tickets- \$25 per person.

Passports available from either Early's locations or Dutch Growers or check out - <http://www.saskatoonhortsociety.ca>

PRAIRIE WATER GARDENING SOCIETY POND TOUR

Prairie Water Gardening Society



Sunday, July 30

No charge but you must be a PWGS member & memberships are always available at the first location of this self-guided tour of some pretty phenomenal private yard water features.

- start time & location TBA on website or contact

Jennifer Osachoff - josachoff@sasktel.net or head to

<http://www.prairiewatergarten.ca>



DESIGN CLASSES

DESIGN your DREAM YARD!

Combine Denise's 24 years of experience designing yards across Saskatchewan with your enthusiasm! You're in charge as she guides you from the idea stage to the completion of your unique garden plan.

Select your own start date & time – each of your classes will be held for 5 consecutive weeks from that date in the same time slot!

Times are usually – 10am – noon *or* 6:30 – 8:30 pm most often during the week & as requested on Saturdays.

Classes will be offered once again starting late September 2017.

Should you wish to get first notification when the Class Schedule is set (usually late Aug.) please email me – denise@gardensfourseasons.com

Thank you!

I spend far too much time on **PINTEREST** but you can benefit from my addiction by checking out all the boards I've put together on different DESIGN topics. Treat yourself!

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



icon & voila !

OR Simply click the following link :

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



PLANT OF THE MONTH

SEDUM (*creeping variety*)

This lowly plant is often overlooked until you see sweeping masses of it cascading over a raised bed edge or carpeting a flagstone walkway.

Many varieties are available for purchase at local nurseries but a few of my favourites are EWER'S SEDUM (silvery green foliage with pink blossoms in August), KAMTSCHATICUM SEDUM Variegated - aka Russian Sedum (white /green leaves with yellow /orange blossoms in June or July) & then ACRES SEDUM (yellow flowers produced profusely every June on fine cut foliage that is reminiscent of Thyme.)



It's an excellent succulent-like hardy groundcover for full sun or semi-shade spots, it reaches only about 2"-4" in height. If you've never tried it - whatcha waiting for?! :)



DESIGN BRILLIANCE

Thought I'd throw out a "teaser" for the September/August edition of **GARDENDESIGN** showcasing

BALCONY GARDENS

(it'll be worth wait - I promise!)




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Check out the **BACK ISSUE** on **NEST TOUR HIGHLIGHTS** from Last Year. Simply drop me a line & I will zip it over to you asap!



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Feel free to forward this to any friends!
(or they can email me to request their own copy!)

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

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