

GARDENS Four Seasons

GARDENDESIGN

Jan/Feb/Mar. 2020

12 IDEAS to REFRESH your LANDSCAPE!



*“Why try to explain miracles to your kids when you
can just have them plant a garden.”*

- Robert Brault

**(Robert! I plan to do just that very thing with my
grandbebes soon! hehe :)**

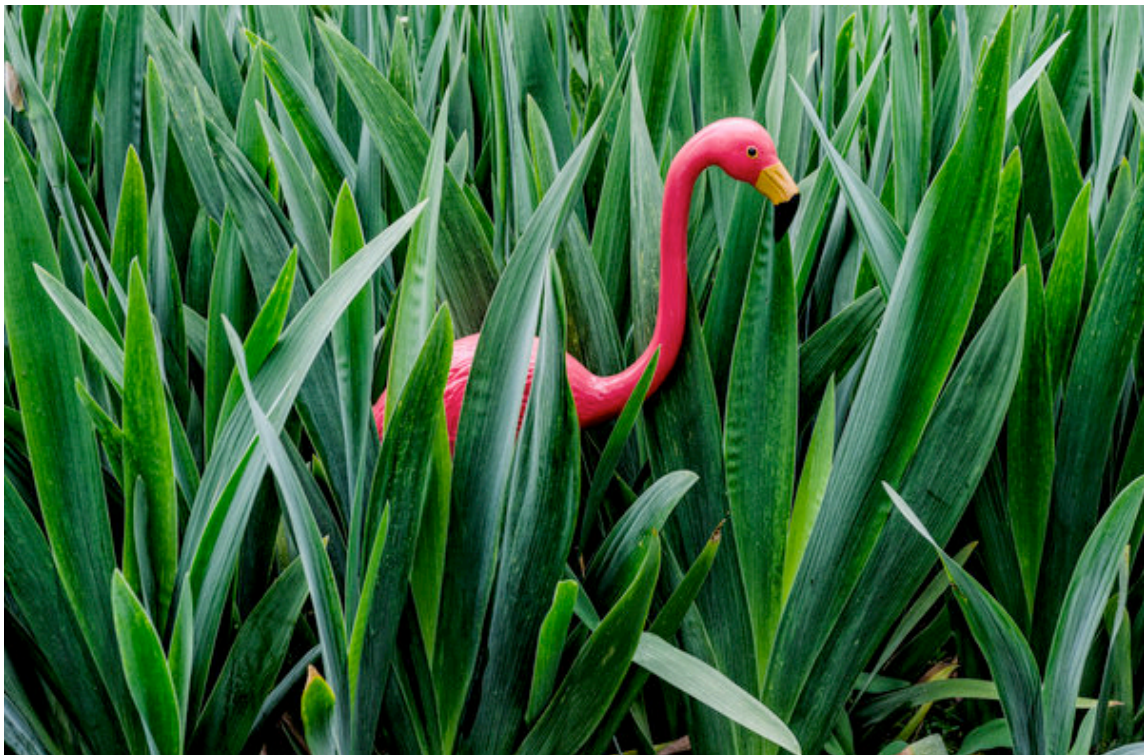
WELCOME to my New & Improved GARDENDESIGN now publishing Quarterly!

Thanks for all the suggestions, requests & comments I've received. You'll now see more interesting topics & pictures along with photos of yards I've had the pleasure of planning.

So here we go!

12 IDEAS to REFRESH your LANDSCAPE

Start your refresh job not with a shovel or pruning shears, but with a pencil & paper....eliminate a lot of hard work & discover ways to minimize your effort. Draw your house & yard to scale, then do a thorough analysis of the existing features & structures, soil quality & the plant conditions. The following 12 ideas will start you off:



1. WISH LIST

Dream a little dream! Gather inspiration from books & magazines, neighbour's yards & your travels to create your idea of a pleasing vista. Never apologize for your personal flair! Whether you like oxidized zinc plant containers or pink flamingoes, use them with abandon! Your garden should reflect YOU - whatever makes you go "ooo-oh ---ah-h-h-h!"

2. ASSESS

Think about what you like as well as what you don't like. Keep in mind function & esthetics. Perhaps you have big, old shed that simply cannot be moved. Camouflage it with plant material or draw attention away from it with a nearby striking shrub. Maybe give it a new look with a creative paint job or add a structural detail such as a small porch. Make firm decisions about what will go & what will stay, be it plants, structures or features. I believe if you



don't like something - get rid of it. If it can't be eliminated, built or changed immediately, make allowances for it in your overall plan & work around it until you reach a point in time where you can properly deal with it.

3. **PLAN**

Once your yard is drawn to scale - plot in all the structures & features you want to play up or to play down. Renovating without a plan is like building a house without a blueprint - it is critical to your success. Save yourself the time & expense of trial & error landscape renovation.



What uses your will your property afford? Explore views, play up a pleasing one & camouflage anything unsightly. Check sight lines OUT OF windows into your yard. Consider a Public Front & a Private Back. If you garden intensively then you'll want less lawn. Dine al fresco? then privacy & easy access to the kitchen are important. Children's play areas require close

proximity to adults & plenty of room! Will you complete your project in stages or all at once? Do you want to block noise or create a backdrop for a special planting?

Research your plant material allowing for seasonal interest & scent! Think also of foliage color, texture, form & make allowances for mature growth but utilize the old K.I.S.S. principle!

4. **SOIL**

With mature properties, a common complaint is “*nothing will grow here....*” The best solution is simply to work nutrients & organic matter back into the soil. Whether using



well-rotted manure or compost, dig it into a new patch or rake it into the surface of planted beds.

I cannot stress enough the importance of continually adding to your soil. Remember, true friends will help you spread manure on a sunny Sunday morning!

5. PLANTS

Assess the condition of each existing plant & ask yourself how much required to maintain it, is it growing poorly, does



it block windows, doors or pathways? Does it drop messy fruit or berries near sidewalks? Can you live with it or without it?

Then - either keep it, prune it, move it or destroy it. Life is far too short to have any plant in your life that is not pleasing you or serving a purpose.

6. PLANTS AS ORNAMENTS

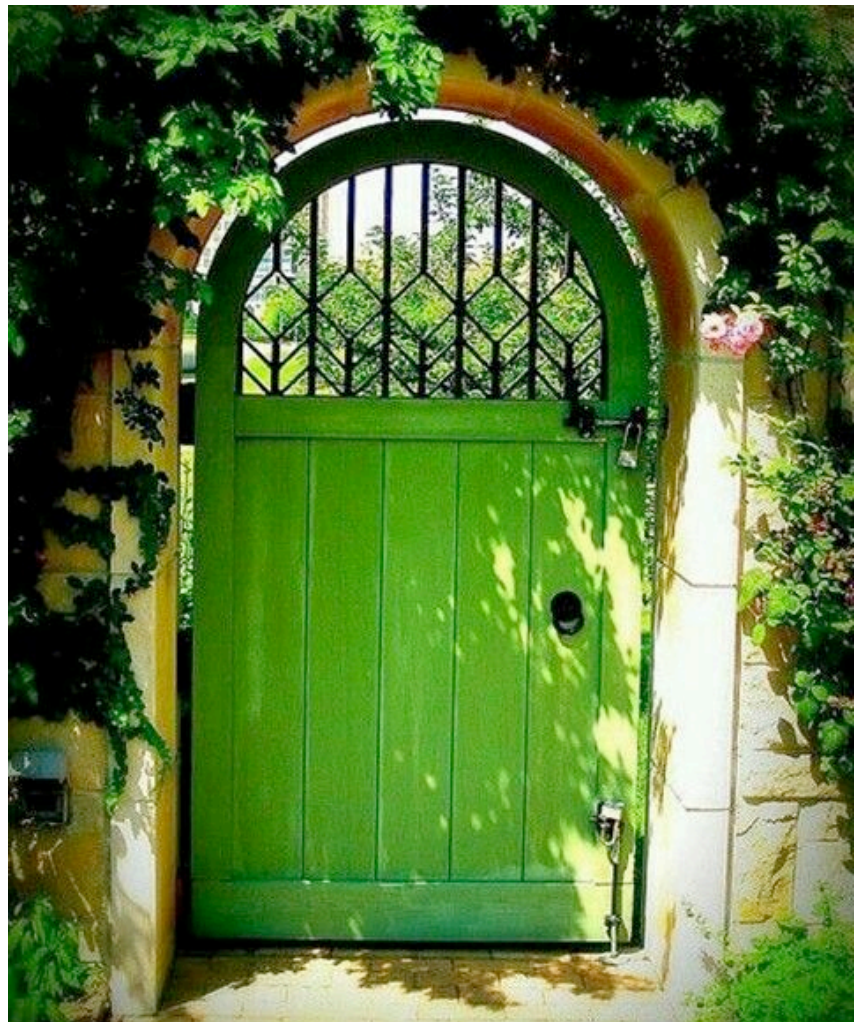
Lush, Sumptuous Summer & Minimalist Winter! It is wise when planning a landscape is to start plant selection



with those that have impact in Winter. Add Spring flowering & Autumn color, then flesh out the picture with Summer foliage! Allow for not only seasonal interest but a variety of leaf colours, interesting bark & lots of texture & shape. Silver-Variegated Dogwood looks smashing in a shady spot - the white seems to jump out at you! 'Specimen' plants such as Pagoda Dogwood, Weeping Spruce or twisty Jack Pine create drama as nothing manmade can! Use Variegated Foliage in shady spots or Burgundy Leaves in the sun! Beautiful Bark selections include Amur Cherry, River Birch, Crabapple & Japanese Tree Lilac. Plant drifts of similar plant material - exquisite! Work with Odd Numbers - a trio will show off the incredible power of 3!

7. **COLOR**

Paint one thing a bright color - a cobalt blue bench, sunny yellow bird bath or a chartreuse garden gate packs a punch in the landscape. This is a very cool trend in gardening, allowing you to add almost instant visual impact.



Light Colours - enlarge - make something seem further away & smaller (perfect for small spaces)

Dark Colours - minimize - making features or plants look closer & larger (great for large expanses)

8. RESHAPE BEDS

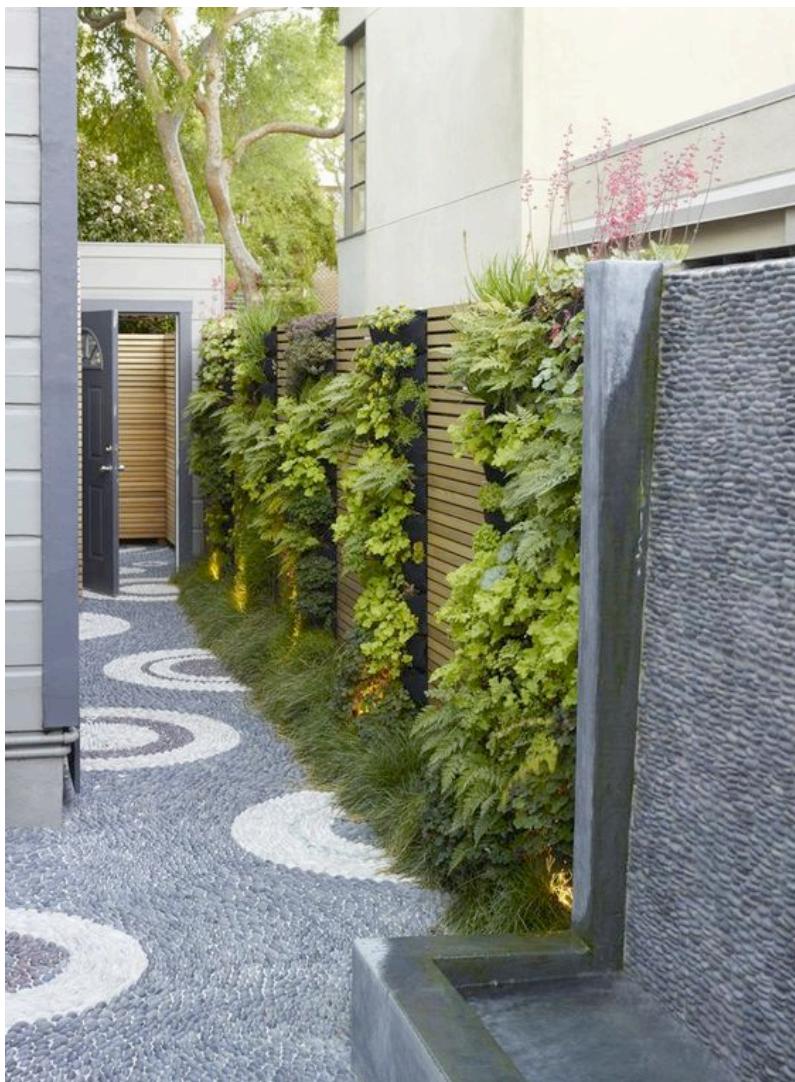
Enhance an existing planting by ‘pulling out’ the line of the bed & enlarging it or changing the shape. Determine the new outline first by using a rope or hose laid on the ground. (you can also use sand or my fave trick - flour!)



9. **POCKET GARDEN**

Making visual use of a side yard or any small, unused spots. Open up the space using 3 ‘tricks of the eye’.

Diagonal Lines for paths lead the eye back & forth, *Raised Areas* lead the eye up & *Vertical Features* on a wall or fence lead the eye unexpectedly higher The latter could be a trellis with a vine or maybe an upright, columnar plant or maybe a green wall or green wall panels which tie in with my 10th idea!



10. VERTICAL GARDENING

‘Gardening’ up or down a wall or fence makes the best use of space particularly in small areas. Whether you use plants or vines or simply a trellis as an accent, gardening vertically can define a section, border a nook or offer privacy. Other uses include hiding or camouflaging an unattractive view or wall/fence as well as offering attractive shade/sun patterns. You could also garden **DOWNWARD** with annual plant boxes overflowing with flowers & trailing plants or have them trained to grow over an arbor gate or pergola.



*- just LOVE this
smart use of an
old bed spring for
a sweetpea trellis -
how sweet!*

11. UNDERNEATH A LARGE TREE?!

Common question with an easy solution! Work with Mother Nature instead of against her. Position a few large boulders beneath & plant annuals &/or perennials. (acid



loving perennials beneath conifers!) OR Instead of struggling to grow lawn or plants under a mature tree, use an attractive cover of wood chips or crushed rock mulch. Add some carefully placed plant pots brimming with colorful shady annuals & you're set. (See Design Class client photos further down!) You might even have room for that darling little garden bench!

12. LAWN RENEWAL

Lumpy, sparse lawns require TLC & regular fertilizing but first power-rake, de-thatch & aerate! Top dress with good topsoil & reseed. Soak with water for about 1/2 hour per week. Keep your mower height at 1 1/2" - longer grass shades soil & roots & helps retain moisture.

To remedy a sunken or raised spot - slice the sod open as shown here & fill or remove the necessary soil.
Easy Peasy!



12 Ideas to Refresh your Landscape? Nah! - let's make it a baker's dozen!

Though you use your patio furniture more often, fewer things add more immediate warmth than a garden bench or 2 lawn chairs off in the distance. Garden seating beckons YOU - offering relaxation & a tranquil touch.

Visually 'Anchor" seating with backdrops of shrubs, hedges, walls, a fence or tree trunk. You should take advantage of vistas - ie: looking BACK at the house. Create a destination for viewers such as near the end of a path - secluded area or side spot - near a work station for a respite - near a pond or garden feature - close to or on a front or back porch as a welcoming spot to perch. Then you'll be able to sit & enjoy the nearby feature as well as the oft missed pleasure of looking back towards your house! Check out this delightful wrought iron number I was eyeing in Mexico recently.



As we all know - SITTING IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL. & keep in mind the most beautiful yard is nothing if it does not say "*Come out & enjoy me!*"



PLANT OF THE MOMENT

WAYFARING TREE

Viburnum lantana
(aka Mohican Wayfaring Bush)

This gorgeous plant is kinda misnamed since it usually shows up as a large bush (10' hi by 8' wide) but could be shaped into a small tree. It identifies itself as a member of the Cranberry family by producing large clusters of white flowers which turn into pinky/reddish berries. The berries themselves



turn black closer to Autumn & the leaves take on a plum shade - a nice contrast to our mostly yellow fall colours.



I like it mostly because it is uncommon, has a nice globe shape & furry, roughly textured, dark green leaves (so tactile!) The fruit is edible but not tasty. Loves the sun or part shade & is not fussy about soil.

An elegant, fuss free addition to any corner of your paradise!



Now I'd like to show you the front grounds of a client that took my Landscape Design Class!

You can see how clever placement of stone mulch & rocks makes the main focal point Blue Spruce just jump out out & how the welcoming aspect of the front entry is enhanced.



- *beautifully done!*

DESIGN BRILLIANCE



GREEN WALLS -
in our yards, in our
homes & at our places of
work are becoming
more & more common
& to this I say YAY!

This Green Wall at
Semiahmoo Library in
Surrey BC shows just
how useful & stunning
they can be.

Watch for them to
become increasingly
popular in Saskatoon!

Brilliant!

In fact, I am becoming so enamoured with **GREEN or
LIVING WALLS** - they will be the topic of
GARDENDESIGN for **Apr/May/June 2020!**
Watch for it soon!

UPCOMING EVENTS



LANDSCAPE DESIGN CLASSES

- starting soon!

In just 5 fun & lively classes you will:

- learn the clever way to measure & draw your yard to scale
- create a personalized list of shrubs, plants & perennials
- save money by picking up dozens of money-saving ideas
- save time by discovering low maintenance methods used by pros!
- create a plan for your own paradise at the only class of its kind in Saskatoon!

All classes held in Denise's Saskatoon classroom - Just **\$349!**

Start Dates:

Mon. Mar. 16 - 10am - noon *or* 6:30 - 8:30pm

Thurs. Mar. 19 - 10am - noon *or* 6:30 - 8:30pm

Sat. - Mar. 21 - 10am - noon

Contact DENISE @ (306) 244-0049 *or*

visit www.gardensfourseasons.com to book your time.

Enroll early - classes fill quickly!

GARDENS Four Seasons

"Inspired Landscape Design since 1989!"

SEEDY SATURDAY - Seed Exchange & Eco-Fair

Sat. Mar. 14 10am-3pm

Held at Station 20 West - 1120 20th St. West in Saskatoon
At this year's Seedy Saturday CHEP will again be hosting the Seed Exchange table. Named in honor of Harold Funk, a



longtime volunteer & committed seed saver, this table provides seeds for exchange that gardeners can take, grow, & return. Bring your own seeds to swap, or if you don't have any yet you can take some & bring them back next year. The seed exchange will be located on the 2nd floor in the CHEP Good Food Office. Volunteers are available to answer questions & provide seed saving tips!

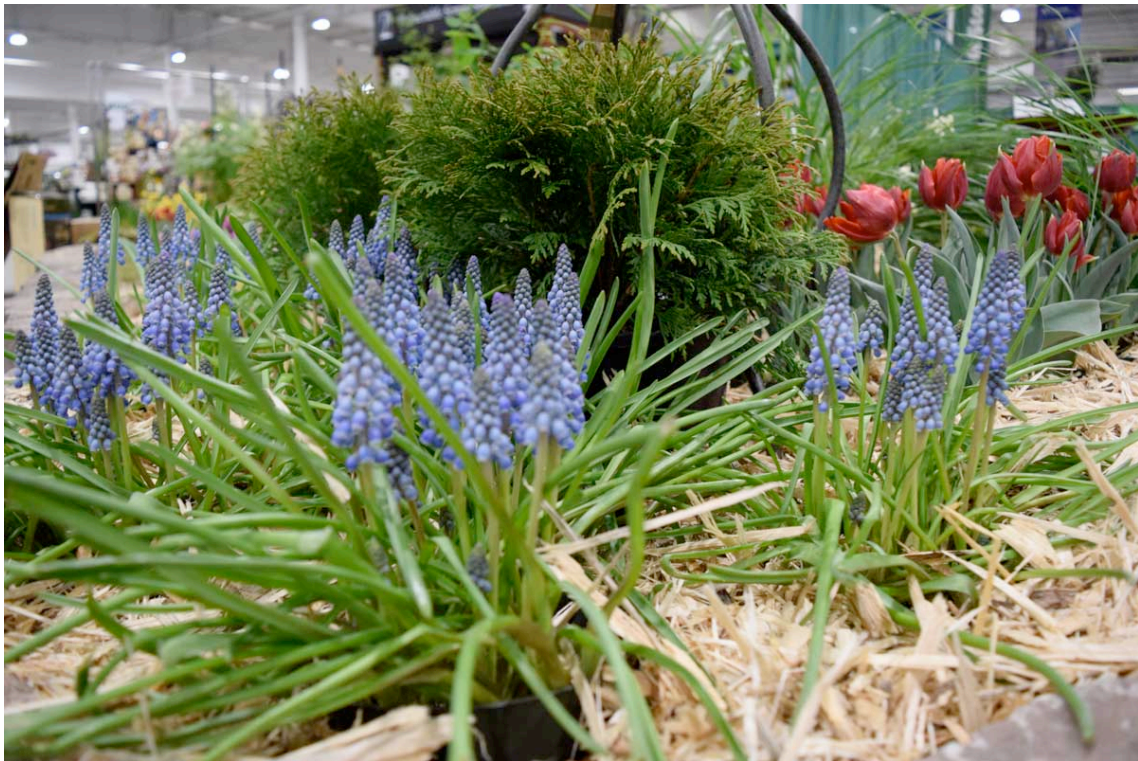
for more info -

<https://www.facebook.com/events/station-20-west/seedy-saturday/341690572994463/>

GARDENSCAPE

Mar. 27 – 29, 2020 @ Prairieland Park, Saskatoon, SK

Our traditional Kick-off to SPRING Event!



Friday, 11:00 am – 9:00 pm

Saturday, 9:00 am – 7:00 pm

Sunday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Hit this link for further info - <http://www.gardenscapeshow.ca>

SASKATOON PERENNIAL SOCIETY Information Mtg.
Bleeding Hearts & their Relatives

Wed. Mar. 25, 7:30 pm

Emmanuel Anglican Church, 607 Dufferin Ave @ 12th Street in Saskatoon - meet in the church basement.

The presenter is: Lyndon Penner (even if you are not interested in Bleeding Hearts - it is entertaining to hear Lyndon speak anytime :)

https://www.saskperennial.ca/calendar#h.p_obZXI6JzMEV3

FREE & open to the public!





CROCUS HIKE

Wed. Apr. 8 at 6:30-8pm @ Cranberry Flats -

Hosted by Saskatoon Nature Society & Meewasin
(gosh, remembering when the only time I used to go out to Cranberry Flats was at night in high school - but would never tell THAT to my kids!)

Go to the Facebook site below & indicate you are going & you'll be sent an official invite. It is a dog friendly event as long as your pup is leashed. I will be there to enjoy Fresh Air, Sunshine (yes at that time of the eve!) & Crocuses!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/488336162073021/>

Please note that this event is included as a [Saskatoon Nature Society](#) field trip & additional information (including meeting place to carpool out to Cranberry Flats) will be added when prepared on the Facebook page.



Missed an issue of **GARDENDESIGN** ?



Don't Dismay!

Simply reply to this email with any **Back Issue** topics you'd like to catch up on in the Header & you'll before enjoying them before you can say "*Quick as a Bunny*"

I've been doing GARDENDESIGN for a number of years now so have a very good source of topics or choose from these 3 -
**FAIRY GARDENS-LIGHTING-LAWNLESS
LANDSCAPES.**

I'm getting better at my online presence (& it has only taken a few years!) so you check out my various attempts & keep on sharing my love of nature -

INSTAGRAM

https://www.instagram.com/gardens_4_seasons_land_design/

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/GardensFourSeasonsLandscapeDesign/>

PINTEREST

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



HOZZ

<https://www.houzz.com/professionals/landscape-architects-and-landscape-designers/gardens-four-seasons-pfvwus-pf~721746534?>

TWITTER

<https://twitter.com/gardens4seasons>



Feel free to forward this to any friends!

(or they can email me to request their own copy!)



DID YOU KNOW?

- I never, Ever, EVER share my email list - NEVER! :)

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