

Home & Garden



The Clinton Chronicle
March 25, 2020



Taking a top down approach to home exterior updates

(StatePoint) Whether you want to boost the beauty of your home for your own enjoyment or you're looking to sell in the near future, experts recommend taking a top-down approach to evaluate the outside of your home.

"When making updates to your home exterior, it's helpful to think of how all the parts of the whole work together to create a unified look," says Kate Smith, chief color maven with Sensational Color.

With that in mind, here are a few remodeling ideas to get you started:

The Roof

A new roof not only adds aesthetic appeal, it can add value too. Indeed, Remodeling's Cost vs. Value 2020 report shows that a roof replacement can have a return-on-investment of over 60 percent.

Composite roofing is particularly durable, long-lasting and low-maintenance, and an all-around smart investment. Not only does a high-quality roof help home-sellers get foot traffic, but the low-maintenance aspect really resonates with house-hunters. An attractive, more affordable alternative to the real thing, the composite slate and shake roofing options available from manufacturers like DaVinci Roofscapes, for example, reduce pesky maintenance concerns, offering impact-, fire- and wind-resistance, as well as the peace of mind that comes with a strong warranty.

This is also a good choice for both those with a clear color palette in mind, and those who might need some direction, as free resources on the DaVinci Roofscapes site include a Color Visualizer offering users the ability to see how different colors may look on their home exteriors, as well as a variety of free e-books with project inspiration and advice. To learn more, visit www.davinciroofscapes.com.

"Using these free color tools can be both fun and empowering," says Smith. "They take the guesswork out of crafting a pleasing exterior color palette for the home and help create increased curb appeal."

Siding

If your home sports traditional siding, you may have noticed that the tiles contract and expand in fluctuating weather conditions and temperatures. What's more, the color of these often-times thin and flimsy materials can fade quickly.

Rather than replacing siding with more of the same, consider composite siding built to resist impact, fire, mold, algae, insects, salt air and high winds. The hand-split shake siding available from DaVinci Roofscapes is made of virgin resins, UV and thermal stabilizers, plus a highly-specialized fire retardant. Whether you add accent panels with composite siding or go for the whole house, this can add a hassle-free aesthetic benefit to your home and boost its value.

Walkways

Cracked or uneven walkways and steps are not only an eyesore, they can present a tripping hazard to you and guests. Evaluate whether it's time to give yours an overhaul. Be sure to

select low-maintenance materials that complement the look of the other elements of your exterior. This is a good time to consider lighting that adds drama to the walkway at night and makes for safer walking.

Sprucing up? Go for high-impact projects that boost curb appeal and add value to the home.

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Step Up Stairways

Often a focal point of a home interior, a stairway system is a crucial area where homeowners can step up their game, and doing so doesn't have to be overwhelming.

"There's a definite trend underway of people mixing metals and woods on stair systems and throughout the home," says Kelly Miller, director of market development for L.J. Smith Stair Systems. "Rather than completely take down an existing wood stair system, many people are turning to the easy IronPro DIY project of replacing wood balusters with iron balusters. Then they're leaving the wood hand rails and newel posts for a stylish, upgraded look."

Defined by unique designs and durability, L.J. Smith products -- including wooden and ornamental iron balusters, stainless steel cable and tube infills, metal panels, newel posts, hand rails and accessories, can help you transform your stairs. Check out the "Stair Designer" tool to determine the best look for your home, as well as installation details and additional tips at ljsmith.com.

When taking your home interiors from ordinary to extraordinary, it's all in the details.

Home interior updates you can make to create a wow factor

(StatePoint) Whether you want to customize and enhance your living spaces for your own enjoyment or you need to prepare to stand out in a buyer's market, creating that wow factor is easy to achieve, if you know where to focus your attention. You're likely already familiar with the importance of exterior curb appeal. According to experienced realtors, it's just as important to continue that concept after walking through the front door.

"As the saying goes, 'you only have one opportunity to make a first impression,'" says realtor Vincent A. Stanson, a REALTOR associate with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services. "When that front door opens, homeowners have the chance to impress their guests with a stunning stairway system, stand-out mouldings and decorative interior accents."

To get you started, here are easy ideas to give your spaces that wow factor you see and admire in ads and architectural magazines:

Ceiling-to-Floor Transformation

Totally transform a room top to bottom with decorative mouldings and millwork, starting with the ceiling. Add warmth with wood beams in a horizontal or criss-cross pattern, or simply accent the ceiling with stand-out crown mouldings.

Working your way down, frame windows with straight trim and rosettes in the corners. Throughout the room, add chair mouldings, mantels and floating shelves.

Remember, mouldings don't need to be plain, especially if you want to make an impact. So, replace any humdrum casing, crown, chair and base mouldings with elements that pop, such as those that feature leaves, grapes, vines or criss-cross ribbon patterns. Consider the decorative millwork accents available from Ornamental Moulding & Millwork, which are easy to install. Their newest offerings dovetail nicely with the latest trends, and their commitment to craftsmanship mean high-quality products that last. The inspiration galleries available on its site can be a good tool for those seeking ideas for creatively enhancing their own rooms. To learn more, visit Ornamental.com.

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How to extend your living area to outdoor spaces

(StatePoint) When warmer weather arrives, it's all about spending time in your home's outdoor spaces. Here are a few new ideas for transforming your porch, deck or yard into an oasis of relaxation.

Spruce Up

Before getting down to brass tacks, it's time to give your outdoor spaces a once-over and note what basic maintenance and cleaning are needed; be sure to sweep up porches and decks of debris, dust off and move outdoor furniture out of storage and prune trees and plants that need it. This may be a good time to refinish or re-stain an older deck in need of some tender loving care. Want to add a splash of color to the space? Give some time-worn wooden furniture a new paint job in a bold hue.

Power Up

To match the true comfort of indoor life to your home's outdoor spaces, you'll need a safe, code-compliant and unobtrusive way to power fans, lighting, entertainment, electric appliances and more.

To add an outlet to raised outdoor floors, porches and decks, consider installing a Deck Outlet Cover from Hubbell TayMac. Accommodating two power cords, it lets you put the power where you want it -- in a safe place where people are less likely to trip

over cords.

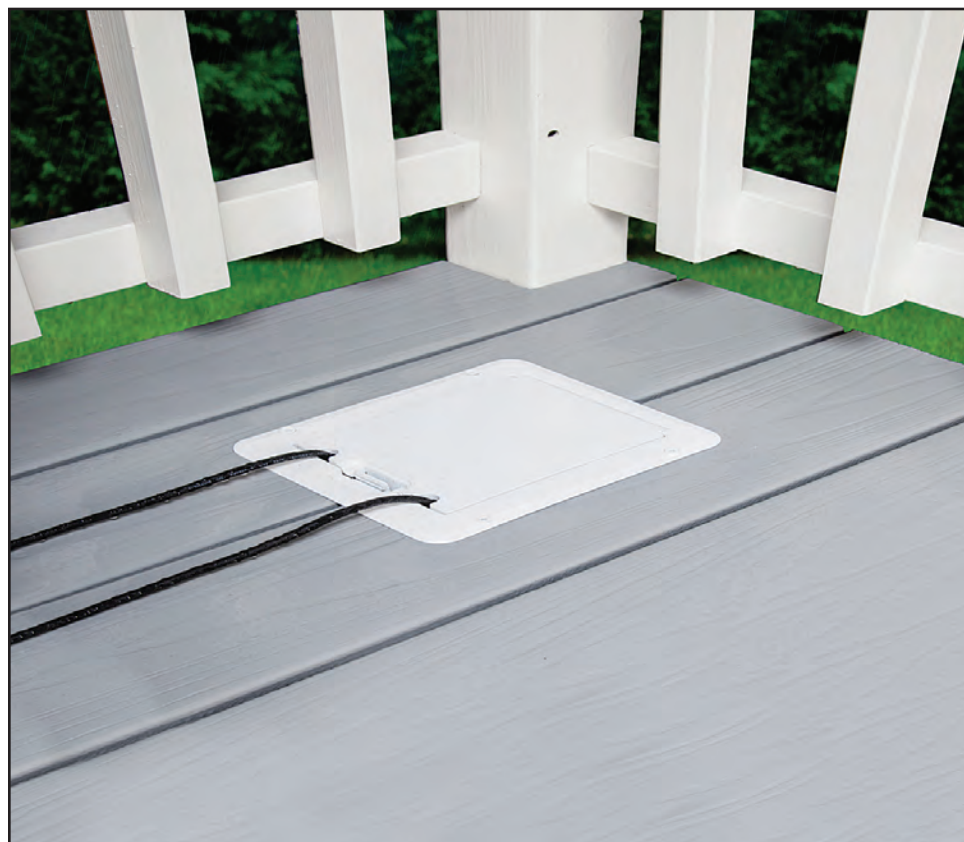
Weatherproof, UV resistant and durable even in harsh environments, it also features a low-profile design that meets ADA standards, and an attractive slip-resistant texture available in gray, white and bronze.

Furnish


Given the broad scope of weatherproof furnishings, cushions, pillows and even rugs available on the market today, there is absolutely no reason that your outdoor spaces can't offer the same level of comfort and beauty as any den or living room, especially now that you've supplied your outdoor space with electrical power and the flexibility to install such amenities as an entertainment center, ceiling fans and even chandeliers.

Just be sure everything you install is weatherproofed and protected against the elements, and that you select only outdoor-grade products. However, you can extend the life of certain items by taking extra precautions during extreme weather and the off-season.

By giving your home's outdoor spaces the same attention to detail as the indoors, you can extend your living spaces and even create new "rooms" in which to dine, relax and entertain.



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Proper pruning all about the right tools

(StatePoint) If you are like most homeowners, you need to prune trees, shrubs, bushes and other plants in your yard from time to time. But do you know which tool is best suited for each particular job? Experts say that choosing tools wisely is key to maximizing beauty, and minimizing damage to plants.

There are a few things to keep in mind as you go about selecting tools for your pruning jobs, big and small, and landscape designer Doug Scott of Redeem Your Ground in Atlanta, Ga., is sharing a few insights to get you started:

- For most basic pruning around the yard, bypass or hand pruners, also known as garden or pruning shears, are go-to tools. Best for making clean cuts through living plants and tree branches, they work much like a set of heavy-duty scissors and are capable of getting into tight spots for close, precise cuts. Scott advises against a common pitfall here: the urge to save money.

“Since pruning shears see so much use, it makes sense to buy the best ones you can afford. From my experience, inexpensive models simply don’t last very long,” he says. “A well-cared for, high-quality set of bypass pruners however can be a lifetime investment for the average homeowner.”

- For larger branches, Scott says anvil-style shears can be a good choice, which feature one sharp blade closing against a flat, wide blade and work much like a knife cutting against a cutting board. However, he warns that they should be used selectively, as they crush plant stems more than bypass-style pruners.

- When it comes to branches of more than 1/2-inch (12.7 millimeters) in diame-



ter, loppers are the best choice. Like hand pruning tools, there are bypass loppers, which operate much like a large, long-handled set of bypass shears, while anvil-style loppers use just one cutting blade.

“Bypass loppers generally cut with more precision, while anvil-style loppers are typically capable of generating more cutting force,” Scott said.

Still have questions? New online resources can help. Scott has partnered with Exmark, a leading manufacturer of commercial mowers and equipment on a new video series for DIY homeowners called “Done in a Weekend.” Among the videos is “Cut It Out,” which explains the differences between different pruning tools, as well as provides tips for pruning more effectively with less effort. To view the video, as well as access the other videos in the series, which cover a range of home and garden topics, visit Exmark.com/DIY.

Regular pruning is necessary to keep your yard looking beautiful and well-maintained as well as to improve the health of plants. Be sure you’re equipped with the proper tools and knowledge to do so effectively.

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3 smart ways to boost home curb appeal

(StatePoint) Taking steps to boost curb appeal makes good sense for any homeowner. Not only does it help make a great first impression on guests and neighbors, but certain updates can actually increase your home's resale value when it comes time to put your property on the market.

To maximize the time, money and effort you expend, consider the following remodeling projects, which were all ranked highly by Remodeling Magazine's 2020 Cost vs. Value Report:

Manufactured Stone

According to Remodeling Magazine's findings, manufactured stone has the largest return on investment of all home remodeling projects with an average of 95.6 percent of the cost of the project recouped. There's a good reason for this. High quality manufactured stone is an eye-catching way to add beauty and elegance to interiors and exteriors.

When seeking out manufactured stone products, look for long-lasting products that mimic the look of natural stone, such as those from ProVia, which combine deep shadow lines with authentic coloring to produce dramatic effects. The manufacturer has achieved an authentic look by selecting natural stones from unique geographic regions for every master mold and by using only raw pigments and oxides to attain a rich color that lasts for years. To use tools that can help you visualize stone and grout style and color combinations, view instructional videos or learn more, visit ProVia.com/stone.

Garage Door Replacement

If you are like many homeowners, you typically enter your home through the garage. Give yourself a treat to come home to each day with a garage door replacement, which provides the second largest return on-

Curb appeal, 12



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Buy your gardening plants locally — and assist in good causes

Note: all events of this type are subject to potential postponement due to COVID-19.

Gardeners and people with even a marginally green thumb have a chance to buy their spring flowering plants at two local events.

The Clinton High FFA (Future Farmers of America) Plant Sales for Spring 2020 will be:

-- March 30 and March 31 School Closed;

-- April 4, Spring Festival Plant Sales, 8 am - noon;

-- April 14 - 17, 9 am - 5 pm; and

-- April 20 - 24, 9 am - 4 pm. The Clinton High School Greenhouse is located behind the new Clinton High School, use entrance Gate 3. A flyer says, "If someone is not at the greenhouse between classes or during lunch, please be patient and we will be right with you."

Also, the Laurens County Master Gardeners Plant Sale will be Saturday, May 2, 8 am - noon, at the Tractor Supply Parking Lot, 917 E. Main St., Laurens.

For more info: Pat Moberg, mastergardeners@prtcnet.com

These plant sales will benefit the CHS

FFA and LC Master Gardeners efforts on behalf of agricultural education and gardener information to benefit all of Laurens County.

For the CHS Plant sale there are:

-- Vegetables, \$1 a plant, \$15 a tray of 8 for Tomato Better Boy, Cherokee Purple Tomato, Tomato Park Whopper, Tomato Sweet 100, Tomato Celebrity, Tomato Early Girl, Tomato Beefmaster, Jalapeno Pepper, Cayenne Pepper, Sweet Banana Pepper, Peoer Range Blaze, and California Wonder Pepper.

-- Herbs, \$3 per quart pot for Lavender Hidcote Blue, Barbeque Rosemary, Kentucky Colonel Mint, Italian Oregano and Citronella.

-- Perennials, \$3 quart pot for Verbena Homestead Purple, Lantana Dallas Red, Lantana New Gold, Lantana Confetti, Purple Heart; \$5 1 gallon pot for Coreopsis, Carex Red Rooster, Grass; \$5 annual gallon pot, Zonal Geranium Red and White.

-- Annuals, 18 count trays \$20 (mix and match a tray of like-size pots) for 18 varieties; and \$3 quart pots for Ipomea Marguerita, Ipomea Blackie, Ipomea Tricolor, Coleus Wizard Mix and Dragon Wing Be-

Local, 12

Building a home? What to ask your builder about lighting

(StatePoint) While lighting is an essential piece of new home design; it's often selected and installed at the end of the building process. What's more, statement-making decorative lighting is often not part of the initial design at all.

"Many builders today are opting for only recessed lighting in new home builds. Not only does this provide inadequate light, it creates a sterile look," says Jennifer Kis, director of marketing communications for Progress Lighting. "It's important to consider decorative lighting in the initial budget to highlight all the other accents and purposeful design in your home."

The good news is that today, there are luxury lighting options that suit any budget and lifestyle trend. For example, Progress Lighting offers the Point Dume Collection created by influential interior designer, Jeffrey Alan Marks. Inspired by the California coastline, fixtures in this fashion-forward collection highlight artistic influence and rich finishes. Progress also offers the Design Series, which offers sophistication at accessible prices, along with hundreds of other decorative interior and exterior fixtures.

"For the style impact it gives the home, decorative lighting is definitely worth the investment," says Piper Stromatt, interior designer for Curate Custom Homes in Chattanooga, TN. "We've tested recessed-only lighting schemes and our clients immediately sense something lacking in the home's ambiance. We always recommend including decorative lighting, as it increases the perceived value of the home as well as offers a finishing touch."

Be sure to discuss the lighting plan during your design phase. Once the build has started, it may be more expensive to make changes. When talking lighting with her clients, Stromatt emphasizes these key points:

- Layer a combination of task lighting with decorative lighting. A properly layered lighting scheme creates comfort, functionality and beauty.

- Decorative lighting should be installed closer to eye level than functional recessed lighting and reinforce the home's unique design. As the single focal point for each living area, decorative fixtures define a space, which is especially crucial in open floor plans.

- Avoid installing recessed lighting in rooms where flattering and comfortable light is necessary, such as overhead in the master bathroom or in a nursery where high-wattage lights can be uncomfortable



for baby's eyes.

When planning the lighting for your new home, Stromatt recommends asking these questions:

- Is the lighting package pre-determined? Often, builders offer a choice of one or more standard packages. Before confirming your selection, ask what upgrades are available, what the costs are, and if there any design limitations.

- What's the wiring plan? Pre-installed junction boxes, or pancake boxes, offer less flexibility, as light fixtures must be installed wherever junction boxes are. If your plan doesn't include decorative lighting, ask for the home to be snake-wired, which gives the flexibility to add lighting wherever and whenever you want.

- Are LED light bulbs an option? Often a builder has already selected bulbs, and they're not always LED. Even if it adds to the cost, the investment to substitute LED bulbs is worth it, providing energy savings, brighter light and longer life.

For more tips and inspiration, visit Progress Lighting at progressltg.com/Shop

The bottom line: don't settle for recessed lighting alone. By asking the right questions, you can easily combine form and function.



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Basic Rules for Photo Contest:

Please do not infringe on the rights of property owners or harm any animals while taking photos.

- Photographer must be a resident of Laurens County.
- Photographer must be an amateur, (has not received monetary compensation for any photography jobs).
- Photos must be taken in Laurens County between January 1, 2020 and October 31, 2020.
- Contestants may enter a total of two photos, one Earth & one Sky.
- A Photo/Media Release must be signed if a person is a subject in a photograph.
- E-mail photos to: rgibbs.conservation@gmail.com in .jpg format with your name, address, phone number, photo category, photo title, and age division (youth or adult) for each photo entry submitted.
- Photos become the property of the Laurens County Conservation District and may be used in future publications with acknowledgement credit line. This includes social media.

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THE 6 MOST ESSENTIAL HOMEBUYER TIPS

A survey of 400 real estate professionals found that these are the most important tips for homebuyers.

- #1** Get a home inspection to evaluate the safety, overall condition of your new home.

91.4% SAY THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT TIP | 0.5% DON'T RECOMMEND THIS TIP
- #2** Before you start house hunting, get pre-approved for a mortgage loan.

89.0% SAY THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT TIP | 0.8% DON'T RECOMMEND THIS TIP
- #3** Direct all communication with the seller through your real estate agent.

89.0% SAY THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT TIP | 0.3% DON'T RECOMMEND THIS TIP
- #4** Get the seller to put every component of the deal and any verbal agreement into writing.

87.5% SAY THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT TIP | 0.8% DON'T RECOMMEND THIS TIP
- #5** Include important contingencies, such as financing and property inspections, with your offer.

83.0% SAY THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT TIP | 0.8% DON'T RECOMMEND THIS TIP
- #6** Come up with a realistic wish list - what you can afford in terms of house size, neighborhood, amenities.

82.4% SAY THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT TIP | 0.3% DON'T RECOMMEND THIS TIP

BUT HERE'S THE TOP PRIORITY FOR HOMEBUYERS:
WORK WITH A REAL ESTATE AGENT!

Safe fuel containers — your link to seasonal chores

(StatePoint) People are heading outdoors to prep lawns and gardens for the season and get their families ready for warmer weather. What's the key common denominator for most of these activities?

"Whether it's using a tiller to start a garden or power washing the driveway, homeowners rely on fuel to jumpstart warm weather activities," says Daniel Marshall, vice president of marketing and business development with Scepter. "Gasoline, kerosene and diesel fuel all link people to projects and activities outside the home."

No matter what fuel-powered chore you have to do around the home, a few simple considerations can help ensure you complete these tasks efficiently and safely.

Stay Safe

While unseen, fuel emits vapors that can be explosive. For that reason, keep burning cigarettes and other ignition sources away from fuel containers. Surprisingly, even cell phones can create a static charge that might ignite gasoline, so always keep them away from fueling efforts.

If you're in the middle of a task and need more fuel, shut off the engine. And, importantly, let equipment cool before adding more fuel. Refueling powered equipment when hot can cause vapors to ignite or explode, resulting in potential injuries.

Store and Use Fuel Wisely

Proper fuel storage is critical for any shed or garage. Take the step of evaluating and ditching your old metal containers, which are prone to fuel and fume leakage. Consider new models constructed of durable, reliable and safe high-density polyethylene.

You'll also want to be sure your fuel container has a Flame Mitigation Device (FMD) and childproof lock, like Scepter SmartControl fuel containers do.

Plus, the innovative spout design of SmartControl containers provides a clean, fast and hassle-free pour and helps save gas by eliminating messy spills. And, because the container stores with the spout on, hands stay clean. Available in one-, two- and five-gallon sizes, the SmartControl line includes containers for gasoline, diesel and kerosene.

To get the most out of your fuel containers, check out the instructional video "Fuel Container Safety," as well as other video content available at

structional-videos.

Be Prepared

Be sure you have fuel for an entire season of chores and recreation -- as well as for the unexpected.

"Filling your fuel containers at the start of the season means you won't be caught empty-handed when it's time to mow the lawn," says Marshall.

Just be sure not to rely on last season's batch. Fuel sitting unused for many months should be safely discarded, as gas components can deteriorate over time. Changing gasoline out with the seasons keeps it fresh.

You'll also want to be sure you're prepared ahead of time for extreme weather events. Having gasoline on hand during a power outage after a storm can help fuel generators, much-needed chain saws and other gas-powered equipment.

More fuel tips and information can be found at www.scepter.com.

"Don't wait until a storm is forecast to prepare," says Marshall. "We've all seen the footage of stores running out of supplies. Get a step ahead of the game, particularly when it comes to essentials like gasoline."

As you go about your seasonal activities, remember that proper fuel handling and storage is essential for a safe and productive season.

Local

From 8

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All this information, and more, was available March 12 at the Spotlight on Agriculture, held in Clinton. Also included was this information, "Bee a Friend to Pollinators, you can provide food and habitat for pollinators to help them thrive."

The booklet says, "Three-fourths of the world's flowering plants depend on pollinators to reproduce. Most fruit, vegetable, and seed crops - and other plants that provide fiber, medicine, and fuel - are pollinated by animals. Some scientists estimate that one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators like bees, butterflies and moths, birds and bats, and beetles and other insects. ...

"Pollinators Are In Trouble. Bees, bats, and other animal pollinators face many challenges in the modern world. Habitat loss, disease, parasites, and environmental contaminants have all contributed to the decline of many species of pollinators."

To Help:

-- Use pollinator-friendly plants in your landscape. Shrubs and trees such as dogwood, blueberry, cherry, plum, willow, and poplar provide pollen or nectar, or both, early in spring when food is scarce.

-- Choose a mixture of plants for spring, summer, and fall. Different flower colors, shapes, and scents will attract a wide variety of pollinators.

-- Reduce or eliminate pesticide use in your landscape, or incorporate plants that attract beneficial insects for pest control. If you use pesticides, use them sparingly and responsibly.

-- Accept some plants damage on plants meant to provide habitat for butterfly and moth larvae.

-- Provide clean water for pollinators with a shallow dish, bowl, or birdbath with half-submerged stones for perches.

-- Leave dead tree trunks in your landscape for wood-nesting bees and beetles.

-- Support land conservation in your community by helping to create and maintain community gardens and green spaces to ensure that pollinators have appropriate habitat.

Did You Know?

Bees - are the main pollinators for fruits and vegetables. There are over 4,000 species of bees native to North America. They nest underground, in twigs and debris, or in dead trees.

Butterflies - and moths, nectar-seeking butterflies are daytime garden visitors, and moths are their nocturnal counterpart. These popular creatures pollinate many plants.

Hummingbirds - are the most common avian pollinators in the continental United States. These tiny wonders prefer tubular flowers in bright, warm colors - especially red. Two species of bat are major pollinators in the Southwest.

A World - without pollinators would be a world without apples, blueberries, strawber-

Curb appeal

From 8

investment, according to the report. Not only does this upgrade present an opportunity to boost your home's aesthetic appeal, it also has the potential to beef up your home security and lower energy bills. Whether you want the garage doors to make a bold statement or blend into the woodwork, there are many ways to customize, including panel design, colors, hardware fixtures and window placement.

Siding Replacement

With a return on investment of over 70 percent, there's a strong case for replacing your siding with something new. Vinyl siding is an especially good choice of material for those who value easy installation, good value, durability and minimal maintenance. Many homeowners choose to even mix siding and manufactured stone on their home exterior for a unique facelift that's sure to impress passersby and potential buyers alike.

By selecting home exterior projects that offer the greatest return on investment, you can be sure your renovations go far beyond what meets the eye.

ries, chocolate, almonds, melons, peaches or pumpkins.

More: farmers.gov/pollinators

South Carolina has an agriculture school

McCORMICK - John de la Howe School for Agriculture's Vision is "to offer a rigorous agricultural education program that will challenge motivated high school students to develop their interest in agriculture and natural resources by providing classes and hands-on learning opportunities in agri-business."

The school was established in 1797 and has been a state agency since 1918.

Its new mission makes the school the first statewide program of its kind in the nation.

"The School of Agriculture provides a challenging academic program that enhances students' knowledge and experience in the field of agriculture and meets the requirements for a high school diploma in South Carolina. Our program will offer three of the five majors in the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources cluster. Students will the opportunity to choose from the following majors: Environmental and Natural Resources Management, Horticulture, and Plant and Animal Systems," a brochure says.

The John de la Howe School sits on 1,310 acres of forest and farmland; the campus is a working farm. The school is the oldest educational institution in South Carolina for children under college age. Established through the will of Dr. John de la Howe, a French physician who served in the Seven Years' War and immigrated to South Carolina in the 1760s, the school was envisioned as an agricultural seminary for 12 poor boys and 12 poor girls, "with the provision that they study the basic courses, agriculture, and related subjects so that they could prosper for a lifetime."

In the 1980s its mission changed to become a haven for children to grow, heal and make lasting changes. Guided by a 2017 feasibility study, the conversion to an agricultural school was begun, and opened in August, 2020.

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Newberry gardeners announce scholarship

The Newberry County Master Gardeners Association is pleased to announce the availability of a \$1000 scholarship award for the 2020 - 2021 academic year.

Eligible candidates for this scholarship include high school seniors as well as college level students with a good academic record who plan to or are pursuing a degree in horticulture, agriculture, food science, forestry or a related field.

Newberry County residents will be given first priority. Second consideration will be given to residents of Saluda, Union and Laurens Counties.

The scholarships will be awarded on the basis of character, sincerity of purpose, community activities, academic achievement and dedication to the fields of horticulture, agriculture, food science and forestry or related fields. Funds are paid directly to the college for benefit of the

named student.

Interested candidates should complete a scholarship application form and submit it along with all requested attachments no later than April 17, 2020.

Applications are available at Newberry County high school guidance departments, Newberry Academy guidance departments, and the Newberry County Clemson Extension Office or by email at 1309bizmail@gmail.com

The Master Gardeners began their scholarship program in 2004 for students pursuing a degree in horticulture, agriculture, food science, forestry or a related field. Each year since then, the Association has awarded one or more scholarships to local students. These scholarships are funded through plant sales held throughout the year at community events such as Oktoberfest and the Grow Newberry Farmers Market.

Yard and Garden Tips

Watch out for:

Lawns

White grubs - March begins the cycle of treatment for grub problems in your lawn. The bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Dipel, etc.) does a nice job on Japanese Beetle grubs, but it does take a little time to build up in the soil. *Bacillus thuringiensis* does not, however, control other types of grubs.

Things to do:

Flowers

Pruning - March is a nice time to prune your repeat-blooming roses such as floribunda and hybrid tea roses, just as the buds break dormancy. Do not prune your once-flowering roses now, but instead prune them after the bloom.

Lawns

Fertilizer - it's time for application of nitrogen for Bermuda grass and zoysiagrass lawns that have been overseeded for the winter. Follow the recommendations on your soil test report for your lawn. DON'T fertilize centipede or St. Augustine yet, nor warm-season lawns that were not overseeded.

Crabgrass and goosegrass - make the initial attack on your war with these weeds this month. You will need an application of a pre-emergent herbicide this month and again in June.

Wild garlic and wild onion - March is the time for the second herbicide application for these two problems if you have them in your yard.

Henbit - this nice little lawn weed can be a problem. Treat now to prevent its return this summer.

Nutsedge or "nutgrass" - nutsedge is very difficult to control. There are two main types

in our area - purple and yellow. You must identify which you have before you begin treatment. Herbicides must be applied when the nutsedge is actively growing, which means decent soil moisture and warm conditions.

Trampweed - if you saw this fluffy-looking weed last summer and fall, now is the time to treat your yard to prevent its return. This should be your second treatment if you have a cool-season lawn. Treat your warm-season lawn in November and February.

Irrigation - now is a good time to inspect your irrigation system for repairs and upgrades. You should also scan your automatic timer's manual to re-familiarize yourself with how to set times.

Ponds

Pond fertilization - if your pond needs fertilization this month is a good time. Do not fertilize within 4 to 6 weeks of liming the pond.

Vegetables

Vegetables - Some planting times for more common vegetables:

Asparagus crowns - early February - late March

Cabbage - Feb. 15 - Apr. 1

Carrots - Mar. 1 - 15

Lettuce - Mar. 1 - 15

Irish Potatoes - Mar. 15 - 30

Turnips - Feb. 20 - Apr. 1

The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

Frost Dates for Laurens County

Many of us want to plant our vegetables and tender flowers as soon as possible in the spring, but we certainly don't want to lose them to frost. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has a web page detailing the chance of frost by date for weather station locations in each State. The Laurens section provides the following information:

Spring

- 90% chance of frost on or after March 27
- 50% chance of frost on or after April 11
- 10% chance of frost on or after April 26
- Latest date of known frost occurrence - May 8

Fall

- 90% chance of frost on November 11
- 50% chance of frost on Oct 25
- 10% chance of frost on or before Oct 8
- Earliest date of known frost occurrence - Oct 4

This should help you determine how early you should plant - and how late in the year your plants may be safe outdoors.

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How you can help protect wild birds in your yard

(StatePoint) You may not think about it often, but wild birds use your lawn as a rest stop and place to call home. As you spruce up your lawn and garden for the season, there are simple steps you can take to protect them and help them thrive.

According to Spencer Schock, founder of WindowAlert, makers of bird-friendly products for homes, the following changes are easy to implement in order to create a safe harbor for wild birds:

- **Plant native species:** Planting native species on your property is one of the most impactful ways you can improve your local environment, as well as make your lawn and garden a healthy habitat for wild birds and other fauna. Native plant species provide birds with food and places to rest and nest. Birds in turn, spread pollen and seeds, while acting as a natural pesticide. Speaking of which, gardening organically will also go a long way to protecting the health and safety of feeding birds.

- **Make windows visible:** Up to 1 billion birds die annually from striking windows in US, according to the American Bird

Conservancy. The good news is that it's relatively easy and affordable to prevent your home from being part of the problem. Special window decals that reflect ultraviolet sunlight, a wavelength of light noticeable to birds, have been proven to substantially reduce the likelihood of bird strikes. Giving the appearance of slightly frosted translucent glass but glowing like a stoplight for birds, those from WindowAlert feature a range of decorative patterns. To boost protection for birds, you can also apply a high-tech liquid called WindowAlert UV Liquid in between decals. More information, as well as useful application tips, can be found by visiting windowalert.com.

- **Monitor cats:** Monitor your cat's time outdoors to ensure they are not terrorizing or hunting birds. An enclosed play area for your cat is the most effective way to keep birds in your yard safe from your furry companion's natural instincts.

Good deeds start at home. This season, do your part to help migrating bird populations reach their destinations safely.



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- Tropical Hibiscus (April)
- Camelias
- Fruit Trees

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Safe & Healthy Hummingbird Feeders

Hummingbird feeders are an important part of many backyard habitats. However, if not properly cared for, they can make hummingbirds very sick (and can even be fatal!). These simple steps will help ensure your feeders are safe & healthy for your neighbourhood hummers.

- 1

Make Your Own Nectar

Store-bought nectars include dyes & additives that can cause mold or are unhealthy for the birds. **Recipe:** kern.audubon.org/hummer_feeding.htm
- 2

Clean Every 3 Days

Mold can kill hummingbirds. Clean your feeder every 3 days (or more often). This includes washing all parts of the feeder with soap, water, & a scrub brush.
- 3

White Sugar Only

Use refined white sugar only in your nectar. Organic, raw, or natural sugars can promote mold growth or have harmful iron levels. **Honey can kill hummingbirds!**
- 4

No Red Dyes

Don't add red food colouring / dyes to your hummingbird nectar. The birds will be able to find the feeder just fine without it - plus, it isn't that healthy for them.
- 5

Hummingbird Gardens

Hummingbird feeders are a supplement to, not a replacement for, the birds' natural diet. The best way to help them is plant a hummingbird-friendly garden!

A

Alena E.S. Photography

alenaesphotography.com

Other Resources:

www.audubon.org/news/how-make-hummingbird-nectar

www.kern.audubon.org/hummer_feeding.htm

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