

Azle News/Springtown Epigraph Special Section • Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Ace is the place for spring needs



Chase Robbins, area manager for Ace Hardware, looks over plants at the Azle Ace Hardware location. The store has a number of products and supplies to help people meet their home and garden needs this spring. PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

BY DON MUNSCH don@azlenews.net

in Azle.

The business offers an ar- Stewart St.

ray of home and gardening goods, from lawnmowers names such as Ego, which to grills to tools to flowers. makes a number of products, Spring is one of the busi- If you're looking for help such as mowers, weed-eatest, if not the busiest, times on your home projects, Ace ers, blowers and generators, of the year for Ace Hardware strives to meet your need. said Chase Robbins, area The store is located at 505 N. manager who works at the curring all of April. If Ace

Azle store. Ace carries Big doesn't have something in line and pick them up at the

and accessories.

Among other national

ger grills. The store has sales oc- we can get it in," he said.

Ace Hardware sells brand Green Egg and Weber grills stock, it can order the prod-store. uct, Robbins said.

> shortage and everything -People may buy items on-

Sales people can help "As long as the warehouse customers with a number of products, Ace also sells Trae- has it - with the supply chain needs, such as finding the right pesticide or fertilizer. "We try to greet then as

SEE ACE HARDWARE, PAGE 7B.





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Meriem Sorrells, Chris Reeves, Caty Reeves Photo by Camie Bolin | XO Yours Truly Photography

Sorrells turns dreams into realities for custom home buyers



The company is very involved in the entire process of building homes and seeks to satisfy every customer.

BY DON MUNSCH

don@azlenews.net

makes people's dreams of tions to grow into a larger living in a beautiful home a office space in the next year. mercial and investment reality.

Sorrells Custom Homes Homes has had with aspira- said.

The home builder, with its began in 2004 by Rick Sor- her family company in 2013.

der construction. Previously Rick's daughter in law. Rick up. a home office, this is the first ran the business by himself office space Sorrells Custom for several years, Meriem about construction, but I

Meriem worked as a com-Sorrells Custom Homes banker before she started at office at 344 NW Parkway in rells. The company's presi- She learned the home-build-

my hands dirty" she said.

"I didn't know anything iem took the reins afterward. After running the company learned very fast – I asked by herself for several years, lot of questions, I was curi- Meriem last year hired an ties: Tarrant, Parker and ous and I didn't mind getting executive assistant, project Wise. Most homes are built manager and partnered up in the county, outside city Sorrells Custom Homes with Trinity Homes - Real limits. has grown tremendously by Estate Company to help Azle, has 30 homes now un- dent is Meriem Sorrells, ing business from the ground word of mouth. Rick retired streamline the sales process

a few years ago and Mer- of this rapidly growing company.

> The 30 homes on the ground now are in area coun-

> > SEE **SORRELLS**, PAGE 6B.



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BY DON MUNSCH

don@azlenews.net

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lending, we can do," said president of Pinnacle Bank. Randa Goode, vice president/lending officer for the Nebraska, where the compa-Azle branch location of Pin- ny started in Palmer in 1938.

types of loans, such as residential and automobile.

and renovations. The bank ers us to make decisions at company opened branches in also offers equipment financ- the local level. This allows ing and revolving lines of us to accommodate our customers in a timely manner," "Any type of commercial said Jason Gibson, regional

Pinnacle traces its roots to The bank, over the next 80-The bank also offers other plus years, grew under the leadership of the Dinsdale family to serve communi-"Our ownership empow- ties across eight states. The es, including 22 in Texas.

Texas in 2002.

counties, for a total of 12 company website. branches in Texas.

opened new branches in managed by the Dinsdale Granbury and Rio Vista. The family. As we grow, one about Pinnacle Bank in bank network now spans community at a time, we receight states with 161 branch-

opportunities to grow, in-In 2008, Pinnacle Bank ac- cluding opening and remod-

In 2020, Pinnacle Bank is still proudly owned and community." ognize that each has a unique culture and set of needs for 817-444-2504.

"We continue to look for us to adapt to. That's why our decisions are made locally. Banking decisions, as quired First Bank and added eling locations throughout well as how we support our six new locations throughout our service area," according communities beyond our Johnson, Tarrant and Parker to the bank's history on the branch walls, are decided by people who are a part of and "Today our bank network have a vested interest in the

For more information Azle, access https://www. pinnbanktx.com or call





HOW TO: **Corral a crabgrass** infestation

A well-manicured lawn adds undeniable curb appeal to a property. Homeowners who take pride in their lawns should know that they can take that pride all the way to the bank, as investing in a pristine lawn can provide a significant return at resale.

A 2019 report from the real estate experts at HomeLight found that a \$268 investment in lawn care service can add \$1,211 at resale. That's a 352 percent return on investment.

Homeowners can capitalize on a pristine lawn even further by tending to their own lawns. Crabgrass is one lawn problem that can compromise the look of an otherwise lush lawn. Thankfully, crabgrass can be controlled without much effort.

Identifying crabgrass

Crabgrass is a weed that grows in areas of a lawn that are bare or where the grass is How to corral thin. Crabgrass gets its name from its appearance, as it grows from the center outward and mimics the look of crab legs emerging from the center shell.

The growth of crabgrass

The University of Minnesota Extension notes that crabgrass is an annual plant. That means a crabgrass infestation that's problematic once the mercury rises in the summer will die out in late fall or early winter. But crabgrass germinates in the spring, so homeowners will

want to take steps to prevent it long before it becomes an evesore in summer.

crabgrass

The UME notes that application of a pre-emergent herbicide before crabgrass seeds can germinate is an effective way to eliminate it. The timing of that application can be tricky, as jumping the gun and applying the herbicide too early can prove fruitless. The same goes for applying herbicides too late. Crabgrass will likely still grow if the herbicide is applied too early or too late. UME recommends applying a pre-emergent herbicide when soil temperatures approach 55 F.



Digitaria sanguinalis

chemical treatment may be when the weather is hot and applied after crabgrass has dry. So homeowners who already grown in, but this intend to pull crabgrass by option requires careful ap- hand can decrease their risk plication to avoid killing sur- of dehydration or heat-relatrounding healthy grass.

daunting. That's especially lower and temperatures are

Home Depot notes that a so because crabgrass thrives more mild. ed illness by drinking plenty Crabgrass can be pulled of water and pulling the grass out by hand, but such an during early morning or eveapproach can be physically ning hours when the sun is

Crabgrass can compromise the look of an otherwise healthy lawn. But various strategies can eliminate crabgrass and restore a lawn without much effort on the part of homeowners.

Pick the right trees for your property

by serving both aesthetic home surrounded by healthy in their yards. green trees can be a sight to behold, and those same a handful of variables can trees can benefit surround- help homeowners determine ing plants and wildlife at the which trees will make the same time.

As appealing as trees are, Day

Trees benefit a landscape ultimately choose for their trees/rightTreeAndPlace/ ing plants. In addition, wide properties will grow well in size.cfm and serves as an in- trees that are planted too and utilitarian functions. A the soil and moisture present

Careful consideration of best fit for their properties.

• Height: Homeowners not all trees and landscapes must consider the projected make for the perfect height of a tree before plantmatch. The Arbor ing it. Avoid trees that will Foundation bump into anything when notes the impor- fully grown, as that can adtance of planning versely affect surrounding when designing a greenery and pose a safety landscape. Plan- hazard. The ADF's tree siz- tant that they're planted far are not in need of instant for a landscape requires ning ensures the ing guide can be accessed enough apart so they don't transformation can try trees careful consideration of a trees homeowners at https://www.arborday.org/ adversely affect surround- with slower growth rates, host of variables.

valuable resource for home- close together can make the owners who want to plant landscape appear crowded, new trees around their properties.

• Canopy spread: Trees grow out as well as up, so it's rate is an important variable important to consider their because it can affect how potential width at maturity as quickly homeowners will see well. The ADF sizing guide changes in their landscapes. can help homeowners get Homeowners who want to an idea of how wide a tree plant for privacy can conis likely to be at maturity. sider trees with quick growth Trees that spread out quite a rates or purchase more mabit don't necessarily need to ture trees that are already be avoided, but it's impor- near full growth. Those who

its aesthetic appeal.

• Growth rate: Growth

which the ADF notes typically live longer than fastgrowing species.

· Requirements: Differtaking something away from ent trees require different amounts of sun and moisture and different soil components to thrive. Homeowners can have their soil tested to determine which trees will thrive in it. Local garden centers can be a great resource for homeowners who want insight as to which trees will thrive in their local climates.

Choosing the right trees







Heirloom tomato varieties

DID YOU KNOW:

Tomato varieties

were tasked with sorting note that there are at least walls and releases the antithrough each variety of tomato whenever they visited ies across the globe. Flavor been linked to reduced risk their local grocery store or could have a lot to do with for stroke, lower cholesterol farmers markets, then such that, as tomatoes are popular and eye health. Consumer trips could take a consider- ingredients in dishes span- Reports also notes that lyable amount of time. That's ning the globe. Individuals copene is fat-soluble, which because there are thousands of varieties of tomato. The pack the most healthy punch absorbed when eaten with home gardening enthusiasts at Home Garden Vegeta-

If tomato-loving shoppers bles (homegardenveg.com) tomatoes breaks down cell 10,000 unique tomato variet- oxidant lycopene, which has who want their tomatoes to means it's more effectively possible may want to cook some fat. them in olive oil. Cooking

Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District



Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District has made it its mission to ensure that residents that rely on the Upper Trinity Aquifer have clean water for many generations to come, protecting the rights of landowners, as well as the environment and ecosystem. To learn more about how UTGCD serves you, or for information about what you can do to be a responsible landowner, visit uppertrinitygcd.com/ or call 817-523-5200. Their office is located at 1859 W. Highway 199 in Springtown.





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SORRELLS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2B.

Getting started

Potential buyers can pick from multiple floorplans that Sorrells has built previously, plans can be modified, or Sorrells can contact architects for plans, or create new Hot market ones from the ground up.

"Most of the time - I would say 99.9% – we have plans that we show clients, and we end up building the plan, or we modify," Meriem said.

Buyers can ask to modify floor plans, such as making a bedroom larger or changing the size of the back porch or kitchen. The suggestions are modified and given to the architects. When a plan is finalized, the buyer signs off on the plan, and then the building process begins.

Sorrells builds its homes on at least 1-acre lots and follows a multi-step building process. Soil tests must be performed so that engineers know how to design the beams, piers and foundation of the home. Before the slab is poured, the engineers will perform an inspection on site on the piers, beams and other essential elements to ensure quality foundations.

People can choose between one- and two-story homes and other additional structures like pools or shops. At Sorrells, people can select spec homes that are already being constructed to meet their needs or start with a "blank canvas" and build a custom home from the ground up.

"Before, 80% of my construction was custom and 20% is spec homes," Meriem said. "Now with the way the market is, today's world,

we're putting more specs on customer. the ground but we're sellstart. So, no matter, they end up being customs."

Meriem said the housing market has been explosive and this has been the busiest year in the history of Sorrells Custom Homes.

"Because we were doing 10, 11 homes a year, and now I'm probably going to close 30 homes this year," Meriem said.

Potential buyers can get a tour of a Sorrells home or can visit the gallery of completed homes on the company website at www.sorrellscustomhomes.com. A new custom home can take around 10 months to build, with soil testing and foundation design taking the longest time to accomplish.

Homes generally begin at 2,200 to 2,700 square feet, on average, but Sorrells has completed custom homes of 4,000+ square feet.

What makes Sorrells special, Meriem said, is that the company has had the same skilled subcontractors for many years – a point of pride for her. By having the same skilled trades subcontractors over a number of years, loyalty and relationships are built and sustained.

People discover Sorrells Custom Homes through word of mouth or by driving by their many high-quality homes under construction and calling or visiting their website. The company is very involved in the entire process of building homes and seeks to satisfy every

"We are family- oriented ing them before we're even and provide friendly and finished or before we even prompt established two-way to be a part of the Azle

ents." Meriem said. Meriem said she is proud

communication with our cli- community and said her tom home may call the comschools

two daughters attend Azle pany at 817-941-6454. The company's website is www. People interested in a cus- sorrellscustomhomes.com.



Potential buyers can pick from multiple floorplans, modify an existing one, or create a new one. Rooms can be resized and new ones added, depending on the buyers' needs.



An aerial view of some of Sorrells' custom homes.



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for park rules and RV site application

ACE HARDWARE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B.

door," Robbins said about soils, Robbins said. Yearcustomers. trained to be knowledgeable est-selling item. about products.

soon as they walk in the - are fertilizers, mulch and \$200.

The items ranking highest Azle within a 5-mile range, location. The Ace location in in sales this time of year - Robbins said. Free delivery Bowie burned down a year insofar as home and garden is provided for anything over ago, but it has been rebuilt reached at 817-270-5600.

The Robbins family has Staffers are round, concrete is the high- owned the Azle location for six years. Windol Robbins, Ace delivers its products to Chase's father, bought the

and was to have its grand opening April 23.

The store is open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Curbside pickup is available. The store can be



Chase Robbins, area manager for Ace Hardware, looks over grills at the Azle Ace Hardware location. The store has a number of products and supplies to help people meet their home and garden needs this spring. PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH





Ace has annuals and perennials for your spring planting needs. PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH



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Mike's Westside Rental

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY azlereporter@azlenews.net

Spring is finally here, and that means it's time for the Weekend Warriors to get outside and get those proj- to create a backyard oasis job easier.

ects done.

has the equipment you need ment you need to get it done. to help with all of your proj- From tillers to stump grindects, big and small.

or just ready to start a spring Mike's Westside Rental garden, Mike's has the equipers, sod cutters and aerators, Whether you're looking rent the tools that make the

Want to take a zero-turn all that you need to get the too.

Mike's can set you up with list done.

Westside Rental has those and floor scrapers, flooring nailers and paint guns. What-If you've got a long list of ever the project, Mike's can indoor projects coming up, help you get that honey-do



Graham John (left), store director, Greg Hulce and Jeff Sparks can be found working at the Azle and Weatherford locations, ready to help you get the tools needed to complete your projects this spring. PHOTO BY JESSICA MCKINNEY

Once you get your projects mower for a spin? Mike's job done — like tile saws complete and you're ready to celebrate, Mike's has all the things you need to throw a party for your friends, family and neighbors too. They carry everything from lighting and dance floors to tables, chairs and linens, and even a setup for an outdoor cinema.

Mike's Westside Rental is also a full line dealer for SCAG mowers, Echo Power Equipment and Toro mowers.

"We sell and service all three brands along with having parts and warranty capabilities," said Bert Thompson, president of MWR.

"Homeowners can purchase a new push mower, chainsaw, or zero-turn mower at our location."

Mike's Westside Rental has locations in Azle, Weatherford, Stephenville and Graham and they deliver to many of the surrounding communities.

The Azle location is at 1363 Northwest Parkway next to The Orchard Event Venue. They are open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 7:30 a.m. to noon.

For a look at all that Mike's Westside Rental has to offer, you can visit them online at www.MikesRental.com. For questions and quotes, call 817-444-2311.



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THE WAY BANKING SHOULD BE



Poisonous plants to avoid around the house

choosing plants to display in and around their homes. That's because, despite their mans. beauty, various plants are toxic to humans and animals.

Avoiding potentially poisonous plants can prevent injuries and even deaths. Here's a list of some plants homeowners may want to avoid.

• Rhododendron: Rhododendrons produce flower clusters that bloom in the spring. They also produce thick, glossy leaves that thrive in the fall and winter in many areas. If any part of the plant is swallowed it can cause vomiting and potentially slow the pulse.

popular plant grows close to the ground, blooming bell-shaped, sweet-smelling flowers. If large doses of the toxin in this plant are ingested, it can gradually slow the prove fatal.

• Dumb cane: The houseplant dieffenbachia, comadds tropical appeal indoors. The sap of the plant causes However, foxgloves contain ardous to family and pets.

Homeowners must con- the tongue to burn and swell, potent cardiac glycosides sider various factors when enough to block off air to the that can be lethal in high throat. It can be fatal if in- doses. gested by both pets and hu-

> cascading down from planters or shelving. While its large amounts to cause probskin irritation, rash and fever, particularly after eating the berries.

Bittersweet nightshade grows as a weed on some berries that grow toxic seeds. properties. It's particularly problematic for those who and consume these bright have pets or young kids because of the brightly colored berries it produces. The high-· Lily-of-the-valley: This est level of toxicity comes people and pets. Palms are from these berries.

to The Spruce: Decor, foxgloves are among the most toxic specimens commonly grown on landscapes. They heart down and potentially are widely coveted for their issues if ingested or allergic pink, purple and white bellshaped flowers that grow in tall spires. They're also deermonly known as Dumb cane, and rabbit-resistant, making them especially popular. plants that will not be haz-

• Philodendron: Philodendron are easy to care for and • English ivy: This go-to hearty. While not fatal, a bite draping vine looks lovely of philodendron can irritate the skin and cause nausea and swelling of the mouth, toxins need to be ingested in throat and tongue. Similar effects occur with Pothos, lems, English ivy can cause another common and hearty houseplant.

• Yew shrubs: The needlelike leaves of this shrub are • Bittersweet nightshade: toxic to humans and animals, as are the fleshy, bright red Kids may be tempted to pick berries.

• Palms: Several different palm trees are poisonous to an overlooked source of poi-· Foxglove: According soning tragedies in warmer climates. Formosa palm, Sago palm, Queen Sago, and Cardboard palm are some of the varieties that can cause skin reactions if touched.

> When planning a landscape, work with a skilled garden expert to choose



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Telling signs three common insects are infesting a lawn

2. Chinch bugs

The experts at BobVila.

com report that chinch bugs

are not necessarily problem-

atic when their populations

is most visible between

brown after wilting.

Well-maintained laws are a byproduct of hard work. That hard work is a point of pride for homeowners who spend countless hours throughout spring, summer and fall tending to their lawns.

All that hard work can be compromised when uninvited guests, namely insects, show up in a lawn. Insect infestations can turn a normally pristine and lush green lawn into a brown and sickly eyesore. Identifying which type of insect is damaging a lawn is the first step toward returning that lawn to its green glory. These are three common lawn insects and signs that they're infesting a lawn.

1. Grubs

Grubs like to feast on the roots of grass right below the surface. Michigan State University Extention Turf & Landscape reports that grub damage can appear from March to early May or from mid-September to early November. The lawn and garden experts at GardenTech note that wilted grass blades are often the first indicator of a grub infestation, which is followed by patches of brown turf and eventually death. Crows, skunks and moles eat grubs, so the sight of them in a lawn could indicate an infestation.



3. Cutworms

The lawn care experts at Scotts note that cutworms are moth larvae that hide in the thatch laver of a are limited to around 10 to lawn during the day before 15 bugs per square foot of emerging at night to feed lawn. In such instances, on grass blades. Patches of chinch bug populations are brown grass between one generally controlled by ants and two inches in width is and ladybugs. However, a sign of cutworm infestaextreme heat and drought, tion. Homeowners who noproblems that have plagued tice a growing number of various regions in North birds pecking away in their America in recent years, lawns may have a cutworm reduce the populations of infestation, which can be bugs that feed on chinch confirmed by peeling up a bugs, thus increasing the section of damaged grass population of these unwant- and looking for cutworms, ed guests that feed on grass. which are brown, gray or GardenTech indicates that black and tend to be around damage from chinch bugs two inches long.

Local turf specialists can June and September. That recommend strategies to damage begins with grass curtail such populations and taking on a purple tinge be- help homeowners restore fore it turns yellow and then their lawns to full health.



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Community service projects for kids

back to one's community is a value that parents can instill in their children at an early age. Learning about worthy causes in local communities can help develop empathy in children and give them insight into those who live outside of their social and economic spheres. In addition, encouraging children to take part in community service can teach them skills they would not necessarily learn in the classroom.

Getting involved in community service as a child may lead to a lifelong commitment to giving back. The following are some ways children can get involved in community service projects.

Spend time with seniors

Children can visit seniors

The importance of giving in nursing homes or assisted etable or flower garden, or living facilities, provided that the visits are cleared with the home's staff. Kids can work alongside seniors on craft projects or participate in games like bingo.

Collect food for the needy

Volunteering with a local Send care packages soup kitchen can teach children about the plight of the less fortunate. Kids also can collect canned or boxed food and deliver it to food pantries so that no needy family has to go hungry.

Improve school grounds

Working with the principal ticipate in a beach or park of a local school, children cleanup. can make plans to improve the grounds. Ideas include ways for kids to get inrepairing play equipment, volved and give back to planting trees, adding a veg- their communities.

installing buddy benches where friends can find each other and hang out.

Donate eyeglasses

Kids can gather used eyeglasses and donate to an organization that recycles them for the needy.

Kids can reward first responders and military personnel who live in their communities by putting together care packages for them and their families.

Pick up litter

Children can gather likeminded friends and par-

Service projects are great



There are many opportunities to volunteer in the Tarrant/Parker county area, including the TRWD Trash Bash. PHOTO COURTESY TRWD

6 ways to make your garden more successful

dening for many different friendly or averse to plants at reasons. In addition to adding beauty to a property, gardens can offset grocery costs by yielding tasty produce. They also offer important habitats and food sources for both insects and animals.

The following guidance can make home gardens that much more successful.

1. Start small

It is smart to start small and build on what you find successful, which includes plants that thrive in your lawn and garden.

This also is beneficial if you are unsure of vegetable light dances over areas of yields. Several blooming your landscape. Take note of plants producing bushels of crops can be overwhelming, and shade. This will help you especially if you can't get to harvesting or cooking them in a timely fashion.

Homeowners enjoy gar- characteristics that make it a local garden center.

3. Arm yourself with knowledge

Read the packaging and do your research so your plants have the best chance of not only sprouting, but also surviving. Many people prefer to start seedlings indoors in late winter and then transfer those plants outdoors when they are stronger and more established.

4. Sit in your yard and observe

Watch the way the sunwhich areas get the most sun plan what to plant and where to plant it. Vegetable gardens tend to need ample sunlight to bear pick-worthy produce. You can give plants a leg up by growing them in optimal conditions.





Ornamental trees like the Bradford pear have small, inedible fruit, which is eaten by birds and propagates through bird droppings.

Invasive species

2. Assess the soil

Plants need nutrient-rich soil to encourage extensive root systems and produce strong, hardy plants, according to the gardening resource GrowVeg. Nourish soil with organic matter, such as manure, compost, shredded leaves and natural mulch. Add this organic matter in the off-season to give it enough time to be incorporated into the ground before spring. You can have your soil tested for pH and other

5. Choose hardy varieties

Certain plants have been bred to thrive in your climate, including heat-tolerant plants for climates with sweltering summer sun. Consult with a local gardening center to figure out which plant zone you are in and which plants will do best within that zone.

Rainwater barrels help conserve water, which can be used to water your garden and flowerbeds. Learn more about rainwater harvesting, gardening tips and more at savetarrantwater.com/events/ PHOTO COURTESY TRWD

6. Use rainwater

Rainwater contains fewer contaminants and additives than tap water, which can

benefit garden plants. Collect rainwater in rain barrels and use irrigation systems to deliver it to the garden.

Homeowners should give cant fundamental disrupdue consideration to whether or not plants are considered invasive species before introducing new plants on their properties. According to the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, invasive species of plants can lead to the extinction of native plants and animals. Invasive plant cal wildlife that depends species also can reduce bio- on native plant species for diversity and cause signifi- food and cover.

tions to local ecosystems. Though non-native plants are often cherished for their unique looks, homeowners planting new gardens or supplementing existing gardens with new plants are urged to plant only native species. Such an approach benefits plants and also lo-



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The basics of container gardening

Gardening can be less labor-intensive and even more successful when people consider the many benefits of container gardening.

What is container gardening?

As its name implies, container gardening is growing plants inside of containers. These containers can be flower pots, rectangular deck boxes or even large raised garden beds.

Pros to container gardening

One of the advantages of container gardening is that plants can be moved in and out of sunlight to ensure the right growing conditions. This isn't as easily achieved when gardens are stationary. Also, beginner gardeners may be more able to control soil conditions inside of a small container rather than a vast ground-based garden, which will require a good deal of manual labor. eye-popping displays, usuan expansive landscape.



Cons to container gardening

Container garden plants will not have direct access to the ground, so they need gardeners to create the ideal growing conditions. Developing the right care formula can be challenging. The home and garden resource The Spruce says that drainage is an important factor in container gardening, and most containers do not offer enough drainage holes. If water cannot escape the soil, the roots of the plants can Pots and boxes also can be rot and die. It's not enough grouped together to create to add stones or gravel to the bottom of containers. ally at lower costs than the Drill additional holes in the Oregon State University sheer volume of plants that bottom (1/2-inch in diameter Extension Services suggests would be needed to fill out for small or medium-sized using a slow-release fertilpots; one inch in diameter izer or worm castings several for larger pots). Also, be sure times throughout the season.

to check on soil moisture so that watering can be adjusted. During hot stretches, plants may need to be watered more frequently.

Plan for plants that play well

Grouping plants together can create visually stunning combinations. However, it is important to choose plants that require the same amount of light and moisture. Look at plant tags when visiting the garden center and select complementary plants, or ask a store employee. Mixing different plant shapes, colors and leaf textures, as well as plants of various heights, can help containers look filled out.

Feed plants accordingly

Plants need nutrition to thrive in containers. Quality potting mixes will contain fertilizers, but nutrition will wane over time. Every couple of weeks, container plants will need either fresh potting mix or granular fertilizer added to feed them.



Starla Karlis

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