

Gardening tips for the Busy Professional

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The wonders of gardening

Most of our jobs have become indoor job. We have become disconnected with nature. Our feelings of achievement come from more money or power. We miss the feeling that we get from planting a seed, nurturing it like our plant baby, giving it food and water until we see it grow to be the adult that everyone would be proud of. Along the way we get to feel the sunshine, watch the bees move from flower to flower, listen to the birds singing, see the fruit form and develop and taste its sweetness and finally feel the uncertainty of nature's weather that affects how all this happens. It reminds us that humans still do not control everything.

Gardening can become just another in a long list of chores. It would really be a shame to let that happen. We need to allow ourselves to feel the joy of success when we are in the garden not the frustration of another job not quite done.

Tips to make having a beautiful yard easier

Weeds

- Better living through science
 - *Use pre-emergents
 - Chemicals or natural
 - *Over the top for grass
 - *Roundup
- Keep beds mulched
- Don't let it get away from you.

Pruning

- Make pruning and a weekly affair
 - *Sucker Stopper

Fertilizing

- Granule slow release fertilizer like Osmocote
- Use slow release or organic lawn fertilizers
 - We are growing for color not hay production

Bugs

- Use systemic insect control
 - *Insect preventative (Bayer)
- Healthy plants have fewer disease and insect problems

Watering

- Make sure irrigation system is functioning as well as it can.
 - Put pots and baskets on drip
 - Get hose timers and leaky pipe.
- Use polymers in pots
- Use a good brand of potting soil
- Recognize changes in water demand times
 - Mid-May, Mid-June, Mid-September, Early October

Know about the key times.

- Pruning
- Weeding
 - Allow weeds to start before tilling
 - Spring Summer Fall
- Bugs
- Planting

General landscape Design

- ~Confine the plants that need a lot of attention to smaller areas and containers.
- ~Raised beds are easier on your back.
- ~Plant less perennials and more shrubs
- ~Use fewer prubs – plants that require cutting to the ground each year.
 - Or maybe this is better for you??
- ~Use plants and a landscape that fits your environment, don't fight it enjoy it.
- ~A professional designer should be asking you a lot of questions about how you would like to use your yard. Your answers should really reflect how much work (or money) you would really like to give to your yard.

When to get help:

Find a professional guru, have them make a yearly visit to make sure things are going well and spend money with them so that you maintain their interest. Watch out for their level of expertise. You need more than a labor service here. Landscapes need a face lift every five to eight years too.

Lou Erickson thinks that "Gardening requires lots of water – most of it in the form of perspiration."

I hope that you picked up a tip or two here today that can help you to have a beautiful garden that fits into the time that you have to give it.

Thanks for allowing me come. -Jack



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