



COURTESY KICHLER LIGHTING VIA ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/MCT  
The bedroom uses different sources of lighting. The under-cabinet lighting in the display cabinets provides accent lighting for showcased objects. The ceiling fixture adds a decorative touch.

# Some Brighter Ideas

## Lighting Can Be An Easy Way To Update A Room

BY LINDA JERKINS

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (MCT)

ATLANTA — Since relocating from California to Atlanta for her husband’s job, Marty Webb has made plenty of changes to her home — with lighting options never far from her mind.

Over the past two years, the six-bedroom house in Buckhead, Ga., has been painted, and several bathrooms have been renovated. Along the way, Webb has shopped for decorative lighting fixtures for various rooms.

Webb’s hunt for a ceiling fixture for her bedroom sitting room took her to Redefined Home Boutique in Atlanta’s west Midtown area, which also offers furniture, home accessories and design services. There, she found the “perfect” hanging fixture with a silver leaf finish. On another visit, Webb spotted a floor lamp for the same sitting area.

She bought a more ornate chandelier for her master bathroom — but chose a “fun” one for another upstairs bathroom. Recently, Webb found an antiqued mirrored sconce to light the stairway in her home. She bought three.

“Lighting is an easy and relatively inexpensive way to update a room,” Webb said.

Good lighting also is important, said Jim Howard, owner of James Michael Howard Interiors. The right lighting does more than illuminate. It allows you to perform a variety of activities in each room.

A lighting fixture, such as a chandelier in the bedroom or bath, also adds drama or a pop of color to a room.

But before you shop for lighting fixtures, do some homework and consider these tips from the American Lighting Association, a Dallas-based trade group.

**DETERMINE YOUR NEEDS**

Identify the activities that occur in each room. Consider food preparation, grooming,

reading and homework.

Identify which rooms will serve more than a single purpose. Those areas will need more than one type of lighting.

Identify the mood or ambience that you want to create.

Keep in mind that dark colors absorb more light. You may need to provide additional light in rooms with dark wall colors.

Consider your style. You want the lighting’s shape, color and size to complement the room and your home’s style.

Before you buy, shop lighting showrooms, shops and online for styles, shapes and ideas. If you need help selecting the right lighting, check the American Lighting Association’s website for a list of retail showrooms, designers, consultants and manufacturers.

### LIGHTING BASICS

A good lighting plan involves three types of lighting: ambient or general lighting, task and accent.

Ambient lighting provides the room’s overall illumination. It allows you to see and walk around safely. It can include chandeliers, ceiling or wall-mounted fixtures. Ambient lighting also can include recessed or track lighting. Have a central source of ambient lighting in all rooms.

Consider adding dimmers, which some designers consider a must-have update, especially in the kitchen. Dimmers allow you to adjust the intensity of the light or to strike the right mood.

Task lighting helps you perform specific tasks, such as preparing food or reading. Task lighting includes pendants, floor and desk lamps and under-cabinet lights.

Accent lighting creates visual interest in a room. It can be used to focus on a painting or sculpture or highlight a wall. Track, recessed and wall-mounted fixtures provide accent lighting.

### WHERE TO LOCATE LIGHTING

Lighting can go on the ceiling or on a wall or table.

Ceiling. If you prefer light from above, your options include chandeliers, flush-mount fixtures, pendant lights, track and recessed lighting. A combination will give you the light you need for general lighting and tasks.

Walls. Wall lighting provides indirect light and adds a decorative touch. Wall-mounted fixtures, or sconces, light a wall area and can be used in most rooms. For a functional reading lamp near a bed or sofa, swing-arm lamps are popular.

Lamps. Floor, desk and table lamps allow you to move your lighting and place it where it is needed.

### TRENDS

Joe Rey-Barreau, an architect and lighting designer in Lexington, Ky., also serves as an education consultant for the American Lighting Association. He discussed lighting trends at the recent International Lighting Market in Dallas.

—Fixtures with fun and whimsical design characteristics.

—Modern-style fixtures using crystal with unexpected details.

—Increasing use of energy-efficient lighting, such as LED lighting.

—Chandelier designs based on strong geometric shapes, including circles, ellipses and squares.

—A style that some might call “exotic traditional,” which incorporates unusual details with a traditional style.

—Retro lighting — with simple forms and chrome finishes — that evoke images of the 1950s and 1960s.

—The use of delicate jewelry-quality chains draped over unusual frames.

—Variations on traditional lantern-style fixtures, which are commonly used in foyers but now are being used throughout the house.

# Is Your Garden Dead From The Hot And Dry Weather? Here’s How To Try Again

BY JAMES A. FUSSELL

McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — It’s hot. It’s dry. Your garden resembles a moonscape, and those flowers that bloomed in spring now look like they’re putting out deadlocks.

This isn’t fair. There’s still two months of summer left. You need a garden do-over, a foliage facelift, a midsummer mulligan.

It’s not your fault.

“Normally we get through the Fourth of July without many problems,” said Dennis Patton, horticulturist with Johnson County Kansas State Research and Extension. “June can be hot, but it also will have rainfall. This year we had the heat and the dry weather.”

Triple-digit heat. There is hope.

“Many garden centers will have annuals that you can plant right now,” Patton said. “You can rip out the dead, the dying and ugly and spiff up that container or spot in the landscape.”

Those heat-tolerant annuals include cleome, marigold, zinnia, vinca, lantana, coleus and penta. All are drought-tolerant, need full sun and can be grown in a container or in the landscape.

“Penta doesn’t start blooming until it gets hot,” Patton said. “In the spring it’s just a green foliage plant and people overlook it. Penta hits its stride in July and August. It usually is in shades of pink, red and white. It’s just a little flat-topped grouping of flowers



MCT  
Heat-tolerant annuals include lantana with height 18 to 24 inches and spacing 12 to 18 inches.

the diameter of a tennis ball, and it’s all over the plant. ...

“In my containers I put a lot of sun-tolerant coleus, which are looking great. I just fertilized them.”

That’s critical.

“People forget to fertilize,” said Jim Gardner, manager of Family Tree Nursery in Liberty, Mo. “I ask them, ‘Do you feed your children?’ “Well, yes.”

“It’s the same thing for plants. If you don’t feed them they’re not going to grow.”

He recommends fertilizing every fifth watering.

But while people under-fertilize plants, they often overwater them.

“We tell people water deeply, but don’t water every day,” Gardner said. “People think they’re hot so their plants must be hot as well. But plants shut down and quit taking up moisture. Then, when people overwater, their plants sit in the water in the heat and it’s almost like boiling the roots. What we say is plants can

go thirsty many times, but they only need to drown once, and then they’re dead.”

Gardner also recommends a product called Wilt-Pruf.

“It’s like hand cream for plants,” he said. “It helps keep moisture in plants with hard leaves, such as boxwood, holly, azalea and rhododendrons.

Your toasty brown lawn?

“You have the option of continuing the watering and paying the water bill,” Patton said. “But there a lot of people who just let their turf go dormant, which means they don’t water on a regular basis. But there’s a fine line between dormant and dead.”

To keep your grass alive you need to water at least every two weeks, and maybe more depending on the soil and location.

With whatever you’re growing, success depends largely on weather.

If it’s going to be hotter than Hades without any rain for the next few weeks, even a do-over might be futile, Patton said.

But Debbi Adams, master gardener from Leawood, Kan., refuses to let the hot weather get her down.

“Now’s a great time to buy annuals such as mandevilla,” she said. “It comes from Mexico, so it loves the heat. Now you can find them at hardware stores for half price or even 75 percent off. And ferns are a good thing to put in a pot now, and they don’t need a lot of water and can take full sun, full shade, anything!”

## Drought Takes Toll On State’s Trees

BROOKINGS — South Dakota’s dry spring and hot, dry summer conditions are leading to severe stress for many of the state’s trees and shrubs, according to John Ball, SDSU Extension Forester and Forest Health Specialist for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture.

“The most common symptom of moisture stress is leaves turning a lighter green than is typical for the species. Affected leaves are also showing brown and crisp margins, with browning often occurring between the leaf veins,” Ball said. “Some trees in the southeastern part of the state are already having leaves curl and fall, a symptom of severe stress. Eventually trees showing severe moisture stress will begin to die back.”

In current drought conditions, evergreen foliage on drought-stressed trees, particularly seedlings, is turning yellow to almost purple at the tips of the needles. Some of the older needles, which were formed three to five years ago, on drought-stressed trees are beginning to drop prematurely.

“There is not much that can be done at this time other than water,” Ball said. “This is particularly important for new plantings, whether they are seedlings in a new windbreak or a tree just planted in a yard.”

He says a seedling is going to need between a pint and a quart of water per day, while a newly planted tree will need about 2 to 3 gallons per day at this time.

“Most young tree belts are probably not receiving anywhere close to this amount and I suspect there will be a lot of replanting next spring,” he said.

Ball says established trees will not need daily watering, but still require weekly watering to survive this dry, hot summer. A 2-inch diameter tree, as measured at 6-inches above the ground, should be receiving about 20 gallons of water a week.

“This is best-applied slowly with a soaker hose placed near the tree,” he said. “Tree roots typically extend out as far as the tree is tall, but the critical watering zone is a distance out about two-thirds the height. As an example, if the tree is about 24-feet tall, the watering should occur within 16 feet of the trunk.”

To learn more about tree care, visit iGrow.org.

## Wildflower Tour To Highlight Biological Diversity

Get on board the bus for the Wildflower Tour sponsored by the Northeast Nebraska Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council. The planned route for the Wildflower Tour will travel into the northwest part of the six-county area. A homemade lunch is part of the event at Swanson’s Hunting Acres Lodge south west of Niobrara. The date is Thursday, Aug. 16, starting at the Wildwood Acres Park, east of Verdigre, Neb. (by the swimming pool) at 8:45 a.m. with departure at 9 a.m. and the planned return at approximately 2 p.m.

There is a fee and pre-registration is requested by Aug. 6.

This is the fifth year for a tour like this, but this year as RC&D Council President and wildflower enthusiast, Dennis Wacker says “We’ll be watching for a variety of butterflies, other pollinators, and birds as well as wildflowers”.

Nebraska is blessed with many biologically diverse and unique landscapes. Games & Parks Commission biologists and botanists will share their knowledge and expertise of the prairie plants and wildlife. This educational activity makes it possible for those who love this beautiful scenery and Nebraska’s diverse native plants and animals a real opportunity to get out there and experience it.

## Garden Start-Up Webinar Is Aug. 14-15

BROOKINGS — SDSU Extension is hosting a Community Garden Start-up Webinars Aug. 14 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and again on Aug. 15 from noon to 1 p.m.

Community Gardens are a place to grow food, reconnect with nature and get physical exercise. Community Gardens provide a place for renters without access to land or for homeowners with yards that are too small or too shady to garden.

Is your community interested in starting a community garden? If so, join SDSU Extension field specialists for an introductory Webinar on getting started. Specialists will discuss action steps on starting a Community Garden — various models, site assessment, resources needed and more.

During the Webinar, they will also discuss successful community gardens which have started as a result of the SDSU Extension Horizon’s Program, an action-based community development program.

To participate in the Aug. 14 or Aug. 15 Webinars visit Participant Link: <http://igrow.org/events/>. For more information contact Chris Zdorovtsov, SDSU Extension Community Development Field Specialist at 605-782-3290 or Christina.Zdorovtsov@sdstate.edu.

## Master Gardener Class Open to All Levels

SIOUX CITY, Iowa — Anyone with an interest in gardening is invited to join the Iowa State University (ISU) Extension-Woodbury County fall Master Gardener class beginning Tuesday, Sept. 6. The class will continue meeting on Tuesday and Thursday evenings through early November. One class will be held on a Saturday at Iowa State University in Ames. Class sessions will be held from 6:15-9:30 p.m. at Woodbury County Extension, 4301 Sergeant Road, #209, Sioux City.

“This will be our 30th Master Gardener class here at Woodbury County Extension,” said Woodbury County Extension Horticulturist Mimi Shanahan. “Since 1986 over 500 area residents have become Master Gardeners through Woodbury County Extension.” The class is open to everyone with any level of gardening expertise.

Some of the subjects covered in class include annual and perennial flowers, fruits and vegetables, houseplants, lawns, trees, entomology (insects), plant diseases, soils and fertilization. An all day Saturday trip to the plant pathology and entomology labs on the Iowa State University campus in Ames will provide hands-on experience.

In addition to the class time, each participant commits to 40 hours of volunteer service on garden related projects in the community.

Projects have included community gardening projects at the Dorothy Pecaute Nature Center, Latham Park, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, and the June E. Nylen Cancer Center, among others. Plus, volunteers answer horticulture questions area residents’ call into Woodbury County Extension. Master Gardeners also assist in the planning and implementing of the Siouxland Garden Show.

Registration deadline for the class is Friday, Aug. 31 with a registration fee of \$155. Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Class size is limited to 18. To register for the class or for more information, visit [www.extension.iastate.edu/woodbury](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/woodbury) or contact Extension at (712) 276-2157, [xwoodbury@iastate.edu](mailto:xwoodbury@iastate.edu).

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