

Yard & Garden 2010

Harvesting A Healthier Garden For Your Family

(MS) – Spring is here at last! Most of us can't wait to shake off the winter blues, to get out into the sunshine, walk the dog, play catch with the kids or just take a stroll in the park. For homeowners, it's the first chance to work on the yard, restore a lush lawn and, for an increasing number of gardening aficionados, create a home vegetable garden. Inner city urbanites, even those with a postage stamp size yard, have been swept up by the 'grow your own' movement.

Victory Gardens, first introduced by Eleanor Roosevelt during the Great War, were the original community raised gardens. People were encouraged to grow their own veggies in support of the war effort. Today, raised garden beds have replaced them as the eco-friendly solution for eating healthier without adding to the carbon footprint caused by trucking produce from the grower to the store.

Thanks to the Frame It All™ raised bed gardening system, it's nearly effortless to assemble a raised garden bed and easy to maintain with minimal weeding and back-breaking bending to water and maintain it—a boon for seniors! Gone are

the tattered, rotting wood frames or hulking ugly railroad ties that can overpower the aesthetics of even the most beautiful yard. Manufactured with 40 percent wood fiber and 60 percent recycled post-consumer plastic, the Frame It All™ rigid, 'green' composite timbers are attractive with a wood grain finish that is UV protected. The raised garden bed timbers will never rot, splinter, warp nor become infested and are recyclable. The patented heavy duty, corner joints and brackets make it simple to increase the size and height dimensions at any time. It's like 'Lego' for gardeners!

"I have a small back yard which is used by my entire family and dog," says Nicole from Spring, Texas. "So I like having an area set apart from the rest of the yard in which I can garden. This system is so easy to put together, and it looks great! I'm not a very good construction person, but I found the assembly instructions were easy to follow, and all I needed was a screwdriver and a mallet."

Home vegetable growers control the quality of the soil, nutrients and other additives so veggies and fruits grown in a

raised garden bed taste better, are healthier and cost much less than those from bought at the local market. Of course, the icing on the cake is the self-satisfaction and joy of serving up delicious tomatoes and veggies picked fresh from the garden.

• Think vertically. Adding a veggie trellis to a raised bed vegetable garden greatly increases the amount of vertical growing space and provides the needed support for cultivating squash, beans, tomatoes and other vines. As well as giving a viable option for those without a lot of space, a vertical growing system also pays numerous dividends to the garden itself. Plants on the vine enjoy greater air circulation and so are healthier and not as susceptible to disease.

"I just put mine together with my 13 year old son, and it was a breeze," says Paula from Valley Forge, PA. "We had lots of rain last night, so it was very easy to get the corners into the soil. We filled it with compost, chopped leaves, manure, and top soil. I think this is a great raised bed frame. We plan to plant onions and garlic in this one, and will be putting more of these in the veggie garden within the



PHOTO COURTESY OF METROCREATIVE SERVICES

next few weeks."

• Add compost and mulch to the garden. If weeds are a gardener's worst enemy, compost and mulch might just be a gardener's best friend. Compost adds any number of microorganisms to the

soil, strengthening a plant's roots and enabling it to pick up more nutrients in the process. Mulch, meanwhile, can help keep down harmful weeds, thereby reducing the competition a plant will have for valuable water and nutrients.

Rock Your World With River Stones

(MS) – Looking to punch up the aesthetic value of your yard? Try adding an inviting stone patio, pathway or border. Stone blends well with all architecture and landscape styles and is far more appealing to the eye than boring, bland concrete.



Adding a stone path is fast and simple when using new Easy Gardener® River Stones.

Rocks and stone have been used in landscapes for centuries. They add timeless style and enduring beauty. The longevity of the paving stones on the island of Crete, in place for thousands of years, speaks volumes about stone's durability in a landscape.

Adding stone to a yard naturally enhances the beauty of the landscape and brings balance between organic and inorganic materials.

Creating a stone path once required a large amount of time and sweat. Today stone hardscapes can be created quickly and easily with a product like Easy Gardener(R) River Stones.

The natural stone forms are made with Indonesian river stones. Stones are permanently attached to strong net and rubber backings with eco-friendly adhesives. The forms retain their shape and can be used to make stone pathways, patio surfaces, flowerbed borders and accents. This is one of those products people see and then ask themselves, "Where could I use those?"

The square tiles, rectangular mats and long, narrow borders are available in five colors – blush, onyx, pearl, slate, sunset. Check them out at your local lawn and garden retailer or visit www.easycardener.com for more information.

The thought of adding a new stone walkway or patio can be overwhelming. It can be tough to visualize what it will look like when it is finished. Achieving the final look before permanent installation is simple with River Stones.

Place tiles, mats and/or borders on top of the ground in the planned patio or path area. If the configuration falls short of the envisioned addition, move the tiles, mats and borders around until the look is picture perfect. When the desired look is attained, grass can be removed and the River Stones placed in position. If the stone needs to be moved in coming years, relocate by lifting and moving to new site. Try doing that with a concrete hardscape!

Small splashes of stone can make a big statement when accenting existing structures. Use individual tiles and mats as doormats or planter holders. Multiple mats can be positioned as a runner down the center of a rustic outdoor table. A stone walking strip between a pool and existing concrete patio creates a natural, elemental transition between the areas.

Applications are not limited to outdoor landscapes. Stone can be used for indoor decor too. The River Stone tiles can be applied to indoor areas with the same techniques that are used in ceramic tile installation. Want a stone floor in your shower? Or a stone backsplash over your kitchen sink? You can do it!

It only takes a few hours, a bit of elbow grease, and a stack of River Stone tiles to add the timeless beauty and durability of stone to indoor decor and outdoor spaces.

Easy Ways To An Environmentally Friendly Lawn

The growing emphasis many homeowners place on keeping their property pristine is reflective of many things. Though it's quite possible a reflection of the enjoyment many homeowners take from landscaping, it's more likely a reflection of the impact a well-manicured lawn can make on the overall value of the property.

In a study conducted by Michigan State University, a well-manicured lawn was found to increase the value of a home anywhere from 5 to 11 percent. Much of that might be due to curb appeal. A home with curb appeal is one that is appealing to the naked eye, meaning prospective buyers already have a good first impression before even stepping foot inside the home. A home with great curb appeal will attract more prospective buyers, likely adding the amount homeowners can add to their asking price.

As the popularity of landscap-

ing has grown, so has the popularity of responsible landscaping. More and more homeowners are not only spending their weekends caring for their lawns, but also doing so in a way that's beneficial to the environment. For those hoping to follow suit, consider the following tips:

• Remember something as simple as the seeds can make a big difference. Oftentimes, the region of the country will dictate which choice of grass seed is best for a given lawn. That's because a grass that's suited to a particular area will require less maintenance, which means less water and less reliance on substances to prevent or fix problems. Using less water is environmentally friendly, as is using less chemicals to solve problems related to the lawn. Consult with your local nursery or garden center for the types of grass seed best suited for your region.

• Organic diets can benefit the

lawn, too. Many people prefer organic foods these days because of their taste and their smaller carbon footprint than processed and preserved foods. But organics aren't just good for humans; they're good for lawns as well. Instead of chemical-based foods and fertilizers, consider an all-natural diet for your lawn. Compost heaps can generate important nutrients for your lawn and plants and can be created simply from lawn clippings, raked leaves and the uneaten scraps from your kitchen – like fruit rinds, eggshells and leftover coffee grounds.

• Install an irrigation system. While soaking a lawn with water might seem good for the grass,

chances are it's not very good for the environment and possibly illegal in heavy drought regions. An underground irrigation system, however, is designed to water lawns and plants at the root level, strengthening the grass and plants and saving some water in the meantime.

• Keep the grass cut at a proper level. While Junior might want to cut the grass as close as possible to reduce the amount of times he has to push the mower around the yard, cutting too low is potentially very harmful to the grass. That's because grass that's cut too short is increasingly susceptible to disease, insects and drought.

Simple Comfortable

AT HOME WITH HOMECREST
Combining a rich history of unsurpassed quality and classic design. Homecrest Outdoor Living is your source for American made outdoor furniture.

HOMECREST
OUTDOOR LIVING

www.hatchfurniture.com

hatch
FURNITURE & FLOORING

109 East Third, Yankton, SD • 605-665-4416 • 800-798-4663
M-F 10-6, Sat. 10-5 • Evenings by appointment

Grow Rite

greenhouse & retail center

4200 W. 8th St., W. Hwy. 52, Yankton, SD • 605-689-4769
Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 10am-2pm

- Fresh Produce
- Starter Plants
- Nutrients for your Lawn, Garden & Farm

Grow Rite Greenhouse is a soil, plant nutrient company that sells nutrients for agriculture, lawn and garden. Our Greenhouse shows what our nutrients can do. We grow quality food with no chemicals.

10% Off Grilling Accessories
with purchase

Weber Grills

- From Portable to Built-in
- Charcoal or Gas

Because your grilling is anything but ordinary!

Larry's **APPLIANCES**
920 Broadway • 665-9461

STIHL® has the right attachments to make quick work out of lawn work

STIHL
KM 110 R
Multi-Cut Professional Series

One powerhead with interchangeable attachments provide a complete cutting and trimming system.

- 25.4 cc • 1.27bhp
- 11.2 lbs

\$329.95

Choose from these interchangeable attachments for our KM55RT, KM or KM55RT

<p>HL 0° Fixed angle hedge trimmer attachment.....\$159.95</p> <p>BF Cultivator.....\$169.95</p> <p>HL 0°-90° Adjustable angle hedge trimmer attachment.....\$229.95</p> <p>FH Converts your Multi-Cut into a power scythe.....\$229.95</p> <p>HT Converts your Multi-Cut into a pole saw.....\$219.95</p> <p>FCB Cable drive attachment converts your Multi-Cut into an edger for sidewalks and curbs.....\$99.95</p>	<p>HL 0°</p> <p>HL 30°</p> <p>HL 0°-90°</p> <p>FH</p> <p>HT</p> <p>FCB</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Blower Attachment Available</small></p>
--	--

Kaiser "Yankton's Power Equipment Center"
Appliance & Refrigeration
STIHL®
2000 Broadway, Yankton • 665-2082 • 1-888-593-5723