

Digging Deep

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Tips to Creating Your Own Unique Playground

- Don't over-think it! Make lists of everything you enjoy in a garden then do it.
- Be conservation conscious as well as considerate of nature.
- Be creative. Think swathes, angles, circles, and flow. There is nothing more boring than a box.
- The hardscape must include natural materials: rocks, gravel, barn wood, shells, or anything meaningful to you.
- Instead of buying art, repurpose childhood toys, old sinks, even a commode overflowing with flowers can be comical.
- Be playful. When you are going to spend time in the outdoors, you want to enjoy yourself. Allow your personality to shine.
- Add surprises, secret gardens, hedged rooms, anything that will enhance the whimsical and magical element to your garden experience.
- Lead to a focal point or view with meandering paths, walkways, and trails.
- Invite the pollinators; bees, butterflies, and birds by providing housing, nectar flowers, protection, fountains, and ponds.
- Mix it up. For a drought resistant garden, consider an array of beautiful succulents, cactus, lavender, bulbs, iris, daylily, geraniums, and other plants that will add color, texture, form, and structure, yet require little maintenance and minimal water.
- A potager, pots, or area designated for edibles and herbs is a must have. There is nothing better than picking your dinner from your own property.
- Benches, swings, lounge chairs, umbrellas, and places to unwind, watch the clouds, savor sunsets, and marvel at the stars make your garden your home.



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Mulching Trees and Shrubs Conserves Water

Mulching is important for trees and also shrubs. Besides being attractive, mulch can be used to conserve soil moisture, to buffer soil temperature extremes, to control weeds and competing vegetation and to replenish organic matter and nutrients in the soil.

The majority of landscape trees evolved in a woodland environment with natural mulch around them. Often the practice is to rake up or blow away any natural mulch in a home landscapes.

In a natural environment, trees generally do not grow in lawns or meadows and their root systems do not compete well against lawn grasses. A mulched area around a tree should be provided for the benefit of the tree. The size of the mulched areas around a tree depends on the size of the tree.

So don't wait until it's too late have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service.

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*Your friendly neighborhood
arborists Darren and Lew Edwards*

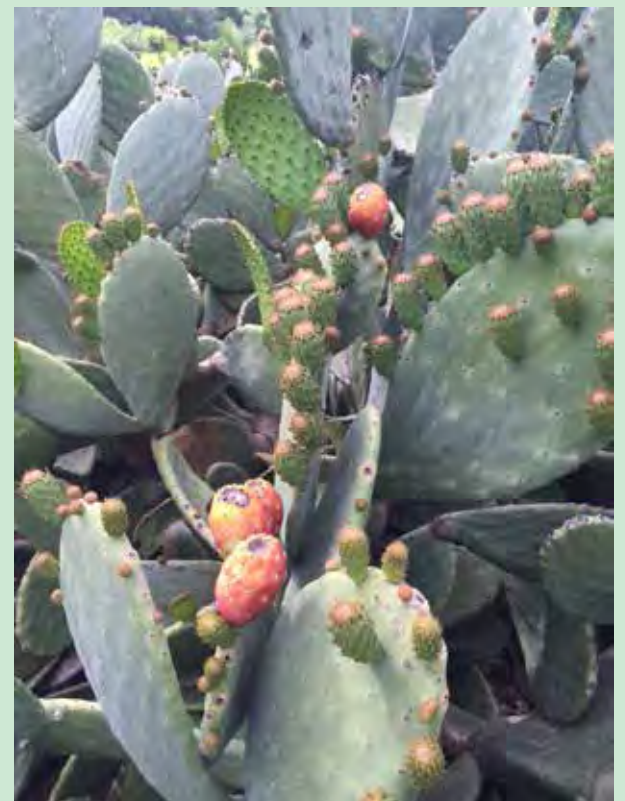


What's so fun about our family gardening experience is the sharing that we all do in giving each other clips, snips, cuttings, bulbs, and volunteers. We grow the same specimens and as we stroll and admire our handiwork, we can't remember who gave what to whom first.

As I said farewell to my sister, she handed me a hand-painted tin filled with blooming echeveria from clippings I had given her a few years before. We shared a laugh.

The circle of life continues.

Happy Trails to you.



Edible and fascinating, Debbie cultivated a living fence of prickly pear cactus.