



DECORATE YOUR GARDEN WITH EVERYDAY THINGS

By Page Huyette

Let your personality sing in your own backyard.

It's easy to create a garden statement that differentiates your property from the traditional lawn and shrub border option by choosing plants and objects that are reflective of your passions and personal style. You don't need a lot of cash or advanced design skills, just start by choosing a few everyday objects that have meaning to you, set them where they can be seen from inside as well as out, and your garden will become a personal refuge that deepens your connection with the outdoors and gives you a new perspective on life's possibilities.



1 CHANNEL A DARING COLOR.

As an antidote to playing it safe, introduce a bold color like Orchid, Pantone's 2014 Color of the Year, into your garden through a plant like Allium Globemaster, which is big and in-your-face beautiful, gets up to 4' tall and is deer resistant. Since it's a bulb, it will divide naturally on its own and return each spring for a repeat performance. Pair it with the lime-green seduction of Sedum acre "Aureum" or Heuchera "Citronelle" for something different than your everyday big box store border plants like pansies and impatiens.

2 BOOST WHAT'S ALREADY THERE.

Adding a quick inexpensive decal to your front door or mailbox says, "here I am" and is a fun way to express personality outside. As another option, dust off great-grandma's glass relish tray for a re-purposed one-of-a-kind bird feeder to catch summer's warm light and invite birds into your garden.

3 MAXIMIZE YOUR LOUNGING POTENTIAL.

Having at least one place to sit is a must for enjoying our gorgeous warmer months, and can be had by tucking a bench under a tall shrub or bringing some extra furniture and pillows outside to a sheltered spot. Keep cushions clean and dry with a storage bench that doubles as a table. A dose of potted plants or a cluster of willow branches bound with twine leaning in a corner completes the picture. You'll be saying "meet me outside" more than ever this year.



4 PAIR HUMAN-MADE WITH NATURE.
Think soft next to hard, rough against smooth. Grouping simple, everyday materials like gravel and concrete with contrasting plant textures create up-close impact that encourages you to pause and enjoy each step you take outside your front door.

5 CREATE SMALL WONDERS.
If your gardening thumb is more brown than green or you're pressed for time, go easy on yourself and create a quick very, very small garden on a piece of found wood by tucking succulents in the cracks, or give a birdhouse new life with its very own green roof. Hang your small wonder on a wall or beam, or nestle it on a rock next to a footpath and watch the beauty unfold from your mini-garden world.



PAGE HUYETTE creates landscapes that challenge convention while connecting people back to the land. For over 20 years, she's designed everything from small patio spaces to multi-acre properties across the west with custom on-site design services in southwestern Montana and Internet services for other locations. Learn more at vidaflora.net or share ideas and get inspired on her Vida Flora Facebook page. You can reach her at Page@vidaflora.net.

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