

Summit[®]
...responsible solutions.

MAXIMIZE
THE BEAUTY & ENJOYMENT
IN ANY SMALL SPACE



melindamyers.com

Learn how to combine plants, furnishings, and accessories to create an entertainment space, retreat, or area for relaxation within your landscape. We'll explore strategies for maximizing the beauty and enjoyment no matter the size and location of the space. All to help you when dealing with small outdoor spaces, dressing up a patio, deck or balcony or trying to create a garden room within your landscape.

Identify the Space You Want to Transform

- Balcony
- Deck
- Garage or shed
 - A screen door can help keep out unwanted insects while enjoying the outdoors
- Porch
 - In the picture shown, curtains create a sense of privacy while allowing a view beyond
- Space in the landscape away from your home - your own mini escape

Evaluate the Surroundings - Noise, Traffic, Neighbors...

- Use structures, plantings or water features to muffle unwanted noise
- Plants and structures to screen unwanted views
 - Looking out and into your space
- Evaluate based on how the space is used
 - Standing
 - Sitting
 - Day or night
- Maintain views you want to keep
- Create views from the small space to increase enjoyment and make the space feel larger

Prioritize the Use of the Small Space

- Entertainment
- Gatherings

- Quiet relaxation
- Multifunctional
- Sitting and garden space
 - Example from Dublin in Bloom 2023
- Outdoor work space
 - A place to set your laptop and get some work done outside

A Place to Sit, Read and Relax

- One or two comfy chairs
 - A short switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) surrounds the chair
- The bright red chair provides the focal point and is echoed by the red stems of Imperial Red philodendron. Gryphon begonia and asparagus fern are included in the plant display
- A garden of containers, blue wall, colorful wire containers and artwork create a space to enjoy the outdoors
- Two chairs and small table tucked into the corner this patio provide space for quiet conversation away from the main gathering area
- Watch passersby from a hidden space by the front of the house
- Take advantage of those shady spots in the yard
- Adding a chair or bench, garden art and planters create a warm welcome and place to sit
- Pre-made benches and arbors allow you to create a private space
 - Morning glory climbing up the arbor
- Hammocks in a quiet spot with an umbrella for shade

A Space for Small Gatherings

- Recommended space needed:
 - 6 to 10' x 8 to 12' (1.8 to 3m x 2.4 to 3.7m)
- Downsizing the furniture as needed

Summit Responsible Solutions

Protecting you, and the environment we live in.

Summit Mosquito Dunks® and Mosquito Bits® are America's favorite biological mosquito controls because they kill mosquitoes before they become biting, disease-spreading adults. The active ingredient is *Bti* (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*), a bacterium that's deadly to mosquito larvae but harmless to other living things.

Summit Mosquito Bits® can also be used to control fungus gnats on indoor plants.

Summit® Year-Round® Spray Oil is an organic, environmentally responsible way to kill insect pests on even the most sensitive plants. Summit® Year-Round® Spray Oil has no bad odor, and it can be used on garden plants and fruit trees right up to the day of harvest. Use it to kill insects on indoor and outdoor plants.

Learn More



- A few examples
 - Space at the back of the lot next to alley
 - * A vine covered pergola provides a bit of shade and privacy
 - * Fence and hedge screen view to and from the alley
 - More intimate
 - * Canvas covered pergola set within the garden
 - * Intricate metal work and sheers on gazebo set in hosta garden
 - * Windows help extend the enjoyment of a covered gazebo

Dining and Entertainment Space

- Provide sufficient space to sit, move and more
- **3' (1m) on all sides around the table and chairs for people to move**
- Tie indoors to the outdoors
 - Make it convenient
 - * For serving and visiting the guests
- Easy to maintain the space in and around
- Furnishings suited to the space and your personality
- Creative DIY furnishings
 - Old table turned planter and water feature
 - Succulents growing on side of bar
- Dress it up with a living centerpiece
 - **A combination of saucers and small pots glued together to form a multi-level container**
 - Other living centerpiece options:
 - * **Succulent centerpiece**
 - * **Holiday centerpiece**

From the Garden to the Container

- Include fresh-from-the-garden vegetables, fruits and **edible flowers**

- Make it convenient
 - Tomatoes decorate small gathering space between house and garage
- Green wall herb and vegetable garden from Chicago Botanic Garden
 - 1 x 4' frame
 - Backed by plywood
 - Filled with potting mix and covered with landscape fabric or plastic and chicken wire or lattice
 - * Plant when horizontal, allow to root and then mount on wall
- Other commercial systems and DIY options available
- **Container of edible and ornamental plants**
 - Swiss chard
 - Lettuce
 - Pansies
- Elevated garden
 - Easy to plant, maintain and harvest
 - Harder for rabbits to reach and eat
- Plant-a-Bar
 - Add a shelf and stools to your favorite elevated garden
 - Fill with your favorite **herbs for adding to guests beverages**
 - * Basil, mint, lavender, cutting celery and Rosemary are a few to consider
- Lovage
 - Celery flavored perennial herb with hollow stems, makes a great straw
- Edible centerpiece
 - **Pot up a few of your favorite herbs, add snips and allow guests to season their meal**



About Melinda

Nationally known gardening expert, TV/ radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has over 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including Can't Miss Small Space Gardening, the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, and Jackson and Perkins' Beautiful Roses Made Easy. She hosts the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" program airing on over 115 TV and radio stations throughout the U.S. Melinda also hosts the internationally distributed Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series, including the latest Food Gardening for Everyone DVD set. She is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine, writes the twice monthly "Gardeners' Questions" newspaper column and a nationally-distributed gardening column. She appears regularly as a guest expert on national and local television and radio shows.

Visit Melinda's website,
melindamyers.com

- Malabar spinach
 - Not a true spinach - heat tolerant vine
 - Leaves have a buttery, spinach flavor
- Tomatoes in containers
 - 2 to 3 gallon for small varieties
 - 5 gallon for larger varieties
 - Wider planters appear to be better
- Sundipper tomato in a pot grouped with Vermillionaire cuphea and turmeric
- Torezo semi-determinate tomato
- Patio Choice Yellow cherry tomato
- Kitchen Minis Tomato
- Pot-a-Peño pepper
- Kitchen Minis Fresh Bite Orange pepper
- Kitchen Minis Hot Fajita pepper
- Cucumber in hanging basket or trained onto support in a container
- Salad Bush cucumber
- Kitchen Minis Quick Snack cucumber
- French Mascotte snap bean
- Patio Pride pea
- Astia zucchini
- Strawberries in hanging baskets or containers
 - Delizz® strawberry from seed to fruit in same season
- Compact Berry Plants for Containers and Gardens
- Growing Fruit in Small Spaces
- Bushel and Berry® compact fruit
 - Raspberry Shortcake®
 - * 2 to 3' tall and wide, thornless, produces fruit on new growth
 - Baby Cakes® Blackberry
 - * To 4' tall and wide, thornless, produces fruit on one and two year old canes

- Compact blueberries
 - * Only need one for fruit, two plants will produce more than two times the fruit
- Narrow columnar apples
 - 2 to 3' wide and 8 to 10' tall
 - Need two varieties for pollination and fruit production
 - Urban Apples®
 - North Pole
 - Scarlet Sentinel
 - Golden Sentinel

Define the Space

- Front seating area with pergola, umbrella and low wall to define the space
- Screening
 - Plantings
 - * Avoid monoculture, if possible, as a disease or insect can take out part or all of the planting
 - Fencing
 - Containers
 - * Separate and define two levels of the patio
 - * Containers mounted at various heights - Bookworm Gardens in Sheboygan, WI
 - * Hanging baskets with pansies, parsley and greens at Chicago Botanic Garden
 - * Gutters, Topsy Turvy tomato baskets, rail planters and pots
 - * Fence mounted planters and raised bed in New York City
 - Off the driveway gathering space
 - * Entrance - honeysuckle vine (*Lonicera sempervirens*) on the right
 - * LOFOS® White vine (*Lophospermum* hybrid) on the left

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- Create the illusion of depth
 - * Tall plants next to much shorter plants
 - * Fine textured plants in the background
- **Dutchman's pipe**
- Trellis with vines
 - * Combine annual and perennial vines for quick cover
 - * Combine two different vines (*rose and clematis shown*) to double floral display or extend bloom time
- Screen of espaliered pears
- Belgian fence
 - * Allows views near ground with screening at seated eye level
- Weeping larch low screen
- Asparagus
 - * Edible seasonal divider
- Green wall at **Flora Grubb Garden Center** in San Francisco
- Green wall at **Walter's Gardens** in Michigan
- Copper colored PVC planters
- Fencing and art
- Reclaimed materials used for screening
- **Wriggle / riggle fence** with arborvitae
 - * One way to **Create Wriggle Fence** from harvest to finished fence
- Vertical wood board fence
- Horizontal wood board fence
- Framed **wattle fence**
- Framed bamboo fence with junipers
- Framed bamboo fence with Photinia
- Old sporting equipment made into fence
- Concrete wall painted blue with cylindrical snake plants at the home of author **Nan Sterman**
- **Weeping Blue Atlas cedar** cascading over stone wall at the **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**
 - * Full to part sun, well-drained soil, Zones 6 to 9
- Metal cans painted and filled with pansies
- Pots mounted onto wood slats on wall
- Birdhouses dress up a garage wall

- Old farm tools decorate wall

Adding Shade

- Retractable awnings
- Movable canopies
- Vine covered pergolas
 - Deciduous vines allow sunlight in during cooler months, while providing shade when leaves are out in the summer
 - Autumn Revolution Bittersweet - American bittersweet is self-fertile, does not need a male and female plant to form fruit
 - Be aware that vines with edible fruit (grapes, hardy kiwi) may attract unwanted guests and create a mess
- Green roof at Fox Valley Technical College
- Pergola
- Wood and metal for natural-modern mix at Southern California garden show
- **Willow saplings in grow bags** trained into cover

Comfy Furniture

- Fits the setting
 - Color and style
- Adaptable to the space
- Consider the maintenance
- Weatherproof
 - Wind, snow, rain, sunlight, heat

Managing Mosquitoes

- Keep them away
 - Fan - mosquitoes are weak fliers
 - Citronella candles
 - * Every few feet (.5m) throughout the space
 - **Mosquito Dunk**[®] trap
 - * Doug Tallamy's recommendation for DIY mosquito trap
 - ♣ Partially fill a five gallon bucket with water
 - ♣ Add a handful of straw or hay
 - ♣ Place it in a sunny place in your yard (I recommend away from gathering spots)

- ❖ After a few days the hay creates a “brew” that attracts female mosquitoes where they lay their eggs
- ❖ Add a Summit **Mosquito Dunk®** to the mix to kill the larvae once the eggs hatch. The dunk provides 30 days of control and won't harm beneficial insects, people, pets and wildlife.

Fire Pits and Fireplaces

- Leave 2 to 2.5' (.6 to .8m) between edge of fire pit and surrounding seating
- Provide 2.5' (.8m) of circulation behind the chairs
- Faux fire displays
 - Plants like Little Lucky™ Red Lantana
 - Orleans iris and succulents (Southern CA)
 - Water feature with log-like pillars and lights offer fire-like effect
- Functional
 - Vegetable gardens
 - * Foundation planting at front of the house
 - * Small space for sitting and growing edible plants
 - Herb garden
 - * Old fountain becomes herb planter
 - * Railing planter
 - Potting bench
 - * Small space options
 - * Multiple function
 - ❖ Potting bench - serving table
 - Composting
 - * Check with local municipality for regulations and possible rebates
 - * Dual bin of rodent proof material
 - * Mask the process with fencing, walls and structures
 - Outdoor games
 - * Living chessboard

Pollinator Friendly Plants

- **Pentas**, great butterfly plant, and **licorice vine**, host plant for painted lady butterfly

- **Lantana**
- Bird friendly plants
- **Hummingbird favorites**
 - Native honeysuckle vine (*Lonicera sempervirens*)
 - * **Major Wheeler** is disease resistant, bright red flowers
 - Tea kettle of **cigar plant** (*Cuphea*)
 - **Anise sage** (*Salvia guaranitica*)
- Bird bath for birds and pollinators
- Sound - for ambience or to help mask unwanted noise
- **Fragrance**
 - **Sweet alyssum** (*Lobularia maritima*)
 - **Stocks** and pansies (*Matthiola incana* and *Viola wittrockiana*)
 - **Hyacinth**
 - **Forcing Spring Flowering Bulbs**
 - **Flowering tobacco** (*Nicotiana glauca*)
 - **Heliotrope** (*Heliotropium arborescens*)
 - **Capitán™ Magnifica** carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllus* 'Capitan Magnifica')

Water Features

- Small scale water garden
- Small pots of water or **planted water gardens**
- Fountains
- Leaky boulders and containers
- DIY instrument fountain

Lighting

- Ground level to illuminate the borders or mark walkways
- DIY candelabra or chandelier moved outdoors
- Light arbors
- String of lights illuminate deck and mark the edge
- Something as simple as votive candles
 - Shown here with Kent Beauty oregano
- **Landscape Lighting Maintenance Tips**
- **Landscape Lighting Impact on Wildlife**

UPCOMING APPEARANCES & WEBINARS

Check often as more appearances and webinars continue to be added.

March 23rd

REALTORS Home & Garden Show

*Designing with Four Season Foliage -
High Voltage Color Gardens Without the Flowers*

*Incorporating Native Plants into the Landscape for You and the
Pollinators*

[More Information](#)

March 27th Webinar

[How to Start a Garden for Beginners](#)

April 3rd

Franklin Public Library

Garden Trends

[More Information](#)

April 10th Webinar

[Container Gardening Throughout the Year](#)

April 11th Webinar

[Seven Steps to Managing Water Where It Falls in Your Yard](#)

April 20th

Pasquesi Home and Gardens

The Why and How of Pruning Hydrangeas and Other Shrubs

[More Information](#)

April 27th

Ridges & Rivers Book Festival

First Steps to Creating an Eco-friendly, Low Maintenance Landscape

[More Information](#)

April 28th

Ebert's Greenhouse Village

Flowering Trees and Shrubs for Your Garden

[More Information](#)

May 1st Webinar

[Ornamental Fruits and Vegetables](#)

MORE WEBINARS & APPEARANCES



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