



melindamyers.com

PATIO, DECK, & BALCONY GARDENS

Summit[®]
...responsible solutions.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

PLAN FIRST - SHOP LATER

- Assess what you have, how you spend or would like to spend your time outdoors
- Evaluate surroundings
 - Noise
 - Traffic
 - Neighbors
- Views to keep and those to screen
- Meet with those who will share the space
 - Consider all ages and interests
- Make it convenient - so you will use it
- Keep it simple to maintain
- Hire a professional as needed

USE / FUNCTION

- How do you plan to use the space?
- Entertaining
 - Allow room for guests and furnishings
 - Minimal deck / patio space if planning an addition
 - Provide sufficient space
 - ✦ 6 - 10' x 8 - 12' (1.8m x 2.4 - 3.7m) if planning on small gathering
 - Provide sufficient space around furnishings
 - ✦ 3' (1m) on all sides around table and chairs
 - Scale down as needed
- Edibles close at hand - convenient for cooking and interactive dining
 - Watch my [*In a Pot, You Can Grow a Lot!*](#) webinar
 - ✦ Enter passcode: X@wgMD09
 - ✦ [Download handout](#)
 - Tomato, Strawberry, Marigold, Lobelia and Golden Moneywort container shown
 - Wall of herb and vegetable containers
 - Seasonal changes of your favorites
 - ✦ Red Cabbage, Ornamental Kale, Peter III Blue Aster, Henry III Pink Aster, Emerald Falls Dichondra

◦ Interactive dining

- ✦ Container of herbs as centerpiece
- ✦ Pansies frozen in ice cubes and added to lemonade
- ✦ Malabar Spinach wraps and snips on table

◦ Salad Bar planter with greens

- ✦ Have guests pick and create their own salad

◦ Self-watering Crescent Elevated Garden with protective cover

◦ Elevated garden with wheels

◦ Moveable planters for convenience

◦ Plant-a-Bar - include herbs for favorite beverages

- ✦ Basil, Mint, Lavender, Cutting Celery, Lovage and more

◦ Edible Flowers

✦ More flowers to consider

◦ Living centerpieces

✦ Stackable Planter Centerpiece

✦ Succulent Centerpiece

- ✦ Vegetable centerpiece - Bright Lights Swiss Chard shown
- ✦ Cut flowers from the garden
- ✦ Holiday centerpiece

CONNECTING INDOORS TO THE OUTDOORS

- Easy access
 - Pass through windows
 - Store dishes and cutlery near entertainment space
 - Repetition of colors and style

CREATING A QUIET PLACE TO RELAX

- Screening for privacy
- Small table and chair
- Hammock
- Shade as needed or desired

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](#)



ENJOY THE SPACE - MANAGE MOSQUITOES

- Keep them away with gentle breeze of fan
- Citronella candles placed every few feet (.5m) throughout the space
- Summit® Mosquito Dunks® in water that lacks motion
- Fish to manage the mosquitoes
- Mosquito Dunk® Trap - Doug Tallamy's DIY mosquito trap
 - Partially fill a 5 gallon bucket with water
 - Add a handful of straw or hay
 - Place in a sunny place in your yard, away from where you gather
 - After a few days the hay creates a "brew" that attracts female mosquitoes where they then 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

ATTRACT POLLINATORS AND SONGBIRDS

- You may find these [webinar recordings](#) and handouts helpful with plant selection. Follow [this link](#) and scroll down to find the ones of interest:
 - *Attracting Hummingbirds*
 - *Grow Pollinator-friendly Spring and Summer Flowering Bulbs*
 - *Under Appreciated Pollinators*

ADD A BIT OF NATURE'S AROMATHERAPY (FRAGRANT PLANTS)

- Nicotiana
- Heliotrope
- Stock
- Sweet Alyssum
- Some Pansies and Daylilies
- Dianthus

- For more fragrant plants, watch my webinar recording of *Fragrant Plants Sure to Elevate Your Mood and Enjoyment*
 - Enter passcode: .S3d\$+=i
 - [Download handout](#)

CHALLENGES

- Load capacity of decks and balconies - always check with management or builder
 - Age and building materials influence load capacity
 - Balcony - typically 40 to 60 pounds per ft² (psf)
 - Deck - 50 to 60 psf for people and furnishings
 - Multiply square footage of structure X psf to get total load capacity for the space
 - Consider weight of containers, furnishings, accessories - check weight on:
 - ✦ Product specifications
 - ✦ Bags of potting mix used - most tell you how many pots one bag will fill
 - ✦ Water weights - 1 gallon weighs 8.329 lbs or 1 liter weighs 1 kg
 - ✦ Consider lightweight containers, potting mix and furniture
- Water dripping on balcony below
 - Saucers with pot risers under the pots to capture excess water
 - Self-watering pots
- Wind in any location
 - Heavy furniture of dense wood, poly lumber, wrought iron where weight isn't an issue
 - Low profile furnishings with limited surface area
 - ✦ Stools vs. chairs with backs
 - Secure lightweight furniture to railings or surface as needed
 - Close umbrellas, store cushions and collapsible furnishings as needed



About Melinda

Nationally known gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has over 40 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including *Can't Miss Small Space Gardening*, the recently revised *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, and *Jackson and Perkins' Beautiful Roses Made Easy*. She hosts the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" program airing on radio stations throughout the U.S. Melinda also hosts the internationally distributed *Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD/Instant Video series*, including the latest *Food Gardening for Everyone DVD set*. She is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine, and writes 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

- Grow wind tolerant plants
 - ✦ Healthy plants better able to tolerate the stress
 - ✦ Plants with fine foliage that bend, not break in the wind
 - ✦ Those with larger leaves, like banana and elephant ears tend to tatter in the wind
 - ✦ Drought tolerant plants also tend to tolerate the wind - due to moisture stress related to drying winds
 - ✦ A few plants to consider (make sure they are hardy in your area)
 - Juniper, Pines and Spruces (may need to provide some wind protection first year or two)
 - Hazelnut, Witchhazel, Ninebark, Chokeberries, Buttonbush, Shrubby Dogwoods, Bush Honeysuckle (*Diervilla*), Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos*), *Ceanothus* (California Lilac and New Jersey Tea), Lilac, Forsythia, Caryopteris, Native Honeysuckle Vine (*Lonicera sempervirens*), Bougainvillea, Callistemon
 - Native plains and prairie plants and other perennials like Threadleaf Coreopsis, *Cosmos bipinnatus*, Russian Sage, Daylilies
 - Use taller wind tolerant plants to shelter low growing annuals and perennials
 - Experiment and keep records

SCREENING FOR WIND, VIEWS, SUN AND NOISE

- Secure structures, plants and screening material
- Lighter-weight options
 - Bamboo screens - lightweight and flexible
 - Breathable privacy screens - lightweight
- A row of Arborvitae a favorite
- Monoculture plantings increase risk of insects or disease killing one, two or all plants and ruining the beauty and function
- Consider mixed planting

- Be selective in screening
 - Create the feeling you desire
 - Private, not confined
 - Borrow neighboring views with "windows" for viewing
 - ✦ Pretty gardens and natural spaces
 - ✦ Bird baths, feeders and bird-friendly plants
 - Containers at various levels
 - Trellis with perennial vines
 - ✦ Plant an annual with perennial the first year for quick cover
 - ✦ Plant two vines on the same trellis for double the impact or to extend bloom time
 - Structures
 - ✦ Lattice with garden art or other décor
 - ✦ Green walls and tall containers
 - ✦ Screens with windows
 - ✦ Metal screening
 - ✦ Wine bottles - may be issue in colder / windy regions
 - ✦ Painted wall with plants of cylindrical snake plant
 - ✦ Espaliered Pears, Apples and other plants
 - ✦ Belgian Fence - bare stems make shorter flowers visible while providing screening at seating eye level
 - ✦ Asparagus for seasonal low screening
 - ✦ Weeping Larch on fence, divides the space
 - ✦ Wriggle fence and Arborvitae
 - ✦ Bamboo fence and Juniper
 - ✦ Strategically placed containers provide needed screening

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Available On Demand!

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FREE
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seasonal prize!**

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ADD SHADE AS NEEDED OR DESIRED

- Take advantage of nearby trees
- Vine covered pergolas - deciduous vines
 - Let warming sunlight in during the cooler months
 - Provide shade during warmer months
 - America / Kentucky Wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*) native
- Edible vines
 - Consider impact of:
 - ✦ Falling fruits
 - ✦ Visiting wildlife dining on fruit
- Structures
- Cloth and canvas coverings

CONTAINERS

- See my [*Container Gardens for Sun & Shade*](#) webinar recording and handout for plant selections and combinations
 - [Download handout](#)
- Weight
 - Check weight of container - often provided in specifications
 - ✦ Place heaviest items near load bearing structures
 - [Container Size Guide](#)
 - [Safe Weight Limits: Soil Guide for Balcony Gardens](#)
 - ✦ Lightweight, yet sturdy containers
 - Fiberglass
 - High-quality plastic or resin
 - Cloth
- Potting mix
 - Lightweight that holds moisture and drains well
 - Calculator - some bags or providers tell you how much potting mix is needed per container
 - Calculate weight per pot based on weight of the bag
 - Once moistened, it can weigh twice as much as dry
- Water - one gallon weighs 8.329 lbs or 1 liter weighs 1 kg
- False bottoms
 - Reduces weight and amount of potting mix needed
 - May increase risk of toppling of taller plants in windy locations

- Mobility
 - Integrated wheels
 - Wheeled plant dollies
- Protecting the surface below the pots
 - Pot feed
 - Pot risers
- Maintenance
 - Watering
 - ✦ Consider accessibility as you plan
 - ✦ Containers usually need to be water daily, depending on:
 - Weather
 - Size of container - smaller the pot, more frequent watering needed
 - Plants being grown
 - ✦ Reducing watering frequency
 - Soil amendments
 - Composted
 - [Wild Valley Farms Wool Pellets](#) - organic and sustainable, made from wool waste
 - Self-watering pots - consider weight of water in the reservoir
 - Irrigation systems and devices like Plant Nannies
 - Managing materials needed and removal of plant debris, old potting mix...
- Winter protection
 - Plants in weather proof container and at least one Zone hardier can usually remain outdoors
 - Insulating the roots of hardy plants left outside
 - ✦ Sink pots in vacant garden (if space is available)
 - ✦ Store in unheated garage and water when soil is thawed and dry
 - Vole protection with granular [Plantskydd](#) at time of storage - repeat as needed
 - Non-hardy plants
 - ✦ Grow as houseplant
 - Inspect for insects
 - Use a strong blast of water to dislodge pests
 - Isolate (if possible) for several weeks and continue to monitor for pests

- Use Summit® Yellow Sticky Traps, Organic Cold Pressed Neem 85 or Year-Round Spray Oil to manage pests found

- ✦ Store bulbs in a cool, dark location
- ✦ Ask a fellow gardener with space for help
- ✦ Give away at end of season and enjoy new additions next year

MAKE COLOR AND TEXTURE WORK FOR YOU

- Warm colors - red, yellow, orange
 - Energizing, warming, makes an area feel smaller, focal point
- Cool colors - green, blue, violet
 - Relaxing, cooling, makes a space feel larger
- Complementary colors are opposite each other on the artist color wheel
 - Create impact / focal point
- Analogous colors share common base color
 - Provide harmony, serenity and cohesion
- Color echo for unity, balance and greater impact
- Fine texture
 - Grasses
 - Spike flowers
- Bold texture
 - Big leaves
 - Round flowers

LIGHTING


- Landscape lighting can warm a winter landscape and provide security to our homes. High levels of artificial light at night also impacts the natural cycles of plants, animals and insects
 - Minimize the negative impact by:
 - ✦ Pointing lights downward
 - ✦ Set timers to shut off lights once you go to bed
 - ✦ Use lights in the yellow-green spectrum to minimize the negative impact
- Lighting structures
- Lanterns in surrounding trees
- Low voltage and solar powered pathway and garden lighting
- Votive candles in punch cup

WATER FEATURES

- Solar powered or energy source needed to run pumps
- Water gardens
- Fountains on the ground or mounted on the wall
- Bird bath with water, stones and moss

FIRE FEATURES

- Fire tables, fire pits, fireplaces
- Provide space around fire feature
 - Allow at least 2 - 2.5' (.6 - .8m) between the edge of the fire pit and the surrounding seats
 - Leave an additional 2.5' (.8m) behind chairs for circulation
- Faux fires are low maintenance, safe and good option where wildfire risk is high
 - Plants like Lucky Red Lantana for faux fire feature



**Affordable & Practical
Sustainable Gardening**
*Gardening Programs and Activities
with Melinda Myers*

Learn More...

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UPCOMING APPEARANCES & WEBINARS

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

March 21st & 28th

100th Annual REALTORS Home & Garden Show

SC Johnson Community Program March 24th

Strategies to Help Plants Survive and Thrive

Webinar March 26th

Get Started Growing Vegetable and Flower Gardens

Webinar April 1st

Grow a Bountiful Harvest

Webinar April 9th

7 Steps to Managing Water on Your Property

April 11th

A Day in the Garden - Fond du Lac, WI

April 18th

Spring Rally - Oshkosh, WI

Ebert's Greenhouse Village April 19th

Deer Resistant Gardening

Iowa State University Lectures April 23rd

Gardening for Health & Wellbeing

Spring Seminar at Pasquesi April 25th

Top 5 Favorite Annuals, Perennials, Vegetables & Shrubs for the Landscape

Ebert's Greenhouse Village April 26th

Common Tomato Problems & How to Solve Them

Ebert's Greenhouse Village May 2nd

Ask the Plant Doctor

Webinar May 6th

Adding Native Plants to Any Size Gardening Space

May 7th

Grow Your Best Tomato Harvest Yet - Wauwatosa, WI

Ebert's Greenhouse Village May 9th, 10th, 16th, 17th

Ask the Plant Doctor

Roots & Branches May 13th

Creating a Pollinator Paradise - West Bend, WI

Webinar May 21st

Planting & Care of Your Rain Garden

Webinar June 3rd

Managing Your Landscape with Pollinators in Mind

Webinar September 3rd

Tree Planting and Care

Knowledge in Bloom Conference September 12th

Fall Landscape and Garden Care

Webinar September 17th

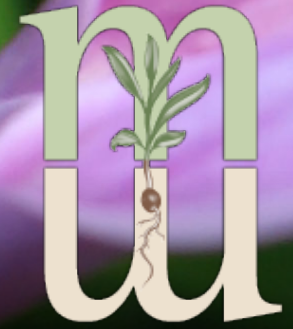
Fall Landscape Care & Planting



Thank You to Summit for Sponsoring this Webinar

[LEARN MORE](#)

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Melinda's Garden Moment VIDEO TIPS
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BOOKS

Midwest Gardener's Handbook

Small Space Gardening

Midwest Lawn Guides

Minnesota & Wisconsin Getting Started Garden Guide

Month-by-Month Gardening in Minnesota & Wisconsin

Michigan Getting Started Garden Guide

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