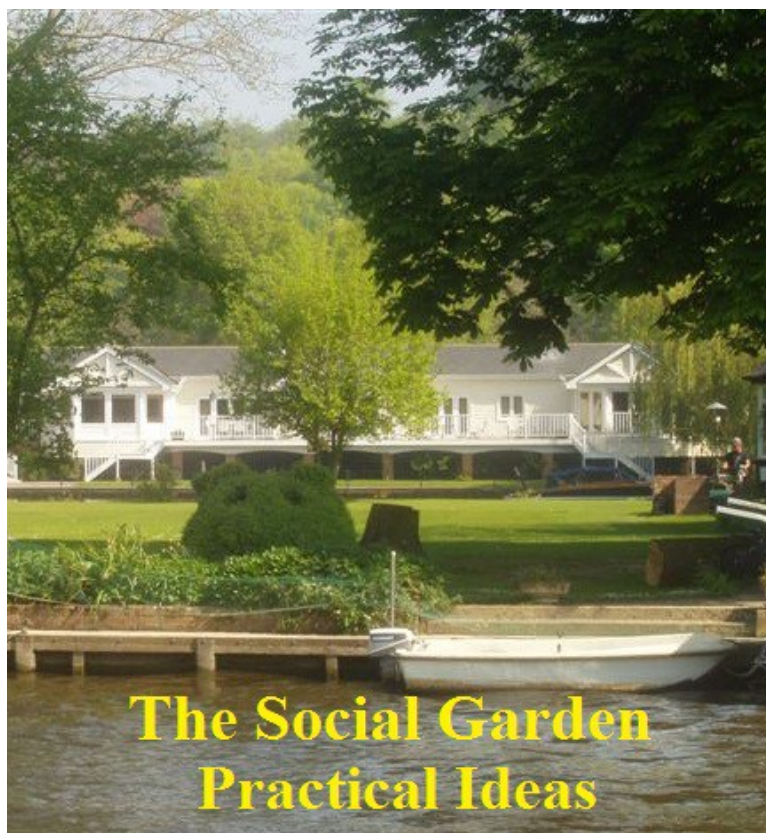


The Social Garden - Practical Ideas



This E-Book Is Presented To You By FRED67.com
And Readi-Bay.co.uk

Please pay us a Visit :-)
And recommend others do the same maybe?

If you are using Adobe Reader be Sure To Open The Menu To Your Left

LEGAL NOTICE:

The Publisher has strived to be as accurate and complete as possible in the creation of this report, not withstanding the fact that he does not warrant or represent at any time that the contents within are accurate due to the rapidly changing nature of the world & the Internet.

While all attempts have been made to verify information provided in this publication, the Publisher assumes no responsibility for errors, omissions, or contrary interpretation of the subject matter herein. Any perceived slights of specific persons, peoples, or organizations are unintentional.

In practical advice books, like anything else in life, there are no guarantees of income made. Readers are cautioned to rely on their own judgement about their individual circumstances and to act accordingly.

You are encouraged to print this book for easy reading.

Please Pass This Book Along To Your Family, Friends & Associates.

This E-Book Is Presented To You By FRED67.com
And Readi-Bay.co.uk

Making Your Garden Wildlife Friendly:

Having a garden that is friendly to wildlife and therefore entertaining in its own right does involve certain techniques and approaches to lawn care, some of them unconventional. The perfectly-groomed, square-cornered lawn with the carpet-like grass that never gets above 2 inches tall is not, unfortunately, the ideal environment for wildlife. So you may need to re-think things a bit to make your yard attractive to wildlife! Here are some tips.

What Kind of Wildlife?

First, identify what kind of wildlife you want in your yard. Bees? Deer? Birds? Making this decision early on will help you be able to be more focused in your yard care and design. Also, another first step you'll want to take is determining what kind of wildlife is in your area. Then you can tailor your yard to fit the needs of local wildlife.

Let It Go

It's been said that mowing, trimming, weed-killing, and other typical yard care regimens may actually repel most wildlife. If possible, let your yard or a part of your yard simply go to weeds. You could fence it off and label it "For the Birds" or something such if you are worried about what the neighbours will think. But many sources say that simply leaving an area of your yard alone and letting nature re-claim it can make a nice area for attracting birds, bees, and small animals.

Water

No matter what kind of wildlife you want to invite to your yard, water is important. Every living thing needs it and is attracted to it. Ground-dwelling animals like chipmunks enjoy water sources placed on the ground, whereas birds appreciate water sources a bit higher up (making it safer from predators).

Make sure the containers are heavy enough to accommodate an animal's weight on the edge, and putting a rock in the centre also helps to weight the container and to provide a safe "island" in case a small animal goes in too deep. Sources say water should be no more than about 2 inches deep, and that you should empty the water container daily and refill with fresh water.

Provide Food

There are several different ways to do this. You can hang out a traditional bird feeder, invest in deer feed, or plant fruiting shrubs or other plants that provide food for foraging animals. Some plants to consider are:

- * Sunflowers (many birds like sunflower seeds)
- * Flowering and fruiting shrubs, like cranberries, blueberries, elderberry, and raspberries will attract birds and small animals. They may even attract bears and deer.
- * Flowering and fruiting trees such as dogwood, hawthorn, and conventional fruit trees such as pear and cherry attract birds.
- * Flowers such as Echinacea (purple coneflower), thistle, and black-eyed Susan appeal to small, seed-eating birds like wild canaries and finches.

You might want to invest in a notebook to record what creatures visit your garden once you begin making it more wildlife-friendly.

How to Build an Outdoor Play Space for Your Young Children:

Parents spend a good portion of their time at work, earning the money needed for their family. Children, on the other hand, either spend their time in school or at their job – playing. Learning how to build an outdoor play space for your young children will give them somewhere to use their imaginations as they play.

Young children need to have time for unstructured play. This means they can pretend to be whatever, whoever, or however they want to be without input from adults. Depending upon the outdoor play space your children have available, it can actually encourage this type of play.

Before you begin building an outdoor play space, ask your children what their ‘dream’ play area would include. Perhaps they want to emphasize nature because they love to find bugs and chase after butterflies. Or they may want outdoor play equipment like a swing or climbing platform. Find out what they want and then try to incorporate those ideas in the space you create.

Find a level area in your garden in which to place the outdoor play space. Why is level important? If the area isn't level, any equipment you purchase may not be able to be used correctly, there may be puddles which could cause problems, and having uneven ground could possibly lead to accidents because your children trip more easily.

If you're planning on adding outdoor play equipment, it is important to put mulch or another cushioning surface under the equipment and several feet beyond the equipment in case children fall. This will provide a softer landing than hard ground and could lessen the extent of any injuries.

Provide shade at one location on the play space. Young children can sunburn so easily, and it's important to provide places for them to get out of the sun. Of course you'll use sun screen to protect them, but having shade in the area will also help.

Choose outdoor play equipment which is age appropriate. If your children are very young, you won't put in equipment which is meant for school-age or older children. You'll also want to ensure that the equipment is safe for your children by not using equipment which has sharp edges or is made with chemically-infused wood.

It may also be a good idea to build a border around the play area. Use child-safe plastic edging to help keep the surface material inside the play area. If you do use the edging, make sure it is brightly coloured so your children will recognize it and then avoid it so they don't trip and get hurt.

There is so much to think about when trying to figure out how to build an outdoor play space for your young children. Safety is obviously going to be a primary concern. Don't forget to ask your children what 'they want' and try to use those ideas when the plans are made.

How to Build Your Own Patio:

Wouldn't it be great to have a place to relax outdoors after a long day at work? A great do-it-yourself project is to learn how to build your own patio. With some time and hard work, you can create a getaway spot your whole family will enjoy.

Begin by laying out the proposed location for the patio. Think about the other buildings or landscaping features of your garden. Will you have more than one level of the patio, a built-in barbecue pit or retaining walls? Draw out exactly what you'd like the patio to look like so you can determine what materials are needed.

Decide on the material you'll use to create the patio. You can use brick, flagstone, wood or even concrete. If you're not handy with tools, you may want to ask for help or advice from home improvement employees or friends who have built their own patios.

Rather than depending upon pictures in a book, magazine or printed store display, try to find a real-life display which shows exactly what the colours of the slabs are. You don't have to match the colour of your home. Contrasting or complimentary colours are common. Darker colours are also less reflective which can make your patio more user-friendly.

Don't be afraid to experiment. There's nothing set in stone which says you can only use one type of paving or surface for your patio. You may want to have a gravel walkway leading away from brick or tiles. Use contrasting edging or plants to enhance the finished look of the design.

Draw out a pattern to get an idea of what the finished project will look like. You'll also want to purchase more tiles or slabs than you think you need at the beginning of the job. This will ensure you have the materials from the same lot so there isn't a large difference in colour.

The foundation to your patio is so important. If the ground where you'll put your patio is well-compacted soil, you may not need the hardcore sub-base. Prepare the ground by adding a compacted base of hardcore rubble followed by gravel or a sub-base material which is compacted.

For your first patio, you'll want to start with something small. An average brick patio can be made within two to three days if the weather cooperates with you. Create a patio design which is simple – rectangular is easier than curves – a design which doesn't require you to cut the bricks would also be simple compared to a design which needed to have bricks cut.

Another way to build a patio is to find a book at the library [or on-line](#) that gives step-by-step directions, if necessary. You want the patio to look good so you'll want to learn all you can about the type of patio you want to build. Take your time and you'll have a patio you can be proud of when it is finished.

Patio Furniture Cleaning Tips:

People who have patios often have patio furniture which remains outdoors all year long. Each year they have to clean the furniture before use. These patio furniture cleaning tips you may make the task less of a problem, especially if you have wooden or teak furniture.

Teak patio furniture is popular because of the beauty of the wood. However, because it's a natural product it does require extra care. Here are some of the items you'll need to clean your patio furniture:

- * Soft bristle brush
- * Laundry detergent with bleach
- * Teak sealer (optional)
- * Teak protector (optional)
- * Teak restorer (optional)
- * Clear coating (optional)

When you first get your teak furniture, decide whether you want the furniture to remain the colour it is when you get it or if you want the furniture to change with exposure to the sun. Some people are adamant about keeping their furniture the original honey colour; others like the silver grey patina it gets from being in the sun. Which choice you make regarding your teak patio furniture could greatly affect how you clean it.

Manufacturers generally provide care instructions with every product. This is also true for those building teak or other wooden patio furniture. They may recommend specific cleaners, but you can do just as well by mixing a solution of 2 parts laundry detergent with bleach in 1 part water. Apply this to the wood with a soft bristle brush to help remove any surface dirt. (In a well ventilated area)

Thoroughly rinse the teak pieces by spraying them with water to remove leftover suds or any dirt the brush has removed. If you're satisfied with allowing the teak to develop the grey patina, this is all you'll need to do to care for your furniture. Otherwise, you'll want to use the following methods.

You can remove the patina from teak furniture by using a two-step process and returning it to its original finish. This process normally requires you to apply a caustic cleaner and acid which will remove the patina. Be sure to read the instructions with the cleaner to ensure you remain safe. You may also have to lightly sand the piece to fully restore it.

Seal your teak furniture with a sealer specifically developed for it. This sealant will preserve the natural honey colour as well as prevent the growth of mould and mildew. Some sealants can even protect it from developing stains when used around food.

Do not use varnish or non-recommended sealants on teak wood furniture. This could damage the wood and require much more sanding in the future. You also don't want to allow water to pool on the furniture as it will cause damage.

Knowing these patio furniture cleaning tips will help you keep your teak patio furniture looking great. Remember to follow manufacturer's guidelines for caring for your furniture or when using chemicals to clean it.

How to Restore Your Outside Furniture Ready for the Summer:

Summertime means you'll probably be spending more time outdoors. You may have outdoor furniture you use each year. However, you may not know how to restore your outside furniture so it's ready for the summer. The following guidelines can help make that outside furniture look like new.

There are many types of materials used for outdoor furniture. You may have some made from plastic, wicker, teak, pine, cedar or redwood. Each material will require a different type of care.

Plastic furniture may be the least expensive but that doesn't mean it's necessarily the best choice. Plastic outdoor furniture can degrade over the years. **It becomes weak**

and may not be safe after several years. If your outdoor furniture is relatively new, you can clean it with warm, soapy water. Furniture which is looking ratty can be spruced up by painting it with a spray paint specially designed to adhere to plastic.

Wicker furniture can be cleaned with warm, soapy water using a mild soap. Be sure you spray the wicker furniture to get all of the soap off of it. Much wicker furniture is painted, so you may want to reapply paint to help it look new. Some wicker furniture is natural and may only need to have a fresh coat of sealer on it. Check with the manufacturer to see what they recommend and follow their directions.

Teak is a hardwood and requires very little care. While the colour may change slightly over time, you really shouldn't have to do much to keep teak furniture looking great. Use a mild soap to wash off any dirt and then let it dry naturally.

Pine furniture, such as a picnic table and benches, can be cleaned up using soap and water. Allow the furniture to dry naturally. Natural pine can be stained or left as is. If the furniture has been previously painted you may want to repaint it. You can apply polyurethane to the surfaces to help protect the table and benches from the weather.

Cedar is another furniture material which shouldn't require a lot of extra attention. Western cedar may lighten over time outdoors so you may want to stain it before applying polyurethane or another recommended sealant. Eastern cedar, on the other hand, will get darker over time. You may want to seal it but leave it natural otherwise.

Redwood furniture is also made from hardwood. It also may change in colour after years of being outdoors. However, it shouldn't require much attention each year. You can clean it with an appropriate cleanser. In most cases you may not even need a sealer.

Outdoor furniture can make your life more enjoyable and can easily be restored in readiness for the summer. Read any instructions from the furniture manufacturer and follow their instructions. They will have the best advice for caring for your outdoor furniture to keep it looking great for years to come.

Caring for Your Lawn during the Summer - Top Tips:

Summer is a season of maintenance. The grass is up, things are green, and there are no leaves to rake yet. So it's a time for keeping things looking good and enjoying your lawn. Here are some tips for caring for your lawn during the summer.

Not Too Short

It is not recommended that you cut your grass too short. Most sources consider 3 or 4 inches to be the best length for grass in the summer. If grass is below 3 inches, it tends to be less drought resistant. Too-short grass also gives more room for weeds to move in.

Go Easy on the Fertilizer

If your grass begins to look piqued in the summer, you may find yourself wanting to douse it with fertilizer. But this may actually harm your lawn, as hot summer temperatures and high-nitrogen fertilizers can conspire to "burn" your grass to a crispy brown.

On the other hand, fertilizing in the hot summer months may produce lots of new growth, which sounds good but actually isn't - new growth has a hard time surviving in the heat. Sources say that fertilizing should be done early in the season with a low-nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer.

Watering

If you have a rain gauge, set it out in your lawn at grass level where both rain and water from a sprinkler or hose will fall in it. You can make a rain gauge easily if you don't have one: cut the narrow neck off of a plastic bottle and make marks with a permanent marker up the side in 1/4-inch intervals.

It's recommended that lawn grass be watered about 1 inch per week in moderately hot weather, and up to 2 inches per week in severe heat. If Mother Nature is providing this much, you need not worry about watering. That's why a rain gauge is a good idea.

If you do need to water your lawn, most sources recommend watering in the evening or early morning and not in the heat of the day. This reduces water loss through evaporation and the burning of the grass when the rays of the sun are magnified through the water droplets.

Keep It Sharp

Any blades you use on your lawn - mower blades, clippers, grass hooks, etc. - should **be very sharp**. Dull blades mash and "chew" the grass rather than making clean cuts. Grass that's torn and mashed may not stand up to summer's heat very well, and the rough edges might turn brown.

Mulch

Mulching is helpful for holding in moisture, improving the soil when it decomposes, and even reducing erosion. All kinds of materials can be used to mulch a lawn, from leaves to straw. Many people, though, find it most convenient to use the grass clippings themselves as mulch.

Small Garden Pond Ideas

People often use landscaping and flowerbeds to beautify their garden. Perhaps you'd like to use something different. Why not try some of these small garden pond ideas and see how distinct they can make your yard appear.

Consider where you might like to place a small garden pond. Some people choose an area away from their homes while others choose to create a garden near their porch or patio. Which window would allow you to look out over the garden pond and enjoy the wildlife that may gather there?

You may only want to have a rock pond. This is a pond which has plenty of natural rocks and plants around them but won't necessarily contain fish or other animals. These are mostly for beautification and to entice nature to come into your yard.

Other people want to have a small garden pond which already has life in it. Most people think about putting Japanese Koi in their garden ponds because they're a hardy fish. You can choose from other fish as well - Shubunkin goldfish and Comet goldfish are often sold for garden ponds. Start with a fish that is at least 3 inches long with a caudal fin. They come in a variety of colours.

Take time to do some research about pond fish. There's a science to knowing how to take care of them. Depending upon the weather and water temperature, the fish will

be more or less active and their appetite will also change. Feed the fish more during the warmer weather and much less when the temperatures drop.

You could hire someone to design and build a small garden pond, although this is one do-it-yourself project everyone in the family can pitch in and help with. (*[Check online for ideas](#)*). Depending upon whether or not you put fish in your pond, shade is important. You'll also want to consider the condition of the soil in your yard, and the elevation. Rocky or hilly terrain could make some modifications necessary, so keep those in mind.

Plants to include in a garden pond include floating plants such as water lilies and water hyacinths. You can also find other aquatic plants to add to the pond. Again, plants are important should you have fish in the pond, because they will need somewhere to get out of the direct sunlight.

Pond kits are available at most [home improvement stores](#) but it isn't really necessary to buy one. You can choose the location for the pond, dig out the area, and then place a thick, plastic pond liner into the hole. Cover the liner rim with natural material such as rocks or logs. Make the pond look as natural as you can and it will definitely be something beautiful for you and your family to enjoy.

Remember that you'll also need to filter the water and keep the pond clean. Rock ponds may take more care keeping them clean because you'll have to remove the water and rocks each year. If you choose to add a waterfall feature, a pump will be necessary. The pump will help keep the water clean and circulating so the amount of maintenance required is reduced. The best way to ensure the waterfall doesn't fail is to have a second pump and filter system on hand in case the primary pump breaks down.

Adding a water feature can make all the difference in how your garden looks. These small garden pond ideas will give you some place to start and then you can research more to decide what type of pond is right for your budget and your garden.

Garden Pond Maintenance 101

Many people have installed garden ponds at their homes. They add interest to the garden, encourage wildlife to visit the garden, and provide a place for peace and contemplation. Using these garden pond maintenance 101 tips, it won't be long before your pond is ready for spring visitors.

Ponds require regular maintenance. The better care you take, the longer your pond will be enjoyed by your family. There are things you should do during each season of the year, but here's how you can ensure your pond is ready for the spring.

- * Remove the de-icer or heating unit from the pond. Replace the filter and pump, then turn them on.
- * Remove any leaves or decomposed organic material. Keep an eye out for algae and remove it as soon as you can.
- * If the water appears black, remove at least one-third of it and then replace it with fresh water.
- * Purchase the beneficial bacteria, chemicals, and water conditioners you'll need for the spring and summer. Now would be the time to decide on any new items you'll add to your pond as well.
- * Check the level of the water in your pond and add a small amount at a time so the water temperature or the chemical balance isn't disrupted too drastically. If you wintered your fish indoors, increase the water and chemical level before returning the fish to the pond.
- * Begin feeding the fish once the temperatures reach or exceed 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Since any fish you might have in your pond are cold-blooded, they'll begin getting interested in eating once their body temperature rises.
- * Check the netting around the pond and repair it where necessary.
- * Reset any rocks around you've placed around the border as well as prune the shrubs and any plants which are around the pond. You may also want to add new plants or features to the pond.
- * Clean the filter as recommended by the manufacturer, being sure to clean the water intake more often to keep it from becoming clogged with debris.

If you take the time to care for your pond the way it requires, you'll be able to enjoy it for years to come. Pay attention to any organic matter that falls into the water and clean it out. You'll also want to remove any fish which may die.

What else can you do to benefit from your pond throughout the year? You may want to place a bench so you can sit near the pond watching the fish. Another option would be to set up a canopy swing. Then take the time to sit outside by the pond to enjoy being outdoors among nature.

Saving Water in the Garden This Summer:

Water is a precious resource. All living things need it, and in the summer it can become scarce. Gardens can use up a lot of water in the heat, especially if you're growing fruits and vegetables. Here are some ideas on how you can save water in your garden this summer.

Rain Barrel

If you can invest in a rain barrel, it can end up saving you a lot of water. Rain barrels connect to your home's down-pipe, filling more quickly than you might think! A rain barrel can provide hundreds of gallons of rain water that you can tap into when the rain is not so frequent. Plants also tend to thrive when given rain water.

Sunken Garden

A sunken garden is a garden that is set into the ground. Typically, a large area is dug out and the garden planted within the sunken area. Rain water collects in this natural reservoir rather than running off as it would in raised or sloped beds. (You can also put raised beds within the sunken garden.)

Drought-Resistant Plants

Consider replacing your conventional garden plants with drought-resistant ones. They require a lot less water to look attractive. Clover is a nice addition to a yard or garden. It takes little water and adds nitrogen to the soil. Both red and white clovers also attract bees.

Also, you might want to consider native plants in your garden. Natives have centuries of experience in surviving your local area's weather conditions, and native plants tend to require much less watering and maintenance overall.

Soaker Hoses

Rather than using a sprinkler system, sources suggest soaker hoses for better water conservation. These porous hoses lie on the ground and are arranged around the plants' bases.

Soaker hoses deliver a slow, steady supply of water directly to the roots rather than spraying water all over the leaves and surrounding area. This helps cut back on water loss due to evaporation, and it also tends to use less water since plants receive the water directly at the roots and get what they need sooner (less is wasted).

Mulch

Applying mulch to your garden helps retain moisture and keep plant roots cool.

Compost

Working a lot of compost into the garden's soil helps improve the overall condition of the soil, which helps retain moisture and provide nutrients. Strong, well-fed plants tend to require a lot less water than those in poor soil.

Check: *[A Guide To Making Organic compost.](#)*

Spring Cleaning Your Backgarden:

If you're like most people, you can't wait for spring weather so you can get outdoors. You may be thinking about spring cleaning your backgarden to get it ready for the sunshine and summer. Here are some ways you can do that and enjoy being outdoors at the same time.

Gather the family together so everyone is pitching in with the work. Your children might not be keen, but once you explain you're trying to get it ready for summer fun, they may stop complaining so much. Of course, you'll want to be sure to have people work to their abilities, but everyone can contribute.

Decide what needs the most attention. Undoubtedly there will be a build-up of leaves regardless if you raked during the fall. There may also be limbs which have fallen from the tree due to ice or wind. Check out the garden; what attention does it need? Do you have flower gardens which are about to burst forth with blooms? They'll need consideration as well.

Try to make the tasks fun. Instead of acting like a drill sergeant, let the children toss leaves while they're raking. They may even want to make a pile to jump into if there are enough of them. After they've had some fun they may be more willing to get back to work and get the leaves cleaned up.

Let the air in! Take time to aerate your lawn. This is important to breathe fresh air into the root system which will allow water and fertilizer to reach the roots. There are many methods to do this: use shoes with spikes on them, a hand tool specifically designed for aeration, or rent a power aerator.

Get your hands dirty. Weed the flower beds and along the paths. Of course, you can also remove dandelions and broad-leaf weeds with an ergonomic weeding tool. The point is to remove the weeds, roots and all, from your lawn as early in the season as possible so they don't grow or possibly spread.

Repair your lawn. It's almost inevitable that your lawn will have bare or brown patches. Remove the dead or discoloured grass and sprinkle in some grass seeds. Then you can add fertilizer. Keep the area moist until the seed sprout and you can see new growth.

Take care of yard tools. You may want to take your lawnmower in for a tune-up. Check the hand tools to ensure they're not rusted or broken. Replace anything you feel is unsafe or past the point of repair.

Decide what new plants you want to add to a flower garden or if you'll have a vegetable garden this year. Mark off where the garden will be if you haven't had one, and then choose what you'll plant. Spring is the perfect time to lay weed barriers and mulch so you'll have to do less weeding.

Don't forget any play items in your garden. Decide if there are other pieces you'll want to add this year and where you will put them. Check the chains and seats on swing sets. Replace them if necessary. You want your children to enjoy the equipment but you also want them to be safe.

By taking a weekend in the early spring, you can get your yard and garden ready for whatever the spring and summer may have in store. Spring clean your backyard with the help of your family. Once the biggest tasks are done you'll be glad knowing your yard and garden are ready to enjoy.

How to Choose Outdoor Lighting Effectively

In the past, outdoor lighting was used simply for security. These days, however, learning how to choose outdoor lighting effectively can do more than protect your home. In fact, outdoor lighting can be used to enhance the beauty and appeal of the house itself as well as the landscaping. ([See Here](#))

There are different reasons for choosing outdoor lighting and, depending upon what you want to achieve with it, different types of lighting fixtures. When you think about what can be achieved with lighting it gives you some options you may not have considered before. There are many reasons to add lights around the home.

Many home-owners are concerned only with home security which is a valid reason for having outdoor lighting. Typically security lights are placed around the entrances to a home. This type of lighting is expected to deter thieves from breaking in. However, you may also want to consider some type of lighting around darker areas of your home. The more lighting you have, the better protected your home will be.

Of course security lighting doesn't mean you have to have bright lights aimed at all doors and windows of your home. You can purchase motion detecting lights which will automatically come on when there is movement near a door or window. Be aware, however, that animals may also be able to trigger the lights.

Lighting can also be used to add ambiance to a back deck or patio. Think about the beauty of white Christmas-like lights being strung through a gazebo or archway. Chinese paper lanterns can adorn a pond or pool to add a soft glow. There are many ways to add ambiance to an area but lighting is a fantastic way to do so. Ask a lighting expert which type of lighting would be best for the mood you wish to create in the special areas of your yard.

Accent lighting can be used to draw attention to a particular architectural feature of your home or landscape. Perhaps you have a beautiful flower garden you want to be able to enjoy even during the night-time hours. Accent lighting can allow you to highlight that area in a special way which will add to the beauty of your home.

Having a home built is the easiest way to create the lighting plan you desire. You can design your lighting around your landscape while the house is being built. However, if you've moved into an older home you can still create lighting features to suit your needs.

Consider using solar-powered lighting. These lights enable you to add lights where you want them without having to dig up your yard too much to install them. An added

benefit of using solar-powered lighting is that it doesn't add to your electrical bill each month.

When you think about how lighting affects your life, choosing outdoor lighting effectively can have major benefits. Not only can lighting be used for security but it can also be used as an accent, as well as to create a particular mood in specific areas of your yard. Solar-powered lighting enables you to design a lighting plan and carry it out without destruction to existing lighting or your lawn.

Preserving Late Summer Flowers – How to Press and Dry Them:

Flowers that bloom in the summer are gorgeous - it is no wonder that people choose to save these flowers as long as they can by pressing and drying them. There are many methods to preserving flowers and each can be tailored to your style. Experiment with some of these preserving methods and find the method that works best for you.

* The simplest way to preserve flowers is to air dry them. Flowers can be air dried virtually any place where there is low humidity. You might consider using your attic, a pantry or even your closet.

To air dry flowers, tie them in small, loose bunches to avoid crowding and hang them upside down in a low-humidity place. In this fashion, drying the flowers can take up to two weeks depending upon the humidity level. Flowers can also be dried laying flat or standing upright in a vase or other container. Be careful with upright flowers, though, as they tend to lose their shape easily.

* Pressing flowers is another way to preserve them. To press flowers, all you need is some paper and a heavy object. The only downside to pressing the flowers is that they will lose shape as they are pressed flat. To press your flowers, place them between sheets of paper such as newspaper or old pages from a book. You can layer the papers on top of each other and then place a heavy object on top of the papers to press the flowers.

This method will usually take between two and four weeks to allow your flowers to be completely dry. It does not matter what kind of paper you use as long as it is not glazed. Glazed paper, such as wax and parchment, will not absorb the moisture and may make for mouldy flowers.

* Flowers can also be dried in a flower-drying solution. Silica is a great way to dry flowers without much work. Place silica in a container and arrange flowers in the container. Silica should be covering the flowers and the drying process will be done within the week, depending upon how many flowers you have in one container.

Brightly-coloured flowers tend to be the best preserved. Deep colours will fade slightly while white flowers will turn a slight tan or off-white colour. Almost all flowers can be preserved and there are many ways to preserve them. Preserving your flowers is a great way to ensure that you have colour in your house through the winter months.

Growing Indoor Winter Vegetables:

Depending upon where you live when winter rolls around, you can forget about getting local fresh vegetables in your diet. You can purchase vegetables which are shipped from across the country, but there's nothing quite like having that fresh from the garden taste in the dead of winter. Some food enthusiasts may be able to extend the taste of summer by growing indoor winter vegetables. [*Are you interested?*](#)

One method of growing indoor winter vegetables is to set up a hydroponics garden. This type of gardening uses specific nutrient compounds to grow vegetables, but does not use soil. It can easily be done indoors, but depending upon the vegetables you'd like to grow it can take up a good amount of space.

Hydroponics gardens can be made at home for as cheaply as £50-£80 for a small garden, but they can cost considerably more and require regular attention to ensure that everything is working properly. You can find plenty of instructions for hydroponic gardening either online, at the library or by purchasing books. You'll also need a system of grow lights to provide the plants with all of the light they need.

You can also create large container gardens to enable you to grow fresh vegetables during the winter months. Large pots set near a window which gets between six to eight hours of natural sunlight during the day work best. This enables the plants to get real sunlight rather than having to depend upon a grow light system. If you live in an area which doesn't get the recommended amount of light, grow lights are a viable alternative.

Grow small plants such as herbs or salad greens in a window sill if the window gets plenty of direct sunlight during the day. These plants can be grown and, as they become mature, snipped off for use in the various dishes you prepare for your family. Look at local home improvement or gardening centres for kits which are designed for use indoors. The end of the season is a great time to shop for them, too, as they will likely be marked down dramatically.

Hanging pots are another option for growing indoor winter vegetables. You'll want to be sure the pot is hanging on a joist so it doesn't fall from the ceiling. The pot will also have to be hung low enough to get the direct sunlight the plants need.

Which plants are best suited to growing indoors? That really depends upon the time and effort you want to expend. Some people have been able to grow peppers, salad greens, cherry tomatoes and various herbs. You may be able to grow other plants indoors as well, but remember - whatever plants you grow, you will have to pollinate them yourself since there won't be flies, butterflies and bees to do it for you.

Once you've become an old pro at growing indoor winter vegetables, you'll have the knowledge you need to start your seedlings for your spring garden too. Growing your own vegetables in the colder months isn't difficult, but it does take quite a bit of patience. Given the time and conditions they need, you could be enjoying the fruits of your labour long before spring arrives.

How to Organize a Fun and Frugal Summer Garden Party:

When warmer temperatures begin, people start looking for a reason to spend time outdoors. Are you thinking about capitalizing on the weather? Perhaps figuring out how to organize a fun and frugal summer garden party will do the trick.

Garden parties are simply parties which are held in a garden or on a patio. You can create a great outdoor atmosphere for a party with decoration, music, lighting, delicious food and drinks, and great friends and family.

Begin by determining a budget for the party. You'll need food, drinks, decorations, and tableware. Do you already have some items or will you need to purchase everything new? Discount and pound stores are good choices for the tableware items you'll need.

A couple of weeks before the party, send out themed invitations. Be sure to include the date, time and location. If you prefer a particular dress code, you may want to indicate that on the invitation. Don't forget to provide an RSVP telephone number for guests to let you know they'll attend.

Clean up your garden or patio. Mow the lawn, pull the weeds, and make the area look inviting. You may even want to plant some new flowering plants around the area. Wash the tables before you place tablecloths on them. Clean the chairs or other seating. If your chairs aren't as clean as you'd like, you may be able to get some inexpensive covers for them or possibly you can borrow seating from a friend.

If the party will be during the day, you'll want to provide shade. Set up any umbrellas you have or use a pop-up canopy. Decorate using coloured streamers, bunting etc.

For night-time parties, you'll want to use coloured lighting or single colour Christmas light strands. You can also light the area by using torches or candles. Paper lanterns in various colours would also be appropriate. Don't forget to place several citronella candles around the area to keep mosquitoes away.

If money is a concern for you, you may want to ask your guests to help provide the food by indicating on the invitation that the party will be pot luck. You'll need cups, plates, napkins and silverware. Single colour tableware will be less expensive than printed items.

Set aside a specific area for food and drinks. Decorate the food and drink table with a potted plant and colourful flowers. Prepare as much food in advance as you can unless you are having a pot luck party. This will make it easier for you and allow you to enjoy your party rather than merely serving at it.

Don't forget to play suitable music. You can either bring a CD player outdoors or open a window and play the music through the window. (Making sure you're not offending your neighbours of course).

Once you've had the party, however, don't throw things away just in case you decide to have a similar party next year. Saving as much as you can will help reduce costs for future parties :-)

OK - That's it Folks.

Please check out the resources below
but be aware that some are affiliate links.

By Law I have to remind you of this
as I DO get paid a commission if you go on
to purchase any of the recommended products
Thank You :-)

The Gardening Labyrinth Is Here!
Loads More Gardening Tips & Tricks To Enjoy
(Be sure to check out all that's in the sidebar).

And for a whole lot More!

Check out the **FREE!** - Click'n'Read – E-Library - **Here!**

This Book Is Presented By
FRED67.com & readi-bay.co.uk/

Please pay us a Visit

(And recommend others do the same maybe? :-)