

The Essence of Time is Change

In celebrating my 40th year of creating gardens in our community, I notice how many things have changed and how some things have stayed the same.

I was reminded of how much has changed while recently perusing a 1985 issue of Montecito Magazine where I saw an ad announcing 1-3 acre parcels in the Las Entradas community on Sheffield Dr. (now known as Ennisbrook) offered at \$275,000!

Landscaping has changed. In the 1970's when I would visit a person's garden, they usually asked me "What are you going to plant on either side of the front door" or "What will go under the front windows?" The typical residential landscape in those days was lawn to the street, plants on either side of the front door and around the perimeter, perhaps a few trees, sprinklers and that's it. No concern for water conservation, native plants, etc. I can safely say that the homeowners of today are more sophisticated with regard to landscaping than they were 40 years ago.

There are many wonderful people I have had the good fortune of working for. One of my favorites was Helene Mershon. It was Helene who called me at midnight one Sunday with urgency in her voice. "Chris, the garden is a fright!" she declared. "Tomorrow you must tear it all out, I've decided we're going Japanese." And so the next day we began anew. It's challenges like these that keep life interesting and that have kept me interested for more than 40 years.

It is from Helene and others that I learned that each garden, each person is a distinct individual and needs to be treated as such. The challenge becomes creating a landscape that reflects this individuality and there too lies the fun.

Through all the changes from the comings and goings of restaurants and shops to watching the prices of Real Estate rise and fall, the one constant is the realization that we are fortunate to live in such a special place. It has been my goal, my quest, to enhance the beauty that surrounds us. As I drive through town seeing trees I have planted, gardens I have transformed, there is familiarity and appreciation like seeing old friends. But there's also a feeling of excitement and anticipation of the next garden, the next call. Will it be you? I hope so.

Until then, fill your garden with joy!

Chris





Eye of The Beholder

What is the purpose of landscaping? It's all in the eye of the beholder. I like a garden that's comfortable, like sitting and talking with an old friend, no pretense, no pressure, where I can completely be myself, uninhibited and carefree. Recall the last time you felt that way? That's okay, take your time, there's a point to this really. Go ahead and recall a time you felt truly comfortable, relaxed and carefree. Got it? Good! That's the purpose of landscaping and when it creates that effect it's a garden.

But, don't let me tell you what you should want; you may prefer your landscaping to be bold, daring, sleek and modern, having the effect of inspiring great thought. Others might want their garden to include a memorial to an old friend or family member by way of their favorite flower or a special plant that was handed down the generations. If you prefer, there is a stately garden whose design evokes grandeur, elegance and awe, where you can entertain with a proper degree of formality the most discriminating of guests. Maybe instead you would like to be energized by your garden, making it a place one could visit before closing the "big deal" and come out with enough confidence to triumph in the most challenging of circumstances.

Since most of us have different emotional needs from day to day (or hour to hour) you can create different "zones" on your property so that your garden accommodates your various moods.

The point is that a landscape is a living, breathing part of life and has the ability to reenergize, refresh and revitalize the soul. If this is something you want, then a free home garden consultation is where you start. We look forward to meeting you. ~ Lisa

"That beautiful season the summer!
Filled was the air with a dreamy and
magical light; and the landscape lay
as if new created in all the freshness
of childhood."

~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow~

**Call Chris Cullen
for your
FREE Home Garden
Consultation**

969-3984

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of
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**Listen to Garden Gossip with Chris and Lisa Cullen Fridays 11 am & 9 pm
and Saturday 11 am on AM 1290 KZSB**

Garden Checklist:

1. Have your irrigation system checked on a regular basis to ensure it is doing its job efficiently.
2. If you have a lawn, let it grow tall! Adjust mower to its highest setting (3 ½ to 4 inches). If you can see roots, you're mowing it too short! Water for a longer time, but less often to make those roots go deep (always in the early morning).
3. A thick layer of mulch is essential for weed abatement, water conservation and for the health of the soil and the plants.
4. Are your Roses getting leggy? Cut them back by 1/3 and feed them, you'll have another round of bloom in about 60 days.
5. Convert to organic, your garden will thank you.
6. Questions? Call 969-3984 for a **FREE** Home Garden Consultation.



“The creation of a landscape-garden offered to the proper muse the most magnificent of opportunities. Here indeed was the fairest field for the display of the imagination, in the endless combining of forms of novel beauty.”
~Edgar Allan Poe~

THE DAILY DIRT

Garden Trivia: In ancient Greece, the word for fennel was marathon. This was because the Greek victory over the Persians in 470 BC at Marathon was fought in a field of fennel. In 812 Charlemagne declared fennel to be essential in every garden due to its healing properties thus popularizing the use of this herb throughout Europe. It was one of the nine sacred herbs of the Anglo Saxons. Employed by the ancient Greeks as a slimming aid and by the American Puritans during periods of religious fasting, fennel seed was known as an appetite suppressant. An ingredient in the traditional Herbs de Provence formula and classic Bouillabaisse, fennel is a staple of Mediterranean cuisine.

Fennel is an important addition to any herb garden not only for its culinary attributes but because it attracts beneficial insects such as ladybugs and lacewings. Plant fennel from seed or seedling and be sure to collect the pollen and seeds for your own herb mixes. The bulb can be used raw in salads or as a side dish, etc. etc. Allow it to reseed itself for a continuous supply of this delicious vegetable.

Garden News: Don't let your backyard bounty go to waste! The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County needs your backyard fruit and vegetables. Volunteers do the work and YOU get the tax deduction. For more information or to schedule a harvest call Jim (805) 896-4724 or Diane Hadighi (805) 967-5741 x 112.



Chris and Lisa Cullen

*Fill Your Garden
With Joy!*

TAKE THIS SIMPLE QUIZ:

- **Are irrigation hoses visible on top of the ground?**
- **Are there places where nothing seems to grow?**
- **The lawn isn't lush and green?**
- **The plants just don't seem to be thriving?**
- **There's something wrong, but you don't know what it is?**

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions

**Call 969-3984 today
for a FREE consultation!**

*Celebrating 40 Years
1970-2010*