Decorate with garden items to bring outdoors inside

■ Mixing the old and new will remind you of the relaxed charm of the garden you love.

BY CAROL MCGARVEY

For AP Weekly Features

Many gardeners get through winter by holding on tight to seed catalogs and perusing every page. Others do that, too, but they also live with the garden look all year round to keep them

look an year round to keep them inspired.

It doesn't matter where you live — cottage, suburban two-story or high-rise apartment — you can warm your home with garden trappings, such as potted plants, floral prints and fabrics and aged outdoor furniture pieces.

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In some climates, thore's little distinction between indoors and outside, but in others, the weather creates a firm definition. If that's your situation, picture in your mind what you love about the outdoors. Then work to bring it inside.

That doesn't have to mean a total, costly remodeling. Sometimes castellis and found objects like small urns, metal gates or an architectural piece provide the just-right touch. Combine those pieces with botanical prints, floral fabrics, vintage pottery and garden-bright colors, and you've got a fresh look.

Mixing the old and new will remind you of the relaxed charm of the garden you love.
Decorate with your watering can until 'it is needed outdoors. Place a garden lantern inside at a strategic spot, or bring an Adirondack chair out of winter storage and make it your favorite reading chair.

Enjoy this season as a time to browse third shops and antique

Enjoy this season as a time to browse thrift shops and antique

malls for garden ornaments. Then try them out inside your home first; don't wait for the garden. Visit garden shops when they're not full of plants to see some interesting pieces that you might ignore when you're shopping for bedding plants. Shop for vintage and new fabries that might enhance the garden lost in pillows or window valances. Some simple projects can add to the overall garden feel of your rooms. Need an extra bedside tablo? Add a folding wooden or metal chair and stack gardening. Hang a small wooden garden feel of the control of the state of the

oy panuing a geometric or itoral pattern.

Introduce texture wherever you can, Hang dried flowers, vintage tools, small wreaths or even a straw hat to help create a restful casis. Display some vintage or reproduction floral prints to create a focal point in a neutral room, and include touches of patterned fabric. If hold isn't your style, fashion a restful, quiet spot with soft backgrounds and painted white furniture. Many shades of white, taupe and soft green work well together in subtle rooms.

Books bring ideas for back yard to forefront

Many people are staying closer to home now and consequently many are gardening. Here are some books that should help all gardeners achieve their



in the title.

The book gives steps necessary to create a user-friendly back yard, beginning with a simple design process the reader can follow.

er can follow.

All aspects are covered such as composting, utility areas, water (use a rain barrel), laware, fertilizers, pruning, tools, hard-scapes and plant selection. Organic approaches to pest and weed control are also included. I predict this book will be one that is used extensively.

Annuals, perennials

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Two other new books will, I predict, also be used on a regular basis. Nancy Szerlag, columist for The Detroit News, and horticulturist Alison Beck have written two books especially for our gardens. They are Annuals for Michigan (Lone Pine Publishing, \$18.95 each).

Both books follow the same format, beginning with a general overview of the plants, propersoil conditions, composting, seeding and planting instruc-

tions, and more Annuals (443 of them) and perennials (681) are described and photographed beautifully.

The authors feature height and spread ranges, flower color as well as bloom times and hardiness zones for each, plus growing tips, recommended hybrids, and pest and disease problems.

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The information is clearly written, direct and to the point. Both books include quick reference charts that really save time. The soft, waterproof covers will resist damage so you won't hesitate to take them to the garden.

Another offering from Taylor's Guides series is Ground Covers. Nan Sinton and David C. Michener (Houghton Mifflin, \$23). This book profiles many of these versatile plants.

Practical information about new cultivars and many old

Practical information about new cultivars and many old favorites will open a new world of ideas for the gardener. The encyclopedic section describes more than 4,000 plants with growing tips and how to use them in the landscape, suitable companion plants and how the plants got their names. Plants are listed with botanical names, pronunciation guides and the families to which they belong.

Herbs, art

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Herbs, Lesley Bremness (a
Dorling Kindersley handbook,
\$18,95), fully illustrates more
than 700 species.

All parts of each plant, tree,
shrub, herbaccous perennial,
annual and biennial, and other
herbs are clearly photographed.
This makes identification quite
easy. The book is full of information and Bremness explains
how herbs have been used in
cooking, as medicinals, in cosmetics and grown in herb gardens.



Beckoning back yard: This book will help you create a user-friendly

back yard.

back yard.

The first American edition was published in 1994; this edition was reprinted with corrections in 2000, the editorial consultant was Holly H. Shimita.

Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines. A Guide to Using, Growing and Propagating North American Woody Plants, William Cullian (Houghton Miffin, \$40), has a publication date of June 12, 2002.

This has excellent advice for any wildflower enthusiast. Cullina is the nursery manager and propagator at the Garden in the Woods of the New England Wild Flower Society.

"For the purpose of this work, 'native' means plants growing in North America prior to Europe 1997.

pean settlement, and the term 'woody plant' means any species with at least a woody. trunk or base," he writes. Cullina explains how to select the best native plants and how to use and grow each

select the best native plants and how to use and grow each of them.

Also featured are instructions on how to attract specific species of birds and butterfliet to supply food and shelter and how to restore habitats busing land type-specific woodplants, and where to find thright "native" for a garden Look for this winner soon.

Painting Flowers in Water colour: A Naturalistic Approach, Coral G. Guest (Timber Press, \$19.95), is a tressure of beautiful art work using "modern style of flower painting."

of beautiful art work using in modern style of flower paint ing."
Guest's aim is to capture the spirit and luminoscence of the flower while still being botanically correct. She has organized her techniques so that an artist of any skill can follow the instructions and has included practical advice, such as materials, equipment and ideas of where to find subject material. The book is published in association with The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

GOOD GARDEN TIP
Branch Tree Service Inc. of Warren and Royal Oak has alerted us that the deadly disease, Ash Yellow, is making inroads in destroying our ash trees. Usually found in white sh, it has also been found in green ash. Have your trees inspected by a qualified arborist now.

Marty Figley is an advanced

inspected by a qualified arborist now.
Marty Figley is an advanced master gardner based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (134) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.





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