

Try Wood Fence And Screens If Your Lot Lacks Privacy

Many American homeowners share a common problem: The big windows and the small lot. Result? They find themselves living in their neighbors' backyards.

It's not a happy situation. Home should be a private place where the family can shut out the world to any degree they want. And most families would like to extend that principle to cover the yard so that it can be used as an auxiliary living space in the summer.

Andrew M. Vincent, member of the firm of Arthur W. Vincent & Associates, prominent Pacific Northwest landscape architects, suggests that the problem often can be cured by redesigning the yard, adding fences or screens to attain the privacy needed.

"It's not always necessary to erect a solid wall around the yard," Vincent pointed out, "though a solid design may be needed in certain areas, such as around the principal outdoor living space."

In other areas, only a baffle may be required—a pair or trio of screens set with ends overlapping. Such baffles can be built using a variety of patterns or systems, such as vertical louvers or spaced logs.

"In some instances, the baffles are needed directly on the property line; in others, they're most effective when set a few feet out from house walls to protect certain windows, such as kitchen, laundry or bath."

When set close to the house, a more open pattern can be used in combination with delicate shrubbery and will effectively screen a room's interior while allowing a view from inside out.

Vincent continued by saying there were several things to consider before getting the privacy project underway. First, local building codes should be checked. In some residential areas, a perimeter fence of more than a four-foot height is not allowed, although tall baffles built within the yard may be permitted.

Second, before picking up a hammer, Vincent said, the homeowner should have a general garden plan. In addition, it is wise to have scale drawings to make certain that the style fence and the dimensions of both the fence or screen and the number to be

used complement the house and garden.

Before erecting a fence or screen, Vincent said, the owner should be sure that the proposed location and the proposed height will perform the job intended. These are services which a landscape architect can render.

Vincent then outlined some general rules: Courtyard walls which are attached to the house or closely related to it usually look best when finished to match the house siding or trim. Perimeter fences and baffles built midway should relate to the garden, with natural wood color or weathered wood.

The exception would be a house of traditional or formal styling with either white-painted siding or a brick exterior, which generally suggests white-painted fencing throughout or fencing painted

to match the trim, if a color-trim is used.

If, however, a house of traditional architecture has been painted any of the modern shades—warm grey, grey-green, or café au lait—bleaching lime to the natural wood color or weathered wood may be used successfully for screens.

"Remember," Vincent said, "that a painted surface, needs frequent repainting to maintain top appearance. Outdoor-quality woods, such as western red cedar and Douglas fir finished with an exterior natural wood stain require touch-ups only infrequently hold the color. Screens left to weather need almost no upkeep."

"Resawn and rough-sawn cedar or fir hold a finish longer in exterior application than does smooth-surfaced wood."

Observer HOME IMPROVEMENT

Do-It-Yourself • Decorating • Remodeling
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Get Jump on Bugs When Blooming Starts

If summer is going to "burst out all over" in the rose garden, homeowners must take effective measures against disease and insects, says a Michigan State University horticulture specialist.

"Control of both insects and diseases is a weekly project," says Dr. Richard P. Stinson. "Think of spraying and dusting as a preventive measure to control insects and disease before serious injury has developed. The idea is to lightly but thoroughly cover the upper and lower leaf surfaces."

Stinson says the worst pest of roses is barely visible to the human eye. The red spider mite—also called the two-spotted mite—damages plants by sucking the juices from the leaves, thereby reducing plant vigor. They multiply at a phenomenal rate in hot weather.

Aphids, soft-bodied, usually green insects suck juices from the soft stem tissue near the

flower buds, causing distorted stems, leaves and blooms. Another pest is thrips who cause streaks in petal colors, and sticking of the petals to the flowers "balloons" instead of opening normally.

Stinson says that the best "all-purpose" pest control for roses is one that contains the least number of ingredients that will effectively control pests. He recommends Dithane and D-D as effective pesticides.

The two leading rose diseases are mildew and black spot. Both are trouble-makers in moist, moist, hot weather.

Mildew produces a very fine white web-like growth on leaves and stems. Infected stems may be twisted, leaves puckered, and flower buds may be killed.

Black spot starts as black spots surrounded by yellow spots. The spots first occur on lower leaves, enlarge quickly, and may spread upward in the plant in a few days. Rapid defoliation often follows.

Disease control is similar to insect control. Effective chemicals are Milbex and Captan or sulfur and Captan.

Spraying may be done in a light wind whereas dusting can only be effective when the air is still.

Many people prefer to use a dust, however, because the equipment is much lighter than that used for a spray solution mixed with water. Either method is effective when applied regularly.

Gardeners Told: Make Effective Use of Water

With much of the country suffering from a water shortage—and not just this year, for this is the third year in a row for many—every effort should be made by gardeners to get the greatest benefit from what moisture they do have.

If any areas are to be planted at this season the soil should be prepared very deeply.

Late vegetable crops will be best when the top layer of soil can be removed one shovel deep and the soil beneath it broken up.

Also 1-2" of humus material, plus 3-5 pounds of fertilizer per 100 sq. ft., should be mixed in for deep rooting.

The top layer may be returned and the crop planted—with more humus and fertilizer added.

To encourage germination, rows should be watered after planting, and covered with two thicknesses of newspaper.

This will prevent the seedlings from drying up.

All plants should be protected with a mulch of either black polyethylene plastic wood, or bark chips, peat, grass clippings, corn cobs, partly rotted leaves, ground sugar cane, peat or rice hulls, pine needles or a layer of small stones.

Do not sprinkle every night. This is a waste of water, and encourages the roots to stay near the surface where the water supply is much smaller.

If water must be applied, put it on at the rate of 1" per week—if it can be spared.

After that, apply water so it does not wet the leaves. A soaking hose is excellent for this purpose.

Water should be applied in the

evening when there is less evaporation.

And while we are on the subject, scientific tests prove that garden watering does not consume as much water as leaky faucets, car washing, filling portable splashing pools and even baths.

This last leads us to the question, "Can bath and dish water be safely used in the garden?" The answer is "yes," if not done for too extended periods.

The soaps or detergents in the water in limited quantities will not prove harmful.

In fact they might even be slightly helpful. They may even make the water "softer" and more penetrating. The important part is not to keep it up any longer than necessary.

Central Air Cooling Gets Wide Acceptance

Nearly 600,000 American families will begin to enjoy the comfort and health benefits of central air conditioning this year.

By the end of 1965, more than 3,000,000 homes in the United States will have central, "whole house" air conditioning.

Advance forecasts that 1965 would be air conditioning's greatest year ever are being borne out. In the first quarter of the year, it is reported shipments of unitary (central) air conditioners were up 23 per cent over the same period of last year.

Unitary air conditioners are factory-packaged central units, two-thirds of which go into residences. They do not include room air conditioners or job-engineered central station installations. ARI figures also include unitary heat pumps.

In 1964, unitary shipments rose 22 per cent over the previous year.

Among these benefits are better health, lower home maintenance costs, and better family dispositions.

The home life effects of air conditioners are only beginning to be understood and appreciated. As Perry Prentice, vice president of Time, Inc., said recently "air conditioning changes almost everything."

Speaking to a Senior Executives Conference at the National Housing Center in Washington, D.C., Prentice described the benefits of living in an air conditioned home this way:

"Children sleep better, everybody eats more, people get sick less, teenagers stay home, cleaning and laundry bills get smaller."

"Nobody feels he has to go outside, driving just to get away from the discomforts of home, and all of a sudden home becomes twice as important, because wherever you want to be most of the time, so its worth spending more money to make sure the home you're going to spend more time in rests on widening public knowledge about the broad range of

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Landscape With Color For Beauty

In landscaping your home, try to provide color for the better part of the year, regardless of season.

Of course, evergreen will provide the fresh green color throughout the year. Other trees and shrubs offer colorful bark and berries or attractive branch formations.

In planting, consider whether the shrubs are easy to grow, if they are attractive for long periods, whether they bloom, if they may be used in flower arrangements indoors, and whether they are hardy for your locale.

Evergreens desirable for their foliage include juniper, cedar, arbor vitae, yews, blue spruce and various pines.

Flowering evergreen include rhododendrons, laurels, pieris and azaleas.

Deciduous shrubs, which lose their leaves in winter offer great seasonal color—as do rhododendrons, laurels, pieris and azaleas.

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New Twist To Home Decorating

Here's home decoration idea with new twist.

Install an interior wall with prefabricated hardboard exterior siding that has built-in easycare.

For heavy-duty areas inside a home, such as a dining hall, high-wear value as well as excellent appearance.

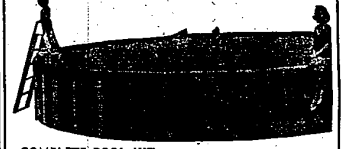
Lap siding has a dent-resistant hardboard base to which has been fused a film of tough plastic film.

It comes in four popular colors—white, green, beige and gray—and therefore can be fitted into many interior decors.

The surface can be cleaned with water.

Laboratory and field tests have indicated the prefabricated siding will have a long life, during which repainting is unnecessary whether applied as an exterior or interior.

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Date Back to Dinosaurs Living Fossils Can Intrigue Gardeners

A garden at the New York World's Fair has germinated an idea in the minds of many visitors with green thumbs.

It is a prehistoric garden at Sinclair Dinoland.

A prehistoric garden is one that is planted with living fossils and descendants of fossil trees and plants.

Living fossils are species of plant life which in appearance have remained unchanged for 100,000,000 years or longer. Descendants of fossil trees and plants have changed in appearance, but their lineage has been traced back to their early beginnings in the Cretaceous, Jurassic and Triassic Eras (60 million to 167-million years).

One visitor to Dinoland asked, "If a prehistoric garden can be grown in the middle of Queens, why can't I grow one at home?"

"He can," replied Dr. Herlufsen, the prehistorist at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx. Dr. Becker's specialty is fossil botany.

He added, "Many gardeners don't know it, but you may already have descendants of fossil trees and plants on their lawn."

He mentioned as examples the elm, magnolia, oak, maple, birch, hickory, persimmon

grape, water lily, fern, mountain laurel and holly.

"There are scores of others," he said.

"And if you live in the South or the tropics," he went on, "there are palms, fig vines, dogwood, bread fruit trees and custard apple."

Dr. Becker said, "It's not likely that the average gardener will find living fossils growing in his back yard." But he pointed out that the species can be grown.

He mentioned the Ginkgo tree from China, the Cycads of Mexico, the Sequoias (David Redwoods) of China and North America and the Ailanthus glandulosa (Tree of Heaven).

"Although these species are rare," he said, "the gardener can buy seeds, cuttings and even young trees and plants from seed stores and nurseries, and grow them in his yard."

The prehistoric garden at Dinoland was planned to provide appropriate surroundings for its life-size dinosaur reproductions.

There are 742 Ginkgo trees, 22 Southern magnolias, some 100 Metasequoias, 650 Osmondas Regalis (Royal Fern), 37 Ailanthus glandulosa and a variety of 58 pine trees and evergreen shrubs.

Cabin Plans

Want some ideas for a vacation home? Write for a copy of "Vacation Land Homes" Department 428-P, Western Living Products Association, Yeon Building, Portland, Oregon. Enclose 10c to cover mailing. The full-color booklet shows eleven different vacation homes and includes a materials specification list.

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