

Yard Yearnings

+ Landscaping
Trends For 2016
BY PEG GILL



“People want to stay at home and entertain in their own backyards. We’re seeing outdoor kitchens, pizza ovens, fire pits.” – Gene Hrdina, Designer Landscape

Wondering what’s growing in popularity as far as landscaping goes? *Inside Columbia* has you – and your yard – covered.

HARDSCAPES

Look for many current hardscaping trends to continue. People are spending more and more time in their own backyards. Outdoor living spaces — particularly fire pits and wall seating surrounds — will continue to receive a warm welcome from homeowners. With the availability of comfortable and durable outdoor furnishings, yards can truly be extensions of a home, adding valuable and enjoyable living space for many seasons of the year.

“The whole industry is catering to the outdoor room

movement,” says Gene Hrdina, owner of Designer Landscape. Some of that focus is being driven by the aging population, he says. “People want to stay at home and entertain in their own backyards. We’re seeing outdoor kitchens, pizza ovens, fire pits. We’ve built arbors with fans and gazebos with TVs.” Hrdina says this trend shows no signs of slowing down, especially with the drop in gas prices. “People have more disposable income to spend on their landscaping and outdoor remodels,” he says.

WATER FEATURES

Water features will remain popular across all budgets, from inexpensive contained systems in an urn or portable fountain to high-end walls.

Another trend will see many homeowners adding lights, colors and sound to their outdoor oases. One trend emerging from Europe is painting fences dark green or dark blue, rather than white, brown or gray.



Water features can turn your backyard into an oasis; native plants can add multiseasonal appeal with lower maintenance.

NATIVE PLANTS & CONTAINER GARDENS

On the landscaping front, “layered landscapes” are in, using more trees and shrubs. These feature fewer annuals and more natives, evergreens, conifers and ornamental grasses that offer multiseasonal appeal. “There are more natives available than there used to be 10 or 15 years ago,” Hrdina says. They’re appealing because most homeowners are interested in low-maintenance landscaping.

HGTV confirms that low-maintenance gardens, drought-tolerant plants and less turf grass are the new norms in landscape design. Edibles are also being featured front and center.

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Layered landscapes using fewer annuals are in line with current trends.

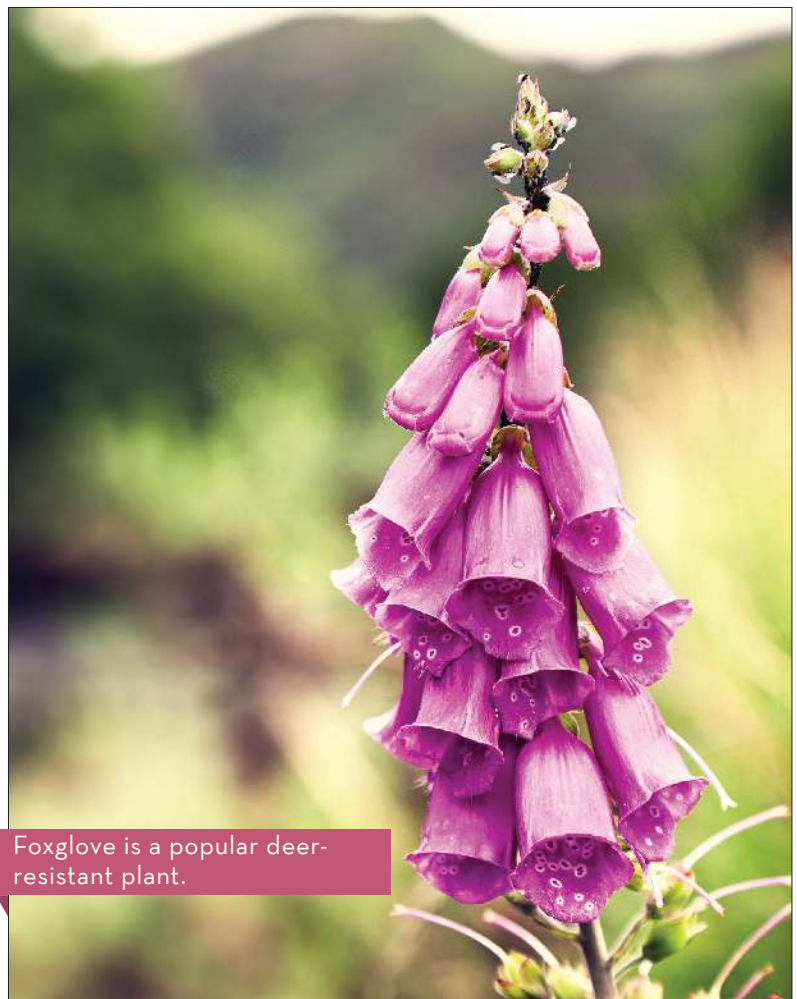
“Peppers are really good in an edible garden,” Hrdina says. “I see a lot of them and I see a lot of container gardening with tomatoes.” HGTV also says over-the-top showy landscapes are out, and that homeowners prefer to invest in quality and natural materials.

CONTINUOUS BLOOMS

One development that’s relatively new is the use of continuous bloom flowers. “Knockout roses, which are frost-to-frost, dianthus, Texas scarlet sage, “Happy Returns” repeat bloomer daylily, Shasta daisy, coneflower and black-eyed Susans ... they’re all good,” Hrdina says.

DEER RESISTANT

There’s one trend Hrdina has seen in Columbia that will no doubt continue: the use of deer-resistant plants. “Deer-resistant plants are something that people here take a pretty hard look at,” he says. He recommends boxwood, lilac, forsythia and viburnum, as well as perennials such as bleeding heart, iris, foxglove and salvia. Ornamental grasses also work well, Hrdina says, and he is seeing more of them used. Finally, he says “Vinca is a good ground cover that deer don’t like.” ♦



Foxglove is a popular deer-resistant plant.