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Contributed by Kim Eckert

WE ARE TRENDSETTERS

In a recent article in *Garden Design*, the top trends in gardening for 2022 were listed. Of the ten NEW trends, TCGC members regularly practice at least half of them. Congratulations! We are trendsetters in the gardening world. The author, Justine Guidry, says the forecast for 2022 is “intention in the garden. Consider how everything—each plant, piece of garden art or furniture, structure, material, pot, and more—contributes to your space as a whole.” I love that idea. As we look through the top ten trends, consider how you can use them to tie your gardens together-create that seamless flow with color, style and feel.

- **Including Plants that Transport You to the Tropics**

COVID has kept some of us from travelling to our favorite tropical islands. Consider bringing the tropics home as weather allows. Suggestions from *Garden Design* include: Caladiums, Rose of Sharon, Rose mallows and Cannas.

- **Blurring the Lines Between Indoors and Out**

Orchids in a window can add a colorful addition to any winter landscape. Alternatively, a hanging basket outside, by a window, will bring your landscape inside during spring and summer.

- **Designing with Dark Foliage**

Plants with dark foliage can add dimension and drama to a garden. When paired with a colorful or chartreuse leafy plant, they can be a show stopper. Carex “Everillo” paired with Huechera “Purple Palace” will brighten any shade garden.

- **Maximizing Balconies and Porches**

Some of us have moved to homes with smaller gardens, perhaps including a porch or balcony. There are several ideas on how to expand your outdoor area including :



Photo by Undo Kroener/Shutterstock

- Design with large pots that can handle multiple plants. It's best to stay with one color and add a few coordinating pots for design. In the solid color pots, plant various plants of any color. In the more colorful pots, it is best to stay with one color.
- Consider adding shelves for smaller plants such as herbs or incorporate a vertical garden like the one Boots demonstrated a few years ago at Symposium.

- Hang pots from the roof of your space, if possible.
- Put plant hangers on railing.
- **Mixing vegetables and herbs in with ornamental plants**
- **Creating Gardens for Peace of Mind**

Gardens have always been a place for solitude and relaxation for me. Many of us find that time in our gardens feeds our soul and is good for our mental health. Having things in your garden that bring you joy are essential and should be intentional. Whether it is a rose bush that reminds you of one remember from childhood, a color, a smell, a sound, make sure to include it in your garden. Get sentimental. If there's a plant that evokes fond memories of a loved one, find a place for it.

- **Amplifying Color with Bicolor Plants**



Supertunia Mini Vista® Violet Star with solid white and purple petunias in a bed. Photo by: Proven Winners.

The most common bicolor plants in our gardens are pansies and petunias. To make the most of their unique look, it is best to plant them in larger waves of color or in the case of a smaller garden, one larger pot.

- **Getting the Most Out of Each Season**

Each season provides an opportunity to journal, experiment and enjoy our gardens. Again, be intentional. Keep up with your journal entries and refer back to them in the following years. Journal about plant growth—that first bloom or bulb poking through the snow. Was it the same last year? Be curious, intentional and bold.

- **Gardening for a Changing Climate**

Stretch our Zone 7a plants to warm zones and see what new plants you can grow.

- **Taking Your Food from Start to Finish**

Now is the perfect time to start some of your cold-hardy vegetables either from seeds or plugs. Invest in a grow light and see what you can do, or grow micro-greens as we learned last year....good for us in so many ways.

- **Gardening for Wildlife**

Think about the bees and the butterflies and other wildlife....the pollinators....and ask what we can grow to support them as they support us.