



# Through the Garden Window



Creating the Scenery of Your Life

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Serving the  
High Desert and  
Inland Empire.

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## Arrrg! Rabbits!!

Possibly THE most frustrating and challenging problem with landscaping in the High Desert of sunny Southern California (and most rural areas elsewhere), is the problems from the critters that eat our gardens. I'm not just talking a cute bunny nibbling on some juicy carrots in the veggie garden, I'm talking whole-scale war on anything green. Especially tender, newly planted plants.

My usual mantra when commenting on rabbits is: "rabbits will eat anything except chain link". AND it is true! The crazy thing is, they will leave some plants alone and decimate others. Next year, they switch what they will or will not eat. They might not touch your junipers for years and suddenly start chewing away for seemingly no earthly reason.

What to do?! Unfortunately, there aren't any easy (or consistently right) answers. However, there are a few things we can do to protect our precious landscaping.

### It starts at the beginning...

The very first defense against critters is to select the right plants. While it is true that given the right circumstances, rabbits will eat anything, there are some plants that they love and some plants that are their last resort.

Look around you at your neighbors. What plants are doing well there? Try to use the same plants or plant family. Often aromatic plants like the sages are their last choice. On line, I saw a suggestion that rabbits don't like marigolds because of the smell. I had to laugh at that because that is what they

usually eat first in my "garden experiments".

### Start Big!

When planting, plant the largest plants that you can afford. If the rabbits nibble on a little plant, BOOM! It's all gone. If they nibble on a large plant, it can just be an annoyance.

### Exclusion

By far, this is the most successful answer to any critter problem. If you can keep them from getting close enough to your plants, you can keep your plants nibble-free. Make a cage of (1 inch holes or smaller) chicken wire or hardware cloth to protect your plants. Hardware cloth is a stiff wire grid that comes in rolls like chicken wire. Hardware cloth has much smaller holes. Find this and chicken wire at the hardware store. You can cut and form boxes or fence off whole areas with hardware cloth. Secure to the ground or bury into the soil at least a few inches to keep the wind from blowing away or critters from moving the cage.

### Control Measures

There are lots of commercially available products for rabbit "control". They are designed to deter the rabbits from the area or be unpleasant when they nibble on the plants. They are usually foul smelling. Something that doesn't really encourage us to hang out in our beautiful yard. You can even mix up a stinky concoction of your own. Most use some form of garlic, chili pepper and/or dried blood products (bloodmeal). The dried blood sets up a fear response in the rabbits and they stay away. Most of these products need to be re-applied after overhead watering or rain.

*Need Help with Rabbits? Call US!*

RAISING THE BAR OF EXCELLENCE

[www.PerfectionLandscape.com](http://www.PerfectionLandscape.com)

## Winterizing your Sprinklers

Along about October is when we start to get our cooler weather. We like it just fine at first, since it is a nice change from the torrid summer heat. Sooner or later, though things will turn nasty and the cold will do things to our sprinkler system we do not want to see. Where it freezes in winter, and you will be relying only on rain or hand watering of plants during the winter months is where you need to winterize your system.

Get your system prepared to hibernate over the winter properly with the following tips.

Turn off the water to your sprinkler system. What if you don't have a separate turn off for your sprinkler system?? Well you need to install one of course. Call us we can help you with that.

Next you need to drain all the water in the sprinkler lines and valves so no water is left to freeze and expand, breaking plastic and metal parts with equal devastation. To drain the water in your system, you should have a valve to open or a cap to unscrew at the low spot in the line for each station or valve in your system. so all the water can flow out. Leave this open all winter.

Twist open the bleed screw on your valve to allow any water in the valve to flow out. Or, if you are set up with a system where the valves are mounted on unions you can unscrew, you can just unscrew the valves and store for the winter. Cover the openings in the pipes so no debris can get in.

Insulate any remaining "hot" or main lines. Hot lines are lines that have water in them all the time. You can buy foam tubes made just for this application. Apply pipe tape around the tubes to keep them from deteriorating and the insulation should last for years.

Go to your sprinkler timer/clock and set for "off" or "rain" so the clock will not tell your sprinklers to come on. If you unplug the clock, you will have to re-program it when you want to use it again and it is not necessary in most cases.

Did you read the article on watering? If not, visit our website at [www.perfectionlandscape.com](http://www.perfectionlandscape.com) or call to have them mailed..

## My Favorite Recipes



Fall is the perfect time make good use of all those apples on your tree. You have never lived until you have had home-made applesauce. Try this recipe! It works with pears too!

### Ingredients

3 lbs apples, cored and peeled  
1 cup white sugar (adjust to taste)  
1 tablespoon of lemon juice

### Directions

Place apples in a large saucepan and just barely cover with water. Simmer on medium-low heat until apples are tender, 15 - 20 minutes.

Run cooked, strained apples through a food mill or blender. Stir in sugar and lemon juice. Cook over medium heat for 3-5 minutes. Sprinkle with a little cinnamon or drop some raisins in and serve warm or cold.

**We have the answers to  
your garden problems!**

**Call Us**

**(760) 868-6104**

Up Next... Do this NOW, to save lots of time and money this spring!

### **Email Newsletters**

Ok, some of you have signed up for our email newsletter and that's great! Saves on postage and printing. You are eligible for our drawing on Nov 1<sup>st</sup> for a \$100 gift certificate to Target. Just in time for Christmas shopping!!

### **Please Tell Us**

We'd like you to let us know what is important to YOU. What do you want to know? We will do our best to solve your landscape problems so let us know what questions you have for us. Email us at [info@perfectionlandscape.com](mailto:info@perfectionlandscape.com)

### **Did you know??**

When you need to contract out work on your home, if the work is more than \$500 in labor AND material then the contractor needs to be licensed by the state. If your contractor brings help to do the work, then he/she needs to have worker's compensation insurance. Go to [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) to check out your contractor and see if they are doing the things required to protect YOU the homeowner. Do they say they have no employees on the state website but show up with help? Then YOU get to pay if they get injured so wise up and insist on following the rules.

### **Did you know ? Your garden is a natural stress reliever?**

The American Institute Of Stress lists 50 common signs of excessive stress. Everything from headaches to back pain to insomnia, forgetfulness or asthma and heart attacks or possibly even cancer can all be the byproducts of too much stress on a regular basis. Stress, if not managed, can affect tissues and organs throughout the entire body and ultimately kill you. The AIS states that "It's difficult for scientists to completely define the effects of stress because it is a highly subjective phenomenon that differs for each of us. Things that are distressful for some individuals can be pleasurable to others. It's all in your attitude and perception.

Your garden is a natural stress reliever. Out in the sunshine, where the vitamin D and fresh air abounds, where we can walk around, get a little exercise and look at the little piece of nature we call our own can go a long way towards combating the daily stresses in our lives. Whether your ideal garden is a natural cactus patch or a formal English garden, just getting out and about in the garden will do the trick. The main purpose in a healing garden is to "make whole" and provide you a sanctuary from the day to day stresses, and to allow for peaceful meditation or other qualities desired by the garden user.

Make sure your garden addresses the qualities desired by YOU. We can help you with that. Anyone can stick some plants in the ground and call it a healing garden. But to be a true "healing garden" It must completely serve your needs, be easy for you to manage both now and in the future, as well as beautiful to look at.

"Design is not just what it looks like and feels like. Design is how it works".

