

# GARDEN IDEAS...



## Gardening with Shannon

### LIGHT UP YOUR OUTDOOR GARDEN

Winter days close in quickly with our daylight hours getting shorter and we tend to spend less time out in our gardens. However, there are still many ways we can enjoy our gardens through the winter months so why not add life to our gardens at night with outdoor lighting? Landscape lighting has three basic objectives - by providing safety, security and aesthetics, as follows:

**SAFETY:** Lighting for safety avoids injury. Landscape lighting should provide a clear view of any potential obstacles in the environment, such as steps or intersection of land and water.

**SECURITY:** Lighting for security avoids intrusion by trespassers. Light psychologically gives the feeling of protection but at the same time can be a deterrent to an intruder.

**AESTHETICS:** Lighting for aesthetics allows enjoyment of the environment. Lighting can provide a view from the interior out into the landscape. This gives the illusion of enlarging the interior space by visually linking it with the landscape and provides for activities such as entertaining and sports.

The above three points need to be considered when starting the lighting design for a landscape project. One of the above points may be more important for a particular client and therefore dominate the design needs. However, where possible have aesthetics dictate by integrating safety and security elements into a visually pleasing night scene.

Lighting is a great way to create mood and atmosphere within the garden; lighting can evoke excitement, mystery, romance, or any number of moods. It defines how a person should feel in a space.

### Things to do in the garden:

If you have damp areas in your garden make raised beds by using compost, peat or pea straw.

Winter vegetables such as cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli should be sprayed with copper to prevent fungal diseases.

Remove saucers from underneath outdoor pot plants as they will need good drainage throughout the winter.

Reduce watering to indoor plants.

Newly sown lawns can be rolled again once. The lawn is ready for its first mow approximately 75mm high. This will encourage young shoots to thicken.

Deciduous trees can be transplanted while they're dormant.

Parsley, mint and coriander can be planted for winter cooking.

Plant strawberries and sow seeds of alyssum, forget-me-not, cornflower, sweet peas and snapdragon.

### Happy Gardening! Shannon

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