



By Catherine Evans

Toning it Down

Using neutral accents in the garden can insert elegance without losing the effectiveness of colorful plants.

By now you are all probably sick and tired of hearing about the current trend of using lots of color, so I have a small treat for you. Avid gardeners are putting their feet down and demanding neutral-toned accents, simply because they feel that the flowers in their gardens should do all the talking in the color department.

Many people are looking to have a very elegant garden with fountains, accents and décor, and if they use the more neutral/earth-tone colors, it doesn't take away from the colors the floral sprouts. Way back when there wasn't any statuary, fountains or garden décor, people just had the plants to make their gardens a beautiful place to visit, and they actually were the most beautiful gardens you could imagine, without any fancy or bold hardgood garden décor. With the passing of time, more and more

interesting materials have come to the market, and now, plant people realize that those pieces might be a good addition to their gardens, just as long as they are in more subdued colors so the plants are the ones that stand out.

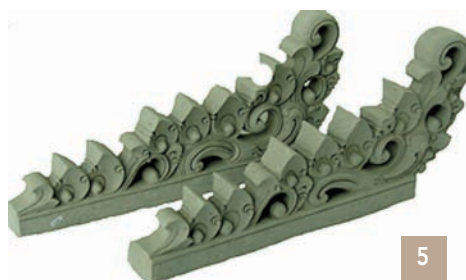
Just picture walking through the botanical garden in your area; they do the same things. They have fountains, urns, statuary and more, but these items are mostly neutral colors that blend nicely with the landscape and do not take away from it. Plants have always been nature's way of decorating, and a lot of people realize that. Just adding a subtle accent to the beautiful flowers can make a huge difference without distracting from the plants.

You all use the same philosophy in your garden centers every day. You put the plants on a neutral colored bench so the plant pops a little more. You want your customers to be attracted to the plants more than what they are sitting on or around.

To really work this trend, look for accents in tones of green, taupe, beige, brown, etc. — colors that blend in well with nature, not taking away from the popping plants. You can easily apply this trend to the obvious products like statues, fountains, accents, containers, bird feeders, outdoor furniture, etc. Other possible products include landscaping rocks, edging, lanterns and even water gardening-décor accessories.

There are so many things available in both the bright new colors as well as the neutrals and earth tones. Basically, there is something for everyone in the marketplace now, and hopefully the bright and contemporary consumer as well as the elegant and low-key consumers can both be happy and develop beautiful gardens. 🌿

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1. Fountain

Slender curves and gently flowing water make the I-Fountain with Ball an aesthetic masterpiece. Water glides over a sphere and down a column into a square basin. It stands 73 inches tall, and customers may choose any color in the manufacturer's palette. Trevi Manufacturing. (702) 644-7732. **Write in 1520**

2. Pagoda lamp

This pagoda lamp is easy and practical. It is made in three sections. Simply lift off the top and add a candle, and you have soft, glowing light. It measures 25 x 11 inches. Anamese Garden & Home. (337) 734-3656. **Write in 1506**

3. Oil lamps

The three oil lamps from the Serene Garden collection are made of terrazzo and stand approximately 6, 7 and 10 inches tall. New Creative. (800) 435-1000. **Write in 1512**

4. Floating rocks

These Floating Rocks are available in three sizes and two colors. Discount Pond Supplies, Inc. (800) 979-0999. **Write in 1510**

5. Accent

These hand-carved pieces are an example of the detail found on temples all around Asia. Crafted in the centuries old tradition passed down from generation to generation. They weigh approximately 10 lbs. and measure about 24 x 12 x 2 inches. ThunderLake Statuary, LLC. (866) 443-1087. **Write in 1519**