and there; garden ornaments all over the place; and additional items added every day (or so it seemed)? Everyone on the block labeled them as the "eccentric family" (to be nice) and just chuckled ever so slightly as they walked by the house. Well let me tell you, I never would have thought I would take that chuckle back, but I am about to.

In my travels, I have been noticing that more and more houses, in all demographics, are adding a whimsical, fun aspect to their yards. People are planting large flowering shrubs, such as hydrangea, and just going to town with the garden stakes, lawn ornaments, multi-colored lighting and so much more.

and toads that seem to be everywhere or the fun, springy birds that are brightly colored and move around in the wind. Those are just a couple of the products; there are tons of possibilities out there to help make the yard an exciting place. What about the use of colorful lighting systems? Don't forget the ever-popular animal collections, frogs, rabbits, etc.; garden flags for every season and holiday; accents like spinners that move in the wind; trellises and containers intertwined with bright daisy-like flowers; even things that can be used inside to complement the garden like ornaments, table décor, even food. The whimsy does not have to be limited to just the outdoors.

is the fing to there as for East the 4th colors for

It see trend of zone is sumers shells: Don't be wake u have be family" your not the street town.







# 5

# 1. Trellis planter

This durable iron planter features classic styling that will maximize vertical space plenty of room for use as a box planter. The large planter measures  $45 \times 76 \times 10$  inches. The Garden Market of Larkspur. (800) 783-7318. **Write in 1527** 

## 2. Hose holder

Garden Whimsey Hose Hugger provides an attractive and whimsical option for ers from careless garden hoses. Made of sturdy galvanized steel, these Hose I ple, blue, green, silver, pewter and rust. Garden Whimsey. (503) 201-9098. Wi

# 3. Spinner

Springee Spinners are made of metal, and each design is hand-painted and la wind blows, their springed appendages flutter in the wind while the fan-sha

available: peacock, dog, cat, bird, elephant, giraffe, cow, pig, roost 13 and 25 inches tall. Exhart. (800) 775-5503. Write in 1523

### 4. Wreath

This 23-inch Morning Sun wreath will brighten any room or make a front door. It is handmade of all-natural plants grown and harves Pipestem Creek. When indoor use is satisfied, it may be hung or Backyard birds will be attracted to its sunflower center. Composed safflower, bittersweet and durum. Pipestem Creek. (800) 446-1986. When the safflower is the safflower center.

# 5. Stone accent

Linden B. Leaf is the newest design in the Leaf series by sculptor George made in the United States and have a lifetime guarantee. Carruth Studio.

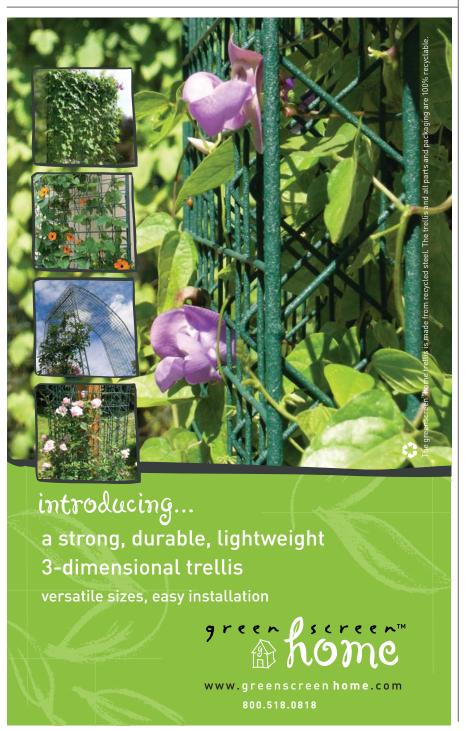
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# 6. Lighting

This fiber optic lighting system allows for a much smale five different colors of light and comes with the long optic lights available. EasyPro. (800) 448-3873. Write

# 7. Iron planter

Named for its shape, the Mushroom Planter displays planter works well for indoor or outdoor use. The polyurethane. Ruibal's Topiary Systems and Ironwork

# 8. Hydrangea

Hydrangea 'Little Lamb' has small delicate flowers the fluffy blooms resemble little lambs dancing across More refined than 'Pee Gee', 'Little Lamb' is comp bloomer is hardy to Zone 3 and is a great hydranges of the perennial garden. Spring Meadow Nursery. (80)

# 9. Chocolates

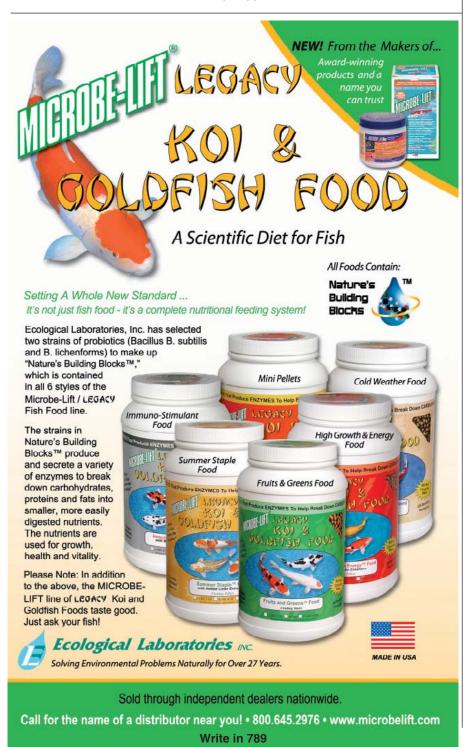
Spring Pastel Mint Meltaways are milk chocolate m coating. Long Grove Confectionery Co. (800) 373-310

### 10. Spinner

The Fire Truck Spinner is made with fade-resistant frame and metal fittings. Other designs are available Write in 1525 ▶



Write in 804



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The Platinum Polonaise Heirloom Globes is a collection of glass blowing. Pictured is The Carousel Horse. The besparately, then silvered, lacquered and intricately hand-243-9627. Write in 1531

### 12. Accent

Guido — The Guard Frog measures 10x9 inches and cattaches to a 14-inch stake for restraining. It is handle indoors and out. Barbara Hill Studios. (972) 495-8960. **Wr** 

### 13. Trap

Biter Fighter attracts ticks, mosquitoes and other blood-dioxide without using propane or electricity. It's lightweidoes not trap beneficial insects. DeWitt. (800) 888-9669.

### 14. Copper accent

This forged steel and copper Mayfly is one of the many h garden sculptures. The Mayfly pictured comes in thre Blackthorne Forge. (802) 426-3369. **Write in 1526** 

### 15. Echinacea

Sunrise and Sunset echinaceas are available Spring 200 first offerings from the Big Sky series, representing 10 Plants. Fragrant flowers above multi-branched flowers which blooms for the summer garden. Vigorous coneflowers ware excellent for cut flowers and arrangements. Novalis. (4)