



REPURPOSED ITEMS IN THE GARDEN

Patience and imagination will enable you to add appealing charm to your outdoor space at little or no cost by utilizing found items. Recycled, repurposed, up cycled, and memorabilia are all descriptive of items which can be utilized as garden art.

Possession of such art is limited only to the imagination and creative ability of the gardener. There are countless possibilities for everyday items found in your home, flea markets, and garage sales or in the trash. Everything from old shoes to tires can be repurposed to uncover hidden treasures for your yard. Rusty old farm tools, wagon wheels and old steel pipes can be used to construct enchanting sculptural pieces.

Repurposing items not only reduces your waste collection, but it is an economical way of getting what you want for a cost-effective price. You'll also get the rewarding feeling and satisfaction of having an exclusive piece of art you created.

Yard Art Principles

1. Decide on what style you are aiming for- cottage, seaside, rustic, tropical, etc.
2. Create a focal point to direct your visitor attention to what you want to showcase. Do not let your art pieces compete with each other. Make sure the yard art will not get lost in the flowers.
3. Mirror nature- Position art as it would be found in nature. (Example: place a bird in or near a bush)
4. Make sure your yard art is big enough to be seen. If necessary, place it on a block or stand.

5. Use existing water features to emphasize your art yard. Place an item so its reflection can be seen in a pond or stream.
6. Do not be scared to place art in your garden that makes you smile.
7. Be aware of shapes and colors and how they can complement each other. Placement of yellow marigolds near a yellow figurine can be pleasing to the eye.
8. It is possible to use landscape lighting to enhance your art at night.
9. Generate movement. Found objects that move or blow in the wind can add charm to your garden. A repurposed wind chime can add a soothing influence to the garden. You can design some really unique chimes by using spoons and other repurposed items hung from fishing line.
10. Consider the size and shape of your garden. A large space will allow you to use bed frames, bath tubs and other large repurposed items in your garden. A smaller space may limit you to hanging baskets, trellis or items that will stack.
11. Do not forget safety. Make sure the art is secured in place and the item does not impose a safety hazard to your outdoor space. Make sure any containers used for growing edible plants are nontoxic.

Summary

Found items can provide an unexpected, amusing, charming, aspect to your garden. In the end do not be afraid to experiment and do what makes you happy. You can always move things around or replace with a new repurposed item at little or no cost.