Fun (Often Fun-ctional) Ideas for Your Garden
LANDSCAPE LUNACY

- Whimsical Projects
- Time-saving Tips
- Favorite Plants & Tools
- And a little phil-lunacy along the way!
“In his garden every man may be his own artist without apology or explanation.”

-Louise Beebe Wilder
MY PATH TO LANDSCAPE LUNACY...

Felder Rushing,
Irreverent Garden
Maverick
HE HAD ME AT CONCRETE CHICKEN
I’m a charter member of the scattered tribe called "dirt gardeners" who plant what we like, where we like, and for whatever reason we like.

Dirt gardeners don't do soil prep — we plant stuff in the dirt.

I garden for the love of it — not for the challenge of it. I have one basic gardening rule: Green side up.

I edged my garden - not with “monkey grass,” but with a little train that can carry two beers and some ice.

Gardens should have accents. My garden holds 10 bottle trees and one “rubber tree” – a big stack of tires.
GARDEN ACCENTS – à la Felder

Requisite Bottle Tree

Requisite Tire Garden
GARDEN ACCENTS – à la Felder

Can Flowers

Mower Blade Flowers
GREEN ROOF DOGHOUSE
HOW ABOUT A GREEN ROOF PLAYHOUSE...
OR A GREEN ROOF CHICKEN COOP?

OR TOOLSHED?

http://buildgreen.ufl.edu/Fact_sheet_Green_Roofs_Eco_roofs.pdf
SUCCULENTS - Ultimate plants for looney landscape projects

SUCCULENT HANGING GARDENS
MORE SUCCULENT PROJECTS
OH, THE POSSIBILITIES!

SUCCULENT FOUNTAIN
EPCOT 2013
International Flower Festival
CONCRETE BLOCK PLANTER

- EPCOT 2013
  International Flower Festival
CONCRETE BLOCK PLANTER

UF-Plant City Teaching Garden
HOW TO BUILD A CONCRETE BLOCK PLANTER

- Lay courses of concrete blocks angling them to create plant pockets.
- Glue blocks together with outdoor adhesive or mortar.
- And/or drive rebar through open holes.
- Make hardware cloth baskets and push into each cell.
- Line with landscape fabric.
- Fill each cell with soil, plant, and top dress with pebbles.
BEHR’S SEMI-TRANSPARENT CONCRETE STAIN
Ames Yard Cart
Small, lightweight; plastic wheels; storage bin in front
GOLDFISH SUN ROOM
CHIHULEY INSPIRED GOLDFISH SUN ROOM
Build a base with two concrete blocks.

Place single-cell block (or bricks) on concrete block base.

Hold the bowl underwater and fill to top; invert and set into block without breaking the vacuum.
Hula Hoe
aka – The Decapitator
SOW'S EARS INTO SILK PURSES

One way to hide ugly AC compressors
SOW’S EARS TO SILK PURSES

Sky Vine Clerodendron

Pink Bud Jasmine
The new bulb garden and the debris pile it created
SOW’S EARS TO SILK PURSES
Drain Spade

- 21 in. wood handle
- Long, narrow 16 in. spade
- Tempered steel blade for strength and durability
- D-grip for added comfort and control
WHAT'S SO WONDERFUL ABOUT SPANISH MOSS?

- Native Florida plant
- Interesting history
- Does NOT parasitize trees
- Epiphyte – grows on “air”
- Fragrant flowers
- No chiggers!
- Nesting material for birds
- Butterflies roost in it

Flora Craft Spanish Moss 1 Ounce - $2
SPANISH MOSS ARBOR

SPANISH MOSS SCREEN
Build a structure with 4x4 lumber and plastic chicken wire. Collect and drape moss.
Mulch It!
Craft It!
Dye It!

NATURAL SPANISH MOSS HAND-DYED TO MATCH YOUR CUSTOM COLORS!

Dye It!

Craft It!

Mulch It!
IF YOU THINK I’M LOONEY ABOUT SPANISH MOSS...

...YOU SHOULD MEET MY HUSBAND!
TILLANDSIA TREES...
...AND CURTAINS

Bok Tower Gardens
Tillandsia Curtain, 2012

Brown Moss House
Tillandsia Curtain, 2013
Alligator Lopper (B & D) aka – The Jaws of Death
Folding Saw (by Corona)
aka – Queen of the Collar Cut
Cheap Shears - $6
aka – Compostable Pruners
POT-IN-POT - Easy Color Change-out
Pot-in-Pot 1- and 3-gallon annuals and perennials
Plant a large container with “fillers,” “spillers,” and an empty pot.

Rotate “thrillers” with the seasons.
Alocasia x ‘Stingray’
Credit: Logee’s

Crossandra ‘Orange Marmalade’
Credit: Missouri Botanical Garden
Step 1. Start with a potted tropical plant.

Step 2. “Plant” a pot of equal size.
Step 3. In spring, drop the tropical pot into the empty pot & enjoy for months!
Step 4. In fall, remove the tropical pot and overwinter inside.

Step 5. In the meantime, drop a pot of mulch into the empty pot.
Step 6. In spring, remove the “mulch pot,” drop in the tropical pot, and spread the mulch around it.
THE COCKTAIL GARDEN

From: Amy Stewart’s “Garden Rant” Website
http:gardenrant.com
THE COCKTAIL GARDEN

Farmer's Market Vodka Plant Collection*
Tomato ‘Red Currant’
Cilantro ‘Slow Bolting’
Celery ‘Redventure’
Pepper ‘Cherry Pick’
Pepper ‘Fireball’

Heart of Agave Tequila Plant Collection
Sage ‘Grower’s Friend’
Pepper ‘Jalapeno Peguis’
Watermelon ‘Petite Treat’
Rosemary ‘Arp’
Mint ‘Margarita’

Old Tom Gin Plant Collection*
Cucumber Mexican Sour Gherkin
Cucumber ‘Lemon’
Borago officinalis ‘Borage Blue’
Basil ‘Genovese Compact’
Thyme ‘Golden Variegated Lemon’

*Territorial Seed Company’s Drunken Botanist Plant Collections
http://www.territorialseed.com/Tips_on_growing_a_Cocktail_Garden
IN CONCLUSION...

- Find and follow your personal landscape lunacy.
- Immerse yourself often into “alpha gardening.”
- Don’t be intimidated by rules – write your own.

- Final Felderism: “Ponder the mysteries of the universe in the microcosm of your own back yard.”
YOUR LOONEY LANDSCAPE IDEAS?

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